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Drive Safe:
A Handbook for
Western Australian
Road Users Summary





This summary is only an interpretation of the Department of Transport document 'Drive Safe: A Handbook for Western Australian Road Users' which itself is only an interpretation of the law made easy to understand by using plain English.

Relevant laws change frequently so make sure you have the [most recent handbook](#) when preparing for your test.

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1. Safe Driving

The High Cost of Road Trauma

In Australia, road users aged 17-24 represent 15% of the population and 1/3 of road deaths. In WA, 20% of drivers killed are under 20, despite being only 6% of all drivers.

The main contributors to serious road trauma are speeding, alcohol, fatigued driving and the non-use of restraints. As the driver controls these factors, most road deaths and serious injuries can be prevented.

Lack of driving experience is a factor in crashes involving young people, hence why the licensing system focuses on practical experience. New drivers spend more time driving under supervision and twice as long with P plate restrictions than previously. They also have to successfully complete a Hazard Perception Test.

Speed

Speeding increases crash risk and therefore risk of being seriously injured or killed. Speeding is driving faster than the limit and too fast to suit conditions.

Driving above the limit is illegal. If caught, you will be fined and may accumulate demerit points. *If on a provisional licence, you could have your licence cancelled.*

Under 'Anti-Hoon' legislation, people caught 45km/h or more above the limit can be charged with reckless driving, resulting in licence suspension or even cancellation. Their vehicles can be impounded/confiscated, if they are racing or doing 'burnouts'.

Why is it more dangerous to drive fast?

It is more dangerous to drive fast because:

- injuries are more severe
- you are more likely to kill or be killed
- vehicle control is harder
- you have less time to react
- other drivers have less time to react to you

Always travel so you can anticipate and react safely to sudden dangerous situations.

Choosing what speed to travel

A speed limit is the maximum legal speed allowed in ideal conditions. Adjust speed to suit conditions and never speed. Limits are shown on signs or are default limits that apply to where you are (e.g. 'built-up' areas or the State's maximum on other roads).

As a basic guide, you should drive slower when:

- The road is busy
If there are parked cars, people may open their doors or pull out suddenly. People may step out from between parked cars. If the traffic light ahead is green, it may change by the time you get there, you must be able to stop safely.





- Road conditions are poor
Be careful if there are potholes. Slow down when there is loose gravel or sand on the road, particularly at bends. If road works are being carried out, slow down and do not exceed speed limits displayed.
- Visibility is poor
Slow down if you cannot see clearly because of rain, fog, smoke, bad light, dazzling lights or the sun shining in your eyes.
- There are pedestrians and cyclists around
Pay attention when you see cyclists and pedestrians (especially near shopping centres or schools). Pedestrians may forget to look before they cross the road. Give cyclists more space – don't 'squeeze' them off the road.

Your speed contributes to how much time you have to react safely. The higher your speed, the less time you have to identify and react to hazards.

Alcohol and Drugs

Driving after drinking or taking drugs increases crash risk (it's worse when the two are combined). Laws around this save lives. Every police vehicle can perform roadside drug and drink driving tests and the chance of being randomly breath or saliva tested is high.

Don't risk your licence, life, or others by driving while impaired by drugs and/or alcohol.

IT IS AN OFFENCE TO DRIVE OR ATTEMPT TO DRIVE WHILE IMPAIRED BY DRUGS.

The effects of alcohol on driving

Alcohol is absorbed quickly and travels rapidly to all body parts. It affects your ability to make judgments and process information, and impairs your consciousness and vision.

Coffee or soft drink won't sober you up – only time can.

If you drink and drive, you will find it difficult to:

- judge vehicle speed
- judge distance between cars
- notice traffic control signals, pedestrians and other potential hazards
- keep your balance, especially as a pedestrian or motorcyclist/cyclist
- concentrate on driving
- stay awake

Alcohol also gives you a false sense of confidence. You may take more risks than normal – but remember alcohol slows your reaction time to hazards.

