

PARKING, DRIVING & CYCLING ON PAVEMENTS

People expect to be safe when they are on a footway (pavement). Parking on a footway obstructs and encroaches on pedestrians' space. It is usually dangerous and inconsiderate, and this is particularly true for: wheelchair and pushchair users, those with walking difficulties and the blind or partially sighted. Pedestrians are exposed to serious hazards if they are forced to walk in the carriageway to avoid obstructive cars, vans and lorries.

Because pedestrians can start, stop or change direction within a single step, they know they can easily avoid other pedestrians. So, it is very dangerous when they unexpectedly encounter moving vehicles in their path, which cannot do the same. Also, they will often not hear cycles or other vehicles approaching.

Driving and cycling on the footway is illegal. Of course, parking on a footway implies having **driven** on a footway, which can result in a fine. Central government is considering extending London's footway parking ban to the rest of country (except in specially designated parking areas).

Drivers have no right to park anywhere on the public highway (carriageway or footway), not even outside one's own house. The highway is intended for the movement of people and goods. In the past the police would, and did, move vehicles on and they still will if they are causing an obstruction.

Waiting restrictions (double and single yellow lines and pedestrian crossing zigzags) and loading restrictions (yellow kerb markings) extend from the centre of the carriageway to the edge of the highway, including all verges and footways. So, where restrictions apply, vehicles with none, one or more wheels off the carriageway are liable to receive a parking fine. In cases of stopping or parking on pedestrian crossing zigzags, drivers will receive three penalty points on their driving licenses and large fines. There is a real safety reason for banning stopping on the approaches to and exits from pedestrian crossings and this includes taxis. There are specific exemptions for emergency service vehicles, maintenance vehicles, broken down vehicles and buses (only on the exit side).

Vehicles damage footway surfaces and kerbs, leading to uneven surfaces for pedestrians. Heavy vehicles can cause immediate damage, with significant repair costs, which must be met by local and central government taxes.

Habitual mounting of kerbs damages vehicle wheels, tyres and suspension. Tyres may look normal but internal de-lamination is only discovered when a tyre is replaced or deflates catastrophically, so drivers should think carefully about this next time they are travelling at high speed.

The law then is clear that parking, driving or cycling on footways is not allowed and:

- It is the driver's responsibility to judge if it is safe and legal to stop or park.
- If it is not safe drivers must go elsewhere and must not park on the footway.
- Drivers must not park on zigzags.
- If it is unsafe to cycle on a carriageway, cyclists must dismount and push their bike on the footway.