



CYCLING FACT SHEET No. 66

Paths need to be kept clear

A major frustration that regular path riders have to endure is the thoughtless placement of cars, trailers, bins and other obstacles along their intended route.

These obstructions not only affect cyclists, but also pedestrians, people on gophers, and everyone else using the path network. The two most common scenarios involve parked vehicles, and require the path user to either veer onto the road, across a lawn, or squeeze past some delicate paintwork in order to continue their journey.

Situation number one occurs when a vehicle has been parallel-parked with its wheels up and over the kerb so that part, or all, of the path is blocked.

The second equally annoying situation happens when a vehicle is parked in a driveway crossover so that it fully or partially blocks the path running perpendicular.

Aside from the inconvenience, both of these obstacles can create a riding hazard, particularly at night, and they also often result in oil being deposited on the path surface, making it slippery for weeks to come.

You can report an offending obstruction to the relevant local council ranger who can then ask for it to be moved, or failing that, issue an infringement under the applicable by-law.

Vehicles are not the only problem you may encounter – large skips or builder's bins temporarily placed on shared paths and footpaths are illegal unless a council permit has been issued. Wheelie bins placed on a path at rubbish collection time are not considered obstructions, although householders should try to position them to one side of a path if possible.

A bin left on a path for an extended period following rubbish collection, however, is deemed to be an obstruction and the responsible householder can be liable to a fine. Even though the wheelie bin is council property, it is up to the householder to retrieve and store it once the contents have been emptied.



This fact sheet is one of a series dealing with the use of bicycles for recreation and transport in Western Australia. The series looks at a range of cycling-related topics including ride routes, touring tips, maintenance, safety, road rules, insurance and product reviews. You can find more cycling fact sheets online at www.transport.wa.gov.au/cycling

Cycling Unit
Department of Transport
Tel: (08) 6551 6000
Fax: (08) 6551 6001
Email: cycling@transport.wa.gov.au