Blood alcohol concentration (BAC)

BAC is a measure of alcohol in the body (alcohol weight in grams per 100mL of blood). BAC can be determined by analysing a blood, breath or urine sample.

BAC begins to rise when you begin drinking and can take up to 2 hours to reach peak concentration, especially if you have eaten a substantial meal at the same time. Even though you may not have had a drink for an hour or more, your BAC may still be rising.





What is the legal limit?

The BAC allowed depends on the vehicle type you are authorised to drive and the current status of your licence.

The following information sets out the various BAC limits and when they apply. Drink driving penalties apply for offences and may change from time to time.

0.00 BAC applies to the following:

- novice drivers
- taxi drivers*
- drivers of omnibuses*
- drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods*
- drivers of passenger vehicles with capacity of more than 12 adults*
- drivers of certain heavy vehicles*
- extraordinary licence holders
- recently disqualified drivers

*The zero BAC limit for certain drivers may not apply at all times.

0.02 BAC applies to provisional licence holders that are no longer Novice Drivers.

0.05 BAC applies to all other drivers.

How much alcohol takes you over the legal limit?

0.00% BAC

You must not drink any alcoholic drinks at all if you intend to drive

0.02% BAC

So you do not reach 0.02%, you should not drink alcohol when you intend to drive.

0.05% BAC

BAC levels vary between people based on:

- Your size and fitness level - If you are unfit or small, it may take you less than the standard number of drinks to exceed the legal limit.
- Your gender - Alcohol is soluble in water and men tend to have a higher proportion of water than women. Therefore, consuming the same amount of alcohol will usually cause a higher BAC in a woman than a man of a similar size.
- The amount of alcohol still in your blood from drinking the night before or earlier in the day - If you still have traces of alcohol in your blood, your BAC will be higher than normal after one standard drink.
- The amount of food in your stomach - Food slows the absorption of alcohol. If you have not eaten a substantial meal before drinking, your BAC may reach the legal limit more quickly than if you have had something substantial to eat.

What is a Standard Drink?

Any drink containing 10g of alcohol is a standard drink. One standard drink will raise an average person's BAC by about 0.01%, depending upon the factors mentioned.

The Department of Health advises that to stay below 0.05% BAC:

- an average sized, healthy woman should have no more than 1 standard drink in the first hour and then no more than 1 standard drink per hour after that





- an average sized, healthy man should have no more than 2 standard drinks in the first hour, then no more than 1 standard drink per hour after that.

Spirits (37-43% alc/vol)	= 1 Standard drink per 30ml
Wine (10-14% alc/vol)	= 1 Standard drink per 100ml (7.5 per bottle)
Pre-mixed drinks (5% alc/vol)	= 1.2 Standard drink per 300ml = 1.5 Standard drink per 375ml
Mid-strength beer (3-4% alc/vol)	= 0.8 Standard drink per 285ml = 1 Standard drink per 375ml
Full strength beer (4-6% alc/vol)	= 1.5 Standard drink per 375ml = 1 Standard drink per 285ml

How long does alcohol stay in your body?

The body breaks down alcohol slowly. *A healthy person will take about 1 hour to get rid of the alcohol from 1 standard drink.* So, 4 standard drinks in an hour = about 4 hours to get it all out of your system.

No amount of coffee or soft drink will speed up the breakdown of alcohol in your body.

To ensure you stay below 0.05% BAC, limit your drinking to 1 standard drink per hour. The Department of Health recommends limiting your alcohol intake to 4 standard drinks a day if you are a man and 2 a day if you are a woman.

Always follow these 3 rules when drinking alcohol:

- limit yourself to 1 standard drink per hour
- drink plenty of water and other non-alcoholic drinks
- eat something substantial while drinking

Effect of alcohol and other drugs on driving

Many drugs and medicines can seriously affect your driving. Drugs such as sedatives or tranquillisers may impair concentration, make you drowsy, and slow your reaction time. Medications for the common cold or travel sickness can do the same. These side effects may last several hours. If you are taking any drugs, check with your doctor or chemist about the effect they may have on your driving.

