

The give way rules from 25 March 2012

TWO OF THE GIVE WAY RULES HAVE CHANGED:

- The left turn versus right turn rule.
- The uncontrolled T-intersection rule.

The following information replaces part of the giving way section in *The official New Zealand road code 2010 edition* (pages 56-63), *The official New Zealand road code for motorcyclists 2010 edition* (pages 135-142), *The official New Zealand road code for heavy vehicle drivers 2010 edition* (page 102).

BACKGROUND

On 25 March 2012, two of the give way rules changed to make New Zealand's roads safer.

Not all the give way rules changed - only the two mentioned above.

In this insert we cover all the give way rules - so we explain the two new rules and reinforce the other rules that have stayed the same.

Remember: Traffic signs and signals are placed at intersections to show road users what they need to do so you should continue to obey these signs and signals.

Giving way

This section describes the situations in which you must give way to other vehicles. It shows you what to do in a variety of situations and at different kinds of intersections.

It is very important that you know the give way rules.

WHAT IS AN INTERSECTION?

An intersection is where two or more streets or roads join or cross.

Intersections include entrances to and exits from public places such as airports and hospitals.

There are a number of different types of intersections, depending on how many roads join or cross.



DRIVING UP TO AN INTERSECTION

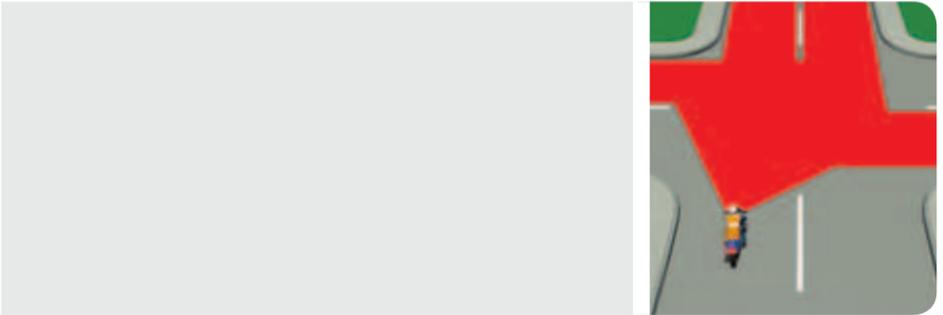
If any other vehicle is approaching or crossing an intersection, do not speed up when approaching. As you drive up to an intersection, use the system of car control:

- **Course of action** (look ahead for a safe and legal path).
- **Mirrors** (look behind and in your blind spots).
- **Signal** for at least three seconds.
- **Brakes** (slow down so that you can give way if required).
- **Gears** (change if necessary).

When it is safe:

- **Accelerate** up to traffic speed.

The red shading in the diagram below shows you which areas to check carefully before entering an intersection.



Where to check at an intersection

Two vehicles coming towards each other and turning right



When two vehicles are coming towards each other and both are turning right, no one should have to give way.

This is because normally neither will cross the other's path, so both vehicles can turn safely. However, be careful if the other vehicle is a large truck or bus, as they may need more room to make the turn.

Remember to check for traffic coming towards you that is going straight through the intersection (see page 6). Your view might be blocked by the turning vehicle.

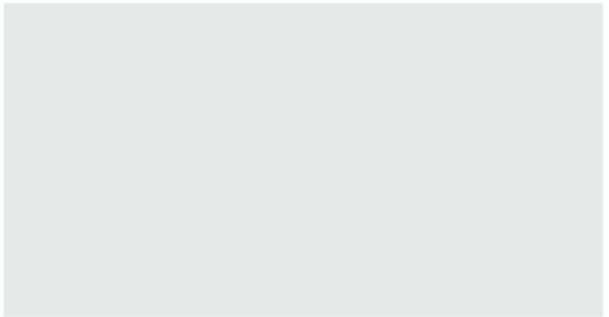
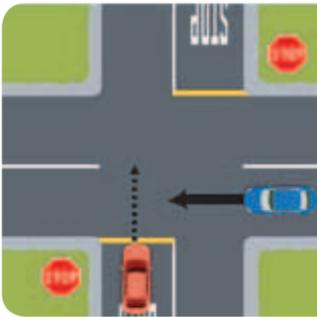
At many intersections traffic is controlled by stop signs, give way signs or traffic lights. See below for when to use the give way rules at these intersections. If a police officer is directing traffic you must obey his/her directions as they overrule the give way rules.

