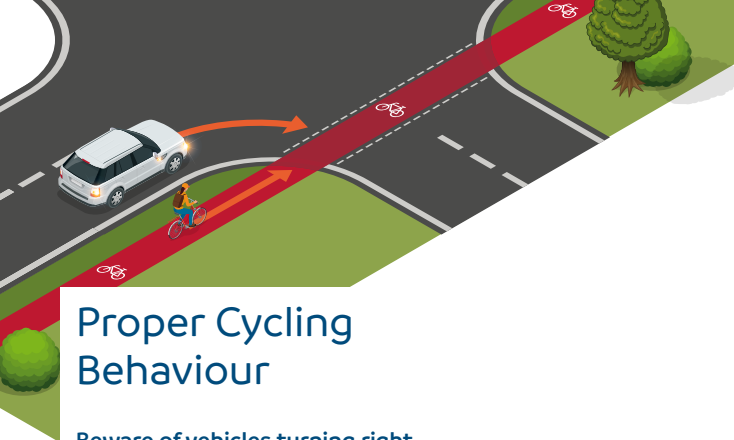




TRAFFIC RULES

Safe Bicycle Rides



# Proper Cycling Behaviour

## Beware of vehicles turning right

Car and lorry drivers turning right often do not pay attention to cyclists riding straight ahead. **It is therefore of utmost importance for cyclists** to check whether the driver behind them has seen them, even if they have the right of way. It is better to wait and be safe!

## Cyclists wanting to turn right or left

Cyclists have to indicate clearly and in good time which side they wish to turn to by pointing their left or right arm into the direction they want to go. They should turn around (look back) before getting into the desired lane and do so again before turning right or left while paying attention to vehicles and pedestrians. When turning left, cyclists have to let oncoming traffic pass first.

## Overtaking others

Cyclists have to keep sufficient distance when overtaking other cyclists. They should always ring the bell to let other cyclists know of their intention to pass them and should observe their reaction.

## Where is cycling permitted?

On the road alongside cars: If there is no bicycle lane sign/marking, cyclists may use the road. Cyclists must ride on the right side of the road (right-hand traffic rule), however, not on the road shoulder or street gutter.

## Fines for violating traffic rules

Cyclists breaking traffic rules may be fined on the spot or get a penalty, even if their behaviour has not led to an accident!

# More Road Traffic Safety

Always drive carefully and be considerate towards other road users!

**In Germany right-hand traffic is the rule.**

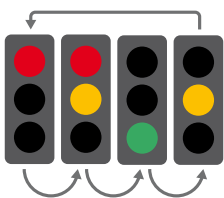
This is always the case – and also applies to cyclists on bicycle lanes. Wrong-way drivers endanger themselves and others!

A bicycle helmet can protect you against serious head injuries in the case of an accident. It is recommended to wear a helmet, however, there is no obligation to do so in Germany.

Be particularly careful at entrances and exits and be ready to brake at any time.

**Caution:** Lorry drivers may overlook cyclists when turning into another street. Cyclists riding alongside a lorry turning right put their life at risk, so you are well advised to stay behind lorries.

**Traffic lights:** At many intersections the right of way is regulated by traffic lights. Meaning of traffic light colours:



- Stop at a red light and wait!
- A yellow light indicates that the traffic light is about to change from red to green or from green to red.
- You may drive when the light is green.

Traffic light signal sequence in four stages: This traffic light also applies to cyclists riding on the road.

There are often separate traffic lights for pedestrians on pavements. They are not binding on cyclists. On bicycle lanes, combined traffic lights for pedestrians and cyclists or separate traffic lights for cyclists apply. Cyclists should follow the road traffic lights if there is no separate bike signal at the bicycle lane they are on.



Pedestrian traffic light



Pedestrian and bicycle traffic light



Bicycle traffic light

# Vital Traffic Signs



**Bicycle lane (compulsory use):** Indicates a bicycle lane. Cyclists must use it. It is not permitted to cycle on the road.



**Separate bicycle path and footpath:** The bicycle path and footpath are alongside each other. The sign is usually placed between the two paths. Cyclists must ride on the bicycle path (it is prohibited to use the road). They are not permitted to ride on the footpath, even when overtaking.



**Shared bicycle and pedestrian path:** Cyclists must use this path (using the road is not permitted). They have to share it with pedestrians and must therefore be considerate and ring the bell when they want to pass.



**Pavement:** Cyclists are not permitted to use the pavement! They may, however, push their bike there. It is also prohibited to ride a bicycle on pavements without pavement sign. If there is no bicycle lane, cyclists must use the road (alongside cars). **Exceptions:** Children up to the age of 8 must use the pavement. If there is a special „Radverkehr frei“ sign, cycling is permitted at walking speed. Children up to the age of 10 may ride their bike on the pavement.



**Pedestrian area:** Cyclists are not permitted to ride their bike in pedestrian areas. They must dismount and push their bicycle. **Exception:** If there is a „Radverkehr frei“ sign, cycling is permitted at walking speed. Pedestrians have the right of way.



**Pedestrian crossing:** Pedestrians have the right of way when crossing the road. All vehicles, including bicycles, must wait.



### In which direction may I ride my bike?

Cyclists use the right-hand side on all lanes and roads. It is not permitted to ride your bike in the opposite direction/against the traffic on bicycle lanes! **Exception:** Should this sign or a blue bicycle lane sign be at the left-hand bicycle lane, you may ride your bike in either direction.



**One-way street:** You may ride your bike in one direction only. **Exception:** If there is this extra sign, you may go in either direction.



**No entry:** Do not ride your bicycle in streets bearing this sign. You may push your bike though. **Exception:** The "Radfahrer frei" sign permits cyclists to enter the street. Beware of oncoming traffic.



**Bicycles prohibited:** Cycling is not permitted! You may push your bike though.



**All vehicles prohibited:** No vehicle whatsoever is permitted here. You may push your bike though.



**Give way:** Other vehicles must be given the right of way. Should there be no sign regulating the right of way at intersections, "right before left" applies. Cars and bicycles approaching from the right have the right of way.



**Stop - give way:** You must stop and give way.



**Traffic-calmed area („play street“):** All vehicles may only drive at walking speed. Cyclists must also cycle slowly and show constraint. Anyone approaching from a traffic-calmed area must give way.

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  - + advice on legal matters
  - + discounts from our cooperation partners
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# TAKE ACTION!

Well over 12,000 volunteers are active for the ADFC in more than 500 local groups throughout Germany. Join us and help us bring about a shift towards bicycles as a mode of transport.

You can find your nearest ADFC here:

- [adfc.de/vorort](https://adfc.de/vorort)



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[www.adfc.de](https://www.adfc.de) As of April 2025