

## **Marked (Painted) Crosswalks**

### **All Intersections Have Marked or Unmarked Crosswalks**

Washington state law says that crosswalks exist at all intersections except where prohibited by posted signs. At any crosswalk, marked or unmarked, drivers must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians.

Crosswalks are marked to encourage pedestrians to use a particular crossing.

### **Why Not Paint Crosswalks at Every Intersection?**

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) states that 'crosswalk markings should not be used indiscriminately.'

### **Marked Crosswalks Are Not Inherently Safer Than Unmarked Crosswalks**

Studies of driver and pedestrian behavior at both marked and unmarked crosswalks find that simply marking a crosswalk across a road does not make it safer for the pedestrian.

Years ago, the City of San Diego found that, although only 2.5 times as many people used marked crosswalks, the accident rate was 6 times higher than in unmarked crosswalks.

A pedestrian safety study in Long Beach, California reported 8 times as many accidents in marked crosswalks compared to unmarked crosswalks.

Such research suggests that a marked crosswalk can give a false sense of increased safety.

It is the pedestrian's responsibility to be cautious and alert while crossing at all crosswalks, both marked and unmarked.