Stop sign

At an intersection controlled by a stop sign:

- come to a complete stop, do not just slow down
- stop where you can see vehicles coming from all directions
- stay stopped until you have given way to all other vehicles (this includes cycles and motorcycles, etc)
- if you and another vehicle are both facing stop signs, use the give way rule (see page 6)
- you must not go until it is safe.

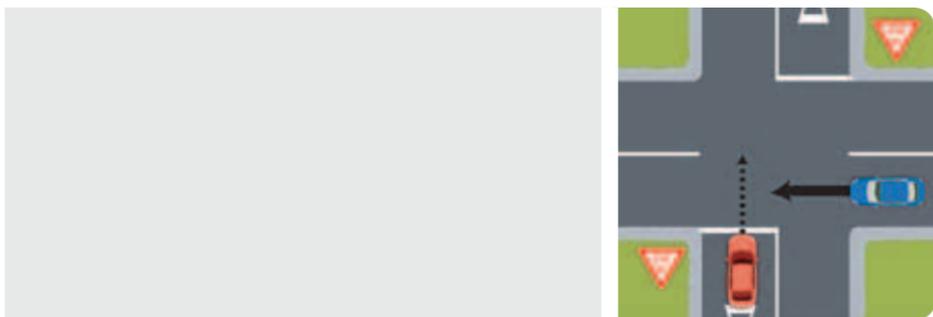
The word stop and a single yellow line will be painted on the road.



Give way sign

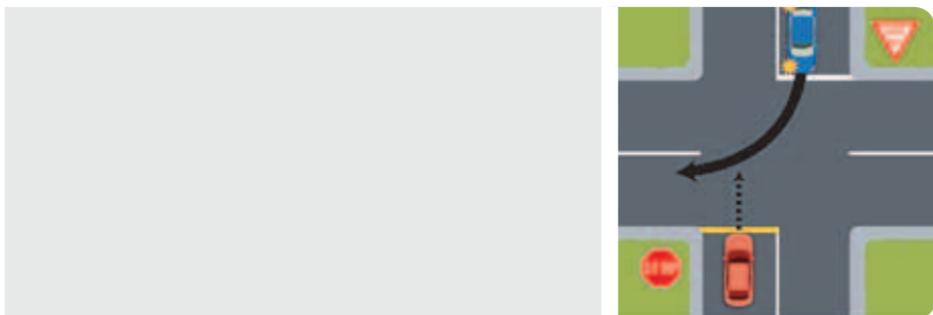
At an intersection controlled by a give way sign:

- slow down and be ready to stop
- give way to all other vehicles, except those facing a stop sign
- if you and another vehicle are both facing a give way sign, use the give way rules (see page 6)
- you must not go until it is safe.



A triangle give way marking and a white line will be painted on a sealed road.

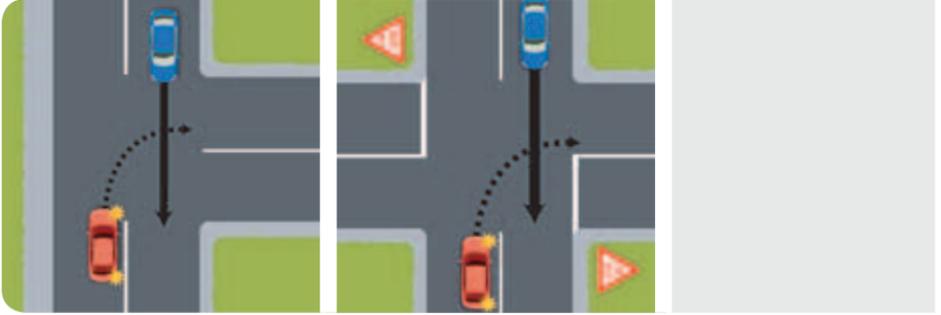
A car facing a stop sign gives way to a car facing a give way sign.



THE GIVE WAY RULES

There are give way rules that apply at intersections and driveways.

👁️ If you are **turning** give way to all traffic that is **not turning**.

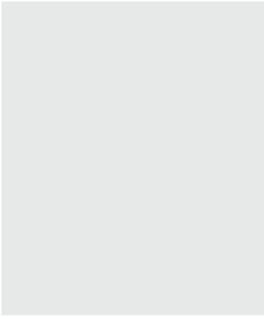


This also applies when changing lanes and includes giving way to cyclists or vehicles using special vehicle lanes such as cycle or bus lanes.



