Vermont Pedestrian Rights & Responsibilities

Stay safe: Know your right of way!

We are all pedestrians at some point in our day even when we walk from our car to the grocery store.

What to do at crosswalks without traffic lights?
Vermont Law Title 23, Sections 1051 & 1052

As a pedestrian, you have the right of way in crosswalks without traffic lights. Wait at the edge of the crosswalk until you’re sure that drivers see you and are stopping.

No crosswalk nearby? You can still cross the street, but you have to yield to cars. Be cautious and wait until there is a gap in traffic before crossing.

What to do at crosswalks with traffic lights?
Vermont Law Title 23, Section 1058

If there is a pedestrian signal, cross when there is a “walk” signal. Always check to make sure that approaching cars are going to stop. Some signals are automatic, and others have a button that you need to push.

If there is no pedestrian signal, wait until traffic has a red light, and proceed cautiously. Watch for vehicles that might be turning through the crosswalk.
What about sidewalks?

_Vermont Law Title 23, Section 1055_

If there is a sidewalk, use it! It’s the safest place for pedestrians.

If there is no sidewalk, walk in the shoulder on the left side of the road, facing oncoming traffic.

Helpful Pedestrian Tips!

- Be visible in low-light conditions by suiting up with headlamps, reflective vests, or a flashlight when walking especially on rural or unlighted roads.

- Don’t assume that drivers can see you. Make eye contact and wave - communication is key!

- Always look before stepping onto the road: left, right, and left again.

- Make sure to be predictable - always follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals.

- Don’t let your mobile device distract you! Stay alert to your surroundings at all times.

- Watch for cars when you pass a driveway or parking lot.

- Avoid alcohol and drugs when walking; they impair your abilities and your judgment.