Never combine alcohol and drugs as their effects vary and can be much stronger when used in combination. This can be very dangerous and even deadly.

Random roadside drug and alcohol testing

Drink/drug driving is a major contributor to road fatalities in WA. Be aware of the effects alcohol/drugs can have on alertness, vigilance and ability to react rapidly to unexpected hazards. Some drugs can increase the impairing effects of alcohol and fatigue.

Police can stop motorists and require them to take a random drug or alcohol test to detect the presence of prescribed/illicit drugs or alcohol. It is a serious offence to refuse a random breath test, or a request to give a saliva sample for drug testing.





What to do if you want to drink

Don't drink and then drive. If you want to drink, plan ahead:

- arranging a lift with a sober friend
- arranging to stay the night
- hiring a minibus for a group
- appointing a skipper
- using public transport
- phoning someone to collect you
- taking a taxi

One way to avoid drinking too much is to alternate alcoholic drinks with water, non-alcoholic or low alcohol drinks. Don't get involved in 'shouts' to buy rounds of drinks.

Don't drive with a BAC over the limit. In doing so, you increase the risk that you will:

- lose your life
- cause others to lose their lives
- injure yourself or others
- be charged by the police
- lose your licence
- be fined or imprisoned
- have your vehicle confiscated
- damage property

If you crash while over the BAC level or drug-impaired, insurance will not cover you.

Seat Belts

How do seat belts work in a crash?

There are two types of collision in any road crash:

- The car collision is the first. The car hits something and stops. The part that first impacts stops immediately. Often, the engine bay or boot absorbs some impact. The driver/passenger section can remain comparatively undamaged.
- The human collision is the second and more dangerous collision. Occupants are thrown about inside the car, or even out of the car.

If not restrained by a seat belt, you will keep moving when the car suddenly stops. If travelling at 100km/h on impact, you will continue at that speed after the collision.

If not wearing a seat belt, you will hit other people or some part of the car. Higher speeds mean greater force at which you will be thrown inside or out of the car.

The human collision injures and kills people. Seat belts help prevent injury and death.

Why you should wear a seat belt

Seat belts prevent the human collision.

Wearing a seat belt protects against being thrown from the vehicle or thrown around in the driver/passenger compartment – hitting parts of the car or other occupants.

Good drivers have crashes too.

All drivers have some crash risk. People who drink, drive fast, are tired, discourteous or inexperienced, have a higher crash risk. You never know when you may encounter these drivers – so always wear your seat belt.

People are rarely trapped because of seat belts.

Statistics show that people are rarely trapped if they wear a seat belt and their car





catches fire or falls into water. Wearing a seat belt does increase your chances of being alive and conscious so you can escape fire or water after a crash.

Seat belts save us money.

As we all pay the medical, legal, invalid pensions, and higher insurance costs in one way or another, preventing injuries by wearing a seat belt is in everyone's best interest.

Who does not have to wear a seat belt?

Legally, you do not have to wear a seat belt if you are:

- a driver travelling in reverse
- in possession of a current exempting medical certificate
- doing work which requires getting in and out frequently, and not travelling faster than 25km/h
- under the age of 12 months and in a taxi, if no suitable child restraint is available
- a taxi driver carrying passengers after dark

Who must wear a seat belt?

The driver and each passenger must be restrained and in a seated position. Seat belts are designed for 1 person. 'Doubling up' (2 people using 1 belt) is illegal and unsafe.

Seat belts work just as well in the back seat.

You must wear a seat belt in the back seat. If you don't you may hit some part of the vehicle or other people in a crash.

Seat belts must be worn on short, as well as long trips.

Many crashes occur close to the driver's home – always wear your seat belt.

