

People on bikes face sudden risks • **Slow down around cyclists**



- They may swerve round or stop suddenly for:
  - Car doors
  - Potholes and drains
  - Pedestrians who walk out

- **Look before you open your door**
- **Leave space behind and around cyclists**

- Turning left in front of a cyclist traps them against the kerb

- **Check for bikes that pass you on the inside**
- **Give way before turning**
- **Always check your blindspot**



- They get squeezed when there are:
  - traffic islands
  - built out bus stops
  - road works
  - parked cars

- **Hang back until you have space and it is safe to pass**

Junctions are hazardous places, especially for cyclists - 74% of incidents with cyclists occur around junctions



- For a cyclist, turning right means:
  - crossing lanes
  - exposure to on-coming traffic
  - traffic pressure from behind

- **Give oncoming cyclists a chance to cross**
- **Give them room to change lanes**
- **Wait behind them**
- **If you are turning right too, do not pass them on the left**

## Highway Code 163

- do not get too close to the vehicle you intend to overtake
- give motorcyclists, cyclists and horse riders at least as much room as you would when overtaking a car (see Rules 211 to 213 and 214 to 215).



Highway Code rule 163



Intelligent driving means  
tuning in to the unexpected...

# Be Bike Alert

Casualties rise with  
closing impact speeds....

- at 20mph there is **1%**  
chance of death
- at 30mph there is **6%**  
chance of death
- at 40mph there is **30%**  
chance of death
- at 50mph there is **78%**  
chance of death

## ALWAYS

- Slow down around cyclists
- Look before you open your door
- Check for bikes on your inside
- Think blindspots on the left and from window pillars

## OVERTAKING

- Hang well back until it is safe to overtake
- Leave plenty room when overtaking

## JUNCTIONS

- Wait behind cyclists at junctions
- If you are about to turn left do not overtake bikes
- If you are about to turn right, do not pass on the left of a bike
- Give cyclists room to change lanes



This material is available at [www.spokes.org.uk/videos](http://www.spokes.org.uk/videos)

Contact SPOKES for printed copies or with queries.

*Join Spokes to support our  
campaign for safer and better  
cycling conditions on and off road.*

# SPOKES

[www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk)

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# Be Bike Alert

See the video at: [www.spokes.org.uk/videos](http://www.spokes.org.uk/videos)



This leaflet and video were created by Spokes, thanks to a donation in memory of Audrey Fyfe who was killed when cycling in Edinburgh.

# SPOKES

The Lothian Cycle Campaign at [www.spokes.org.uk](http://www.spokes.org.uk)