

A close-up photograph of a traffic light against a green background. The top light is green. Below it is a white arrow pointing right. At the bottom is a red 'WALK' sign. The text 'Crossing the street safely' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# Crossing the street safely

Even though it seems simple, crossing the street is actually a complex task. Here are some reminders of the best practices for crossing safely.

# Where to cross?



## At intersections, with or without pedestrian lights

- At intersections, pavement markings are white if there are traffic lights or stop signs.
- To have as much time as possible to cross the street, you should begin crossing as soon as the pedestrian light turns on, when the white silhouette appears.
- If there is no pedestrian light, pedestrians must cross with the green light.
- Even when you have the right of way, always pay attention to your environment and to the behaviours of other road users.

# Where to cross?



## At pedestrian crosswalks

- Pedestrian crosswalks that are not located at an intersection are identified by yellow pavement markings.
- When pedestrians cross at these places, drivers are required to yield the right of way to them and let them cross. However, it is recommended that pedestrians clearly indicate their intention to cross, for example by signalling to the driver.
- Even when you have the right of way, always pay attention to your environment and to the behaviours of other road users.



**Avoid crossing elsewhere: you will not be protected and drivers won't expect to see you.**

**Also, avoid crossing from between parked cars—stay visible and predictable.**

**Before crossing, make sure that drivers have seen you:**

- Beware of things that could hide you (bus shelter, pole, vehicle, tree, building, etc.).
- Avoid finding yourself in a vehicle blind spot. All vehicles have blind spots at the front, sides and rear.
- Try to establish eye contact with the drivers. If you can't, assume that they have not seen you.

**Look around you while crossing the street!**

It is a good idea to do a visual scan in order to spot potential hazards rather than look at the ground.

**For more information, visit the SAAQ's website:**  
[saaq.gouv.qc.ca/seniors](http://saaq.gouv.qc.ca/seniors)