Seat belts must be worn by pregnant women.

Unless they have a current medical certificate exempting them. A seat belt worn correctly across the hips (below the baby) is unlikely to affect an unborn child. There is a higher risk to a baby if the mother is not wearing a seat belt.

Child car restraint law - children need protection too.

Unrestrained children and babies can be injured during hard braking. An adult's lap is not safe in a crash. Even when small, an adult can't hold onto the child in a crash.




WA introduced national child restraint laws to keep children safe in vehicles. Fines and traffic penalties apply to the driver if children are not restrained in accordance with laws.

Child restraint laws apply to passengers under 7 who must wear a suitable restraint. These laws also specify where children are permitted to sit in a vehicle.

- In a vehicle with 2 or more rows, children under 4 must sit in the rear seats.
- Children aged 4-7 are not permitted in the front seats unless all rear seats are taken by children less than 7.
- Children aged 7 and over can sit in any seating position if suitably restrained.





Age and requirement	Child restraint
<p><u>0 - 6 months</u></p> <p>From birth until 6 months of age you are required to use a rearward-facing child restraint, and seat the child in the rear seats at all times.</p>	
<p><u>6 months - 4 years</u></p> <p>Must use either a rearward facing child restraint or a forward-facing child restraint that has an inbuilt harness.</p> <p>Children up to 4 must sit not sit in the front row of a vehicle that has 2 or more rows.</p>	
<p><u>4 - 6 years</u></p> <p>Must be restrained in a forward-facing child restraint with an inbuilt harness or in a booster seat restrained by either a seatbelt or child harness.</p> <p>These children are not permitted in the front seat unless all rear seats are occupied by children less than 7.</p>	

If a child occupies a front seat with a passenger airbag, move the seat as far back as possible while allowing correct restraint and seat belt fit. Children outside weight/size guidelines for existing restraints are able to use the restraint for the next age group. Before you purchase or install a restraint, ensure it complies with Australian Standards.

Never ride in the back of a utility, panel van or station wagon.

It is illegal to ride in the back of a ute or other 'open load' space. When in the open load space of a ute or in the back of a panel van or station wagon you face a greater risk of serious injury or death, particularly if you crash or fall out. It has been illegal to carry any passengers in the tray of utes or open load spaces in other vehicles, even if it has a roll-over protection device fitted, since 31 December 2005.

What if your passengers do not wear a seat belt?

Drivers are legally responsible for ensuring children up to 16 are suitably restrained. You are responsible for ensuring children under 7 are wearing a suitable restraint that is properly adjusted and securely fastened.

Only passengers sitting in a seat fitted with a seat belt or restraint suitably fastened can be carried in the vehicle. Exceptions apply for passengers aged 7 and over where the vehicle is not required to have seatbelts fitted. No additional unrestrained passengers are allowed and passengers cannot share the same seat or seatbelt.

What is the correct way to wear a seat belt?

A seat belt is legally required to be properly adjusted and securely fastened - tight but comfortable. The buckle should be at your side and there should be no twists or knots in the straps. Properly working retractable seat belts will self-adjust.





What should I do if my seat belt is in poor condition?

It is illegal and unsafe to use worn, frayed, faded or damaged seat belts - replace them.

Driver Fatigue

Driver fatigue (driving when tired) is a major road safety hazard. Fatigue crashes tend to be severe as sleepy drivers don't take evasive action (risk of serious injury is very high).

What is driver fatigue?

Fatigue is mental/physical tiredness that causes loss of alertness, reduced driving skill, poor judgement, drowsiness, slower reactions and may cause you to fall asleep.

Drowsy drivers can drift into 'micro-sleeps' (brief naps that lasts around 3-5 seconds). At 100km/h you can travel over 100m in that time, enough to run off the road.

