

A woman in a dark coat and hat holds the hand of a small child in a patterned winter coat. They are walking on a snowy street. In the background, a cyclist wearing a yellow safety vest and a helmet is riding a bicycle. A white car is parked on the right, and another white car is visible in the background. The scene is set in a snowy, urban environment with trees and buildings in the distance.

Cycling in Finland



Finnish Road Safety Council
LIKENNETURVA



Before you ride

- Make sure your bike is roadworthy.
- Check that your cycle has mandatory equipment: reflectors, lights, a bell and effective brakes.
- After dark or when visibility is poor cyclists must use front and rear lights.
A white light in the front and red in the rear.
- Wear a helmet – and fasten it properly.
- Reflective vests increase visibility when cycling after dusk.
- Plan your route.

Cycling outside built-up areas

- Use cycle paths. If there is none, cycle on the verge or on the right side of the road.
- Plan your route in advance:
 - Don't rely solely on Google Maps or other internet route planners. Take advantage of ready-made resources like Bikeland.fi and EuroVelo.
 - Avoid roads with higher volumes of traffic such as main highways.
- Find out where you can stop for rest and food when cycling long distances. In Finland there can easily be over 100 km between points of service.
- On the road cyclists ride one behind the other, not side-by-side.



Cycling in built-up areas

- Cities and municipalities have their own cycling scene. Check out their bike routes in advance.
- In Finland cyclists ride on cycle paths or on the road if there is no cycle path.
Cycling on pedestrian paths is forbidden (except for children under 12).
Some cycle paths are one way.
- If you need to use the pedestrian path, walk your bike.
- Be considerate towards other road users.





Signs indicating cycle paths

1. Divided path for pedestrians and cyclists.
The sign indicates which side is for pedestrians and which side for cyclists.

2. Shared path for pedestrians and cyclists.
Cyclists ride on the right side, pedestrians can choose their side freely.

3. Cycle path.

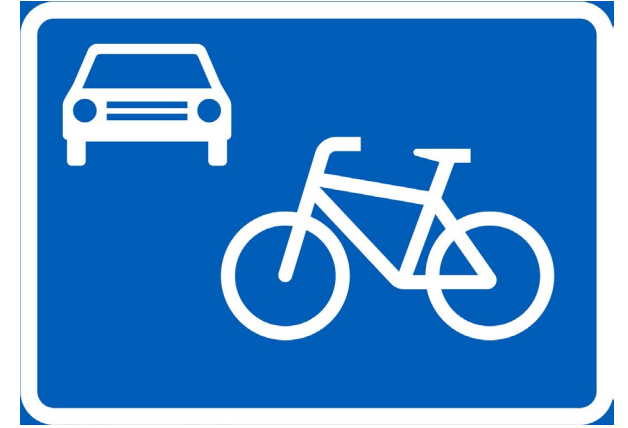
On cycle paths ride on the right, overtake from the left (only when it is safe). Give way to cycles etc. coming from the right unless there is a road sign indicating otherwise.



Cycle lanes can be marked with road markings, a sign or both. You must comply with the same rules as on the road. Never ride against the traffic flow.



Residential and pedestrian zones. Cycling is allowed, but cyclists must give unobstructed access to pedestrians. Speed must be adjusted to the pedestrians and cannot exceed 20 km/h.



Cycle street. Cars are allowed, but cyclists must be given unobstructed access. The driving speed must be adjusted to cycling speed.

Cycling prohibited:



Closed to
all vehicles



No entry



No cycles



No cycles or
mopeds



Footpath

An additional
sign that allows
cycling



Walking prohibited:



No
pedestrians

Walking and cycling prohibited:



No pedestrians
or cycles



No pedestrians,
cycles or mopeds



Road for motor
vehicles



Motorway

Take road signs seriously

These signs forbid cycling.

Bicycle is a vehicle.

Take note that the pedestrian path is not always marked with a separate sign while a cycle path is always marked with a road sign.



Snowmobile routes

In winter during snow covered season official snowmobile routes are meant only for snowmobiles. Cycling and the use of other vehicles is prohibited.

Only a separate sign can allow cycling.

Ask more info from the local service providers.

Comply with the rules of the road

On the road cyclists, like motorists:

- ride on the right side of the road (never against the traffic flow),
- follow all road signs, road markings and signals – e.g. stop for stop signs and red lights,
- signal when planning to turn,
- yield to traffic that has the right-of-way
- and adjust speed and safety distance to the prevailing conditions.





Intersections and road crossings

Slow down your speed when approaching an intersection or a road crossing.

Be prepared to stop if necessary.

Pay attention to road signs and other traffic.

Renting an e-scooter?

In Finland the driver of an electric scooter must be at least 15 years old.

It is not allowed to ride an e-scooter with a passenger.

Ride sober. The legal limit is 0.5 g/l also for e-scooter users.

When using rental e-scooters, follow the same traffic rules as cyclists.

Use cycle paths and bike lanes, do not ride on pedestrian paths. If there is no cycle path, an e-scooter user must ride on the street.

Be attentive, do not let your phone distract you.

