Rules of the Road—Driving, Biking and Walking

Bicyclists have all the same rights and responsibilities as the driver of any other vehicle, and can be ticketed for violating Ohio traffic laws. For more information on bike rules and safety, read Ohio Bicycling Street Smarts, which is on the Ohio Department of Transportation website.

When driving:
- Be on the lookout for cyclists, especially children on bicycles.
- Share the road, and don’t crowd bicyclists at intersections.
- Drive cautiously, predictably, and attentively.
- Pass with care. Wait for clear road and safe traffic conditions before you pass.

When biking:
- Follow traffic laws. Stop at stop signs or red lights. Be sure to yield when required. Avoid swerving between parked cars or riding on the sidewalk.
- Be seen. Ride with proper lighting at night.
- Be predictable. Ride a straight course on the street.
- Think ahead. Look out for obstacles and watch for turning vehicles.
- Ride ready. Keep your bike in good repair, and wear a helmet.

When walking:
- Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk and you must walk in the road, walk on the left shoulder, so you are facing oncoming traffic.
- Dress to be seen. Brightly colored clothing makes it easier for drivers to see you. At night, it’s a good idea to wear reflective material.
- Cross only at intersections or marked crosswalks.
- Stop and look twice in both directions before you step into the street. If you see a car, wait until it goes by. Then look twice in both directions again until no cars are coming.
- Never assume an approaching driver will obey the law and yield to you.
- Walk. Don’t run.


Resources

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<td>Lima Allen County Regional Planning Commission</td>
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<td>Allen County Health Department</td>
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<td>City of Lima</td>
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<td>Johnny Appleseed Metropolitan Park District</td>
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Always wear a helmet

Eyes: Should see the helmet edge when you look up.

Ears: Straps should form a “Y” just under your ears.

Mouth: Straps should be loose enough for a finger between the buckle and the jaw but tight enough that the helmet pulls down on top of your head when you open your mouth wide.

In a Crash? Helmets are only built to withstand one crash. Buy a new helmet, if it has been in a crash.