The main causes of fatigue

Body Clock Factors

Your body runs on a 'body clock' (natural biological cycle of 24-26 hours) that programs you to sleep at night and to stay awake during the day. This is controlled partly by light and dark and partly by what you do. If you normally work from 9am to 5pm, some of the things that happen to you as a result of your body clock are:

- the morning light tells your body clock to wake you up
- during the morning your body clock keeps you alert
- after lunch, your body clock turns your alertness down for a couple of hours
- your body clock will make you most alert in the late afternoon and early evening
- evening darkness tells your body to turn alertness down to prepare for sleep
- after midnight your body will turn alertness right down so that you are 'switched off' between 2 and 6am (when your body functions are at their lowest level).

You will usually be at your best, most alert and safest when driving during the morning, late afternoon and early evening. You will usually be at your worst between 12 and 6am when the body clock turns your alertness down. This is a dangerous time for drivers.

Although there are fewer drivers on the road between 12 and 6am, statistics show they can be up to 20 times more likely to have a crash during those hours.

Sleep Factors

Enough sleep is the only way to prevent fatigue. 7.5 hours of sleep is recognised as an average/normal need. If you get much less, you will be fatigued. You will feel tired during the day and much worse at night when your body turns your alertness down.

Fatigued drivers are a danger to themselves and others. If you have not had any sleep for 17-18 hours, your ability to drive will be the same as if you had a BAC of 0.05%.

That way over the 0.00% BAC limit for a novice driver and doubles your crash risk.

Although you may like to go out until the early hours of the morning, be aware that driving while fatigued is a big risk and if you crash because you are not alert, you are likely to be held responsible.





Work Factors

Long working or study hours or physically tiring work can affect your driving. Shift workers need to take extra care as they are *6 times more likely to be involved in 'fatigue-related' road crashes than other workers.*

Health Factors

Medical factors can prevent you from getting the periods of sleep you need to feel refreshed and alert. If you had enough sleep but still feel tired and drowsy consult your doctor. Look after yourself – healthier/fitter people sleep better and are more alert.

Don't use stimulants to keep you awake - these just delay sleep. When they wear off there can be sudden onset of sleepiness, which is dangerous, especially when driving.

What are the warning signs of driver fatigue?

There are warning signs to indicate you are becoming too tired to drive safely:

- yawning
- sore or heavy eyes
- daydreaming
- lack of concentration
- your vehicle wandering
- hallucinating
- slow reactions
- unintentional speed change

Be honest with yourself. If you experience these signs, stop and take a break.

Ways to reduce driver fatigue

Here are some tips to help you keep alert at the wheel:

- get plenty of sleep before long trips
- plan time for sleep, rest and food on long trips
- take regular breaks (at least every 2 hours) to walk and have a stretch
- get fresh air in your vehicle (smoke and stale air can contribute to drowsiness)
- learn to recognise the signs of sleepiness and pull over for a short break

Once fatigue sets in, all you can do is stop immediately and take a break/nap.

'Anti-Hoon' Legislation

Under 'Anti-Hoon' legislation, reckless drivers/motorcyclists can have their vehicles impounded or confiscated. Driving like a hoon can get your vehicle arrested.

People caught racing or doing 'burnouts' can lose their vehicles for 48 hours. A second offence can result in licence suspension and up to 3 months of impoundment. A third can result in permanent licence disqualification and the vehicle being confiscated.

Mobile Phones

Drivers can only make/receive calls on mobile phones while driving if the phone is:

- secured in a mounting affixed to the vehicle
- if not secured, can be operated without touch (voice activated)

It is illegal to use text/video message, email or similar communication while driving.





The GPS function of a phone may be used as long as the phone is secured in a mounting, and the driver does not need to touch it (including the keypad or screen).

