

# Crosswalk Education Pedestrians and Drivers



We have found many Nova Scotians do not know the laws as they relate to crosswalks.

Both pedestrians and drivers have rules to follow so people stay safe.

Learn about them in this brochure.

Then please share  
the brochure with others.

Provided by the  
**Crosswalk Safety Society of Nova Scotia**  
[www.crosswalksafety.ca](http://www.crosswalksafety.ca)  
[crosswalksafety@eastlink.ca](mailto:crosswalksafety@eastlink.ca)

## Definition of a crosswalk

Crosswalks exist at all intersections.

Some crosswalks are marked with either two lines or what are commonly referred to as 'zebra' markings. Others are not marked at all.

**Whether a crosswalk is marked or not the same rules and laws apply.**



Unmarked



Marked (lines)



Marked ('zebra')

## Drivers

Drivers are

*"... required to yield the right of way to a pedestrian lawfully within a crosswalk or stopped facing a crosswalk"*

Regardless of the location of the crosswalk and regardless of whether it is marked or not marked drivers are required to yield to pedestrians.

## Use of cell phones and text messaging

Except in an emergency a driver may not use a hand-held cellular telephone or engage in text messaging while operating a motor vehicle.

The ticket for a first offence is \$237.50, with second and subsequent offence fines higher.



## Pedestrians

### Leaving a curb or other place of safety

A pedestrian shall

*“... not leave a curb or other place of safety and walk or run into the path of a vehicle that is closely approaching that it is impractical for the driver of the vehicle to stop.”*

### Pedestrian activated beacon

Where a pedestrian activated beacon exists a pedestrian shall not leave the curb unless the pedestrian activated beacon has been activated.

### Don't Walk light

A pedestrian shall not start to cross the roadway when facing a ‘*don’t walk*’ light, either flashing or solid, with or without a countdown timer.

In other words if you are not already in the crosswalk when the ‘*don’t walk*’ light comes on you can’t legally enter the crosswalk / cross.

### ‘Jaywalking’

The term ‘*jaywalking*’ does not appear in the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act.

A pedestrian may cross a roadway at any place other than in a crosswalk, as long as they don’t interfere with traffic. However if a pedestrian crosses outside of a crosswalk the pedestrian violates the law if they do not yield the right of way to vehicles.

### Fines and points

Fine levels increase depending on whether it is the first, second or subsequent offence. First offence fines are:

\$180.00 – pedestrian starting to cross on a ‘*don’t walk*’ signal  
\$410.00 – pedestrian leaving a curb when impractical for a

vehicle to stop, not activating a pedestrian activated beacon or not yielding to a vehicle if crossing outside a crosswalk.

\$180.00 and two points – driver not yielding to a pedestrian at a signalized intersection (Section 93)

\$697.50 and four points – driver not yielding to a pedestrian elsewhere (Section 125).

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