

Owen Sound Cycling Club – Hand Signals



← Turning Left



Turning Right →



Turning Right →

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Stop ●



Slow Down ●



Danger/Hole
on the Road ⚠

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GLASS OR LOOSE GRAVEL



You Can
Overtake Me
Pace Line Lead



Moving the
Left Lane



Use Right or Left Hand as Appropriate and Visible

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Thank You 



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How to Use Bike Hand Signals Properly

Mastering bike hand signals is not just about knowing the gestures. It's about using them effectively. Proper signaling is a dance between timing, visibility, and clarity. Here's a step-by-step guide to ensure your hand signals are as effective as they are intended to be.

1. **Plan Ahead** - Before you even lift a hand off the handlebar, know your next move. Anticipate turns, stops, and lane changes well in advance. This foresight is key to timely and clear signaling.
2. **Check Your Surroundings:** A glance over your shoulder and a turn signal serves a dual purpose. It informs you of the traffic situation and signals to others that you're about to make a move. This pre-signal awareness can be as critical as the signal itself.
3. **Signal Clearly and Confidently:** When you're ready to signal, do it with conviction. Extend your left arm straight and fully, ensuring your hand is well away from your body. Your signal should be unmistakable to anyone sharing the road with you.
4. **Maintain the Signal:** Hold your hand signal for at least three seconds before making your move. This duration ensures that those around you register your intentions. If you need to return your hand to the handlebar for control or braking, ensure you've given enough notice for others to react.
5. **Ensure Visibility:** Your signals need to be seen to be effective. Wear bright or reflective clothing, especially in low-light conditions. Make sure your signal isn't obscured by luggage, clothing, or body position.
6. **Confirm Acknowledgment:** Whenever possible, make eye contact with drivers, other cyclists around, and pedestrians you're communicating with. This non-verbal cue can reinforce your signal and ensure it's been understood.

<https://www.bikelegalfirm.com/bike-hand-signals>