Other Road Users

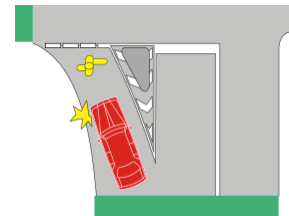
Pedestrians

Keep a look out for pedestrians and be ready to stop. Places to look out for them are:

- at pedestrian crossings
- intersections
- between parked cars or behind buses
- near hotels, taverns or clubs (anywhere people have been drinking alcohol)
- near schools and playgrounds
- near shopping centres

Drivers/riders must give way to pedestrians (including people in wheelchairs) who are:

- crossing at an intersection in front of your turning vehicle
- crossing at a pedestrian crossing (zebra) or children's crossing
- crossing at a marked foot crossing (traffic light controlled crossing) when a light facing vehicles is flashing yellow or red
- crossing in front of you at a slip lane (a left turn lane with an island between that lane and lanes for other traffic).
- At children's crossings, stop before the crossing when the attendant extends the flags. Do not move until the attendant withdraws the flags signalling you can go.



Parallel walk crossings

These are intersections controlled by traffic lights where pedestrians are permitted to walk on the green pedestrian signal, parallel to the flow of traffic. The lights for pedestrians turn green a few seconds before drivers are given their green light and turning vehicles must give way to pedestrians crossing.

Cyclists and motorcyclists

Cyclists and motorcyclists have the same equal rights as other vehicles. Share the road and give them room. Be courteous and take extra care around riders by:

- being careful not to cut riders off when you are turning left. **DO NOT** turn in front of cyclists or motorcyclists – wait for them to ride past
- taking extra care when overtaking riders because they are much more likely to be injured in a crash. Keep a safe distance (at least 1m clearance from the side of your vehicle) when overtaking. If it is not possible to overtake with a 1m gap, slow down and do not overtake until safe
- checking your blind spots for riders. You do not have perfect vision from within your vehicle. There are blind spots at the sides and rear. Check them by looking over your shoulder before you move left or right.

Cyclists may legally use the whole lane on roads with lane markings. They are allowed to ride side-by-side.





Motorcyclists

Being smaller than other vehicles, motorcycles are not easily seen. In addition to the road rules that apply to all road users, additional rules to help protect motorcyclists.

Motorcycle safety

The risk of injury or death on a motorcycle is far greater than in a car. Motorcyclists and their passengers must wear an approved safety helmet or you will be fined and incur demerit points. In the interest of safety, a motorcyclist should also:

- Wear protective clothing.

To reduce the risk of sustaining severe injuries, always wear protective clothing that includes a jacket (bright colour recommended), long trousers, an approved safety helmet (light colour recommended) with fastened strap, eye protection, gloves, and sturdy footwear.

The minimum is closed shoes, long pants, a jacket, and a helmet.

You must wear appropriate protective clothing for your practical assessment.

Many lightweight items will protect you just as well as heavier clothing.

- Take extra care when you carry a passenger.

You may carry one passenger on your motorcycle if you have a pillion seat and separate footrests. The passenger must wear appropriate protective clothing (including an approved helmet), sit behind the rider, face forward and always have both feet on footrests (if they can't reach footrests they can't be carried).

Motorcycle passengers must be 8 or older (unless in a sidecar).

Passenger add weight making the motorcycle respond slower. Adjust your riding to allow for the extra weight.

Talking to your passenger should be minimised as it can distract you and increase your reaction time.

Ride to be seen by other road users

Smaller vehicles appear further away and seem slower than they actually are. Here are some ways to help other road users to notice you:

- turn on your headlights at all times to help oncoming traffic see you more easily
- be ready to use your horn when unsure a driver is aware of your presence
- flashing indicators or hand signals make you more visible - always use them
- be visible – stay within the line of sight of other drivers:
 - do not ride in a driver's blind spot. If they cannot see you, they may make a manoeuvre without making allowance for your motorcycle.
 - if you wish to travel at the same speed as another vehicle, travel behind or in front of it to make sure you can be seen.
 - at intersections, drivers may not see you. Do not assume that they have.
- always allow a 'cushion of space' on all sides of you:
 - in front – do not follow too closely behind another vehicle
 - behind – if another vehicle is following too closely, slow down and allow it to overtake





- to the side – when passing parked cars, allow plenty of room as a car door may open or a pedestrian may step out. When being overtaken, move to the left
- when turning, diverging or changing lanes, indicate/signal for sufficient time to warn others. Look over your shoulder and check your mirror to make sure there is no traffic behind you in your blind spots
- use your mirrors frequently to check the traffic situation behind you
- always look well ahead
- always practice correct braking techniques

It is a good habit (and important to develop the skill) to use both front and rear brakes every time you slow down or stop as you will need to do this in an emergency stop.

