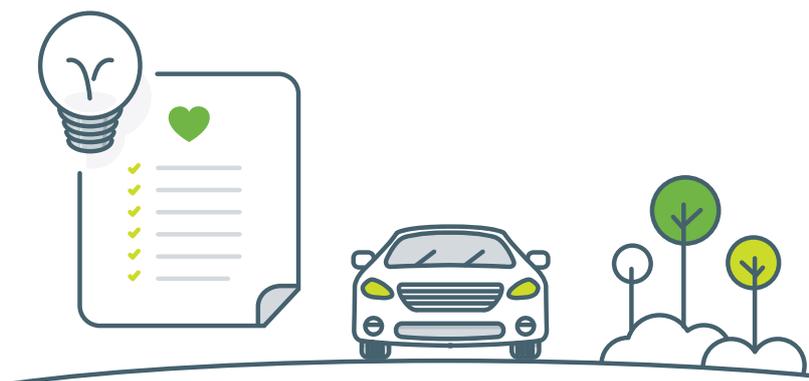


Highway Code update



Here's the latest Highway code updates for you to keep in the rear view of your mind when driving



What's the Highway Code?

In a nutshell, the Highway Code is a rule book for all road users, including pedestrians, mobility scooter users, cyclists, horse riders, drivers and motorcyclists. When you take your theory driving test, you'll need to be up to date on the Highway Code and its rulings.

Did you know eight new rules came into force from 29 January 2022? The updates change the 'hierarchy' of road users, giving more priority to pedestrians and making sure drivers are especially cautious.

1. Hierarchy of road users

A new hierarchy has been implemented to protect the most vulnerable road users and reduce collisions on UK roads.

Here's the new hierarchy when on the road:

- Pedestrians
- Cyclists
- Horse riders
- Cars/taxis
- Vans, minibuses, large passenger vehicles or courier vehicles e.g. HGVs and buses

The hierarchy places those road users most at risk in the event of a collision at the top of the hierarchy. It does not remove the need for everyone to behave responsibly.

2. Give way to pedestrians waiting at junctions

When pedestrians are crossing a road or junction, road users must now give way to them. Drivers should give way to those waiting even if the pedestrian hasn't started crossing the road.

When approaching a zebra crossing, cyclists, motorists and those riding motorcycles should give way to pedestrians at the crossing. Way should also be given to cyclists and pedestrians at a parallel crossing by motorists.

3. New guidance on shared spaces between pedestrians, horse riders and cyclists

People riding a horse, walking or driving a horse-drawn vehicle, must be aware of their surroundings and the safety of pedestrians.

Those cycling are asked to not pass pedestrians and horse riders at a fast speed or at close proximity. They're also asked to slow down when necessary. New rules also mean cyclists shouldn't pass on a horse's the left-hand side.

4. New cyclist positioning on the road

Cyclists must now pedal through centre lane whilst cycling on quiet roads with slower-moving traffic, and also when approaching junctions or road narrowing.

Whilst cycling on roads, bike riders now have to keep at least 0.5 metres from the kerb edge on busy roads where vehicles are moving faster than them.

When cycling past parked vehicles, cyclists should keep a one-metre distance and be aware of people walking into their path.

Group cyclists can now cycle side by side but they must allow cars to overtake them when it is safe to do so.

5. Safer overtaking when driving

When driving a vehicle, you can now cross a double white line if necessary and the road is clear to overtake cyclists or horses travelling 10 miles per hour or less.

When drivers are overtaking

Cyclists

Horses

Pedestrians

Space motorist must give (minimum)

1.5 metres

2 metres

2 metres
(and reduce speed)

6. Cyclists priority near junctions

Drivers are required to give priority to cyclists when they're turning into or out of a junction or when changing lane or direction. This aims to reduce the odds of drivers attempting to cut across cyclists and possibly causing accidents.

7. Priority when at roundabouts

When at a roundabout, those driving a vehicle or motorcycle shouldn't attempt to overtake people cycling within their lane, and should also let cyclists to move across the roundabout when travelling around.

8. Charging, parking and leaving vehicle changes

'Dutch Reach' is the new technique being used when opening doors. Drivers and passengers should now open their car doors using the hand opposite to the side of the door they're opening e.g. your right hand opening a door on the left-hand side of the vehicle. This allows whoever's opening the door to look at their shoulder, making them less likely to cause injury to cyclists, motorcyclists and people on the pavement or passing by on the road.

When electric vehicle owners are charging their cars, they should park close to the charge point to stop pedestrians from tripping over their cables. They should display a warning sign if possible and return charging cables to reduce danger and obstacles to others.

Additional rule changes

There are a number of other additions and tweaks to the Highway Code you should keep in mind too:

Mobile phones

It will now become an offence to:

- Take photos and videos while driving
- Select a song on your playlist
- Play games on your phone, even at a red light

The consequence for failing to obey these rules could be £200 and six points on your licence.

Remember, always avoid using your phone while driving, and only answer calls or listen to directions on a hands-free device.

Being aware of these changes will mean you're always obeying the law and are driving as safely as possible. For more information, please [visit the government website](#).