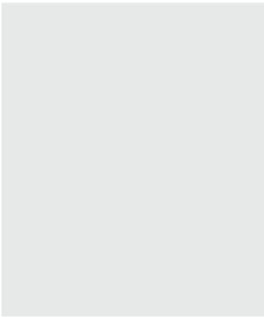
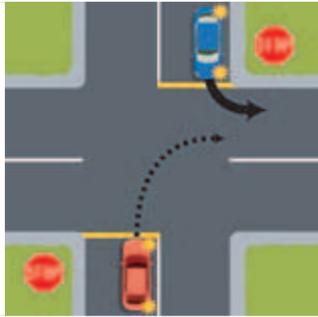
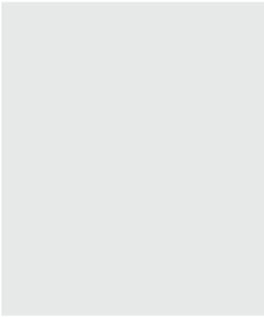
It also applies when both vehicles are facing the same control, ie stop signs, give way signs and green traffic lights.

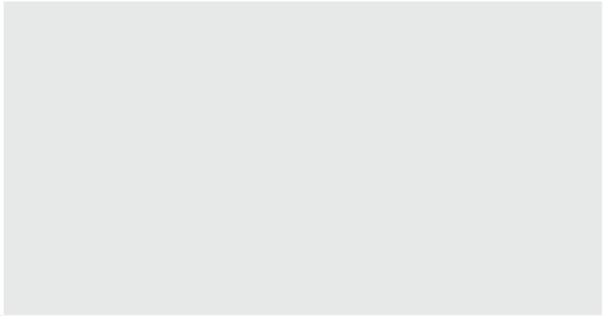
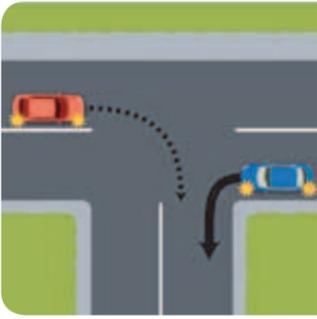




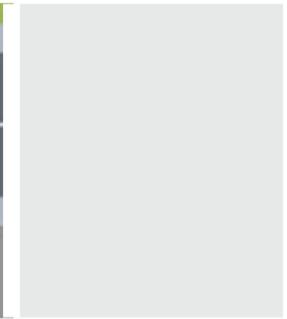
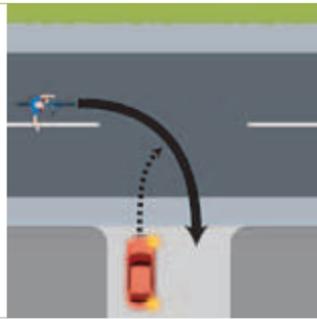
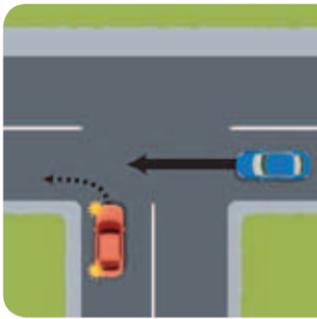
If you are leaving the path of a marked centre line at an uncontrolled intersection, you must give way to vehicles following the centre line. This is because vehicles leaving the path of the centre line are legally turning (even though sometimes they might actually be going in a straight line) and the give way rules apply.

- If you are turning right and the opposing vehicle is turning left, you must give way.

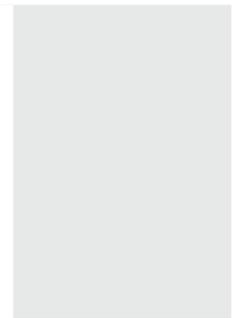
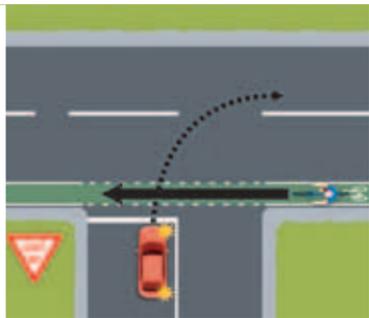
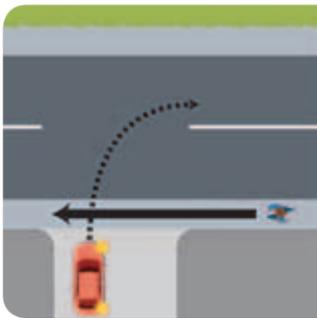




- If the road you are on terminates (bottom of the T), give way to traffic on the continuing road (top of the T). This also applies at driveways.



You must give way to all traffic on the road and any road user on a footpath, cycle path or shared path.



- In all other situations give way to your right. An example would be at a crossroads controlled by traffic signals when signals have failed and all approaches have a flashing yellow light.