Apply both brakes gently but firmly. Squeeze the front brake and press down on the rear brake. Do not 'grab' at the front brake or jam your foot down on the rear brake as this can cause the brakes to lock, resulting in serious control problems.

Always reduce your speed before entering a bend as entering a turn too quickly means you may lose control of your motorcycle.

The Ten Rules to Safe Driving

Road safety experts believe everyone following these rules could reduce road trauma:

1. Drive at a safe speed
2. Don't drink and drive
3. Obey the road rules
4. Concentrate at all times and be prepared
5. Be patient, and when in doubt, don't proceed
6. Plan your moves well in advance
7. Give correct signals
8. Be alert particularly at intersections
9. Know your vehicle
10. Be polite and considerate toward other road users

Pre-Driving Checks

Is your car in safe working order?

Before you drive, check that your car is safe. Some of the things to look at are:

Tyres

Tyre tread should be at least 1.5mm deep (match head thickness) over all parts that come in contact with road. Smooth tyres can cause skidding and can be dangerous in wet conditions. Tyres should be inflated to manufacturer specifications (pressure should be checked when tyres are cold). This is particularly important when driving long distances or carrying a full load.

Brakes

Have your brakes checked regularly. Faulty brakes = longer stopping distance.





Steering

Ensure your steering assembly is in good condition. Faulty steering = wandering car.

Lights

Make sure that all vehicle lights are operating correctly. Faulty lights = other drivers may not be able to see you or may not understand your intentions.

Horn

Use your horn to warn others of danger – it is an offence to use it for other purposes.

Windscreen and windscreen wipers

A clean windscreen is easier to see through (especially when driving into the sun, at night or in the rain).

Replace faulty/damaged windscreen wipers as they prevent clear vision during rain.

Mirrors

You are required to have a mirror on your car and it is illegal to hang things from it. Even with mirrors, your car has areas you can't see without looking over your shoulder. Vehicles (especially motorcycles and bicycles) can be completely hidden in blind spots.

Make sure that your interior and exterior rear view mirrors are correctly adjusted (when you are in the correct driving position, they should help you see what is on the road next to you and behind you). The following are tips for adjusting your mirrors.

INTERIOR REAR VIEW MIRROR – adjust the mirror so that you have a clear view of the road behind

EXTERIOR REAR VIEW MIRRORS – adjust the mirrors so that you can just see the tip of your door handle in the lower edge of the mirror (corner closest to the car).

To check that mirrors positioning is correct, let a vehicle pass you on the right. As it leaves your interior mirror, its front bumper should appear in your exterior mirror.





2. How to Obtain a WA Driver's Licence

WA has a graduated licensing system. Novice drivers must complete assessments and gain experience in different conditions before being granted a provisional licence.

Getting Your C (Car) Licence

Before you can learn to drive on the road, you must have a valid learner's permit for a vehicle of a specified class. The minimum age to obtain a 'C' class learner's permit is 16 years except where the denial of a licence would cause undue hardship.

You may apply for a learner's permit at any Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) centre or regional DVS agent. The permit is valid for 3 years and can be replaced free of charge.

When applying for the first time you must provide evidence of your age, identity and residence. You will be charged a fee to undertake a theory test on the road rules and an application fee that allows you to take one practical on-road driving assessment.

Fees must be paid on application and will not be refunded if your application is refused.

The Graduated Driver Training and Licensing System

The system is designed to ensure learner drivers get a range of supervised experience under different conditions over a long period before driving solo. The system helps you acquire the skills, habits and responsible attitudes essential to safety on our roads.

THE SIX STEPS TO A PROVISIONAL LICENCE

Step 1 - Learner's permit

Before you are issued with a learner's permit you will have to:

- pay for and pass a computerised theory test
A computerised, multiple-choice test on the road rules and safe driving practices (as outlined in this handbook).
- pay for and be issued a Learner Guide and Log Book
If you pass, you will need to pay for your permit, Learner Guide and Log Book. Then you must complete at least 25 hours of supervised experience in a range of traffic and weather conditions before you sit a practical driving assessment.
- pass an eyesight test
If you need glasses or contact lenses to pass the test, your permit and licence will show that these must be worn when you drive.
- pass a medical test (if required)
If you have a medical condition and/or take medication, you **MUST** declare this on the licence application. The DVS staff will advise whether or not you need to have a medical assessment before you can obtain a learner's permit.

Step 2 - Learning to drive

Once you have your learner's permit you can drive with a supervising driver. You must complete at least 25 hours of supervised driving in a range of conditions to be eligible





to sit a practical driving assessment. The supervising driver can be:

- a) a holder of an instructors licence issued under the Motor Vehicle Drivers Instructors Act 1963
- b) an instructor in a youth driver education course conducted or supervised by a body authorised by the Department of Transport for that purpose
- c) a licensed driver authorised to perform driving of a kind for which the instruction is to be given* and has had that authority for periods adding up to:
 - I. at least 2 years, in the case of driving of a moped
 - II. at least 4 years, in any other case

*A person authorised to drive a 'C' class vehicle with an 'A' condition (automatic only) cannot supervise a learner driver in a manual vehicle.

You must drive within the conditions shown on the permit and display 'L' plates on the front and rear of the vehicle when driving.

The highest speed allowable for learners is 100 km/h. Learners are not allowed to drive within the boundaries of Kings Park or wherever signs prohibit learners. Learners must not drive if they have a BAC greater than 0.00%.

Step 3 - Practical driving assessment (PDA)

When you can control a vehicle safely, have at least 25 hours of supervised driving, and are at least 16 years and 6 months old you can book and sit a PDA.

The assessment looks at quality of driving rather than the performance of individual skills. When a learner shows signs of quality it means they have enough practice and different driving experiences. To be ready for the PDA you will need to be able to handle many different situations without relying on your supervisor's help.

If you don't pass the PDA you will have to pay another fee to take it again. It is in your interest to make sure you have enough experience before booking a PDA.

Give more than 2 working days' notice to change/cancel an appointment or you forfeit your PDA and have to pay for another one.

On the day of your PDA:

- arrive at least 10 minutes before the appointed PDA time
- provide a roadworthy vehicle of the correct class with a central handbrake
- as soon as you arrive at the DVS centre inform the staff you will sit a PDA
- take your Learner Guide and Log Book with you. The assessor will check you have completed the 25 hours of supervised driving before your PDA
- you will need to produce your learner's permit, primary and secondary identification prior to taking the PDA

Note: If you are late or your log book has not been completed correctly or signed you will not be assessed, have to pay for and book another PDA.

During your PDA, you will be given clear directions (there are no tricks). Every effort is made to make all PDAs consistent, regardless of location. The route is chosen to give a fair evaluation of your driving ability.





The assessor will be understanding, but won't discuss your driving to stop distraction. Long periods of silence do not mean the assessor disapproves or is unfriendly. It is not the assessor's job to teach you to drive.

Listen carefully to what the assessor asks and carry out the instructions as well as you can. After the PDA, if there is enough time the assessor may discuss your driving.

Assessors are subject to regular auditing and training. The auditor, trainer or trainee sits in the rear seats observing and recording the assessor's role in the assessment.

Step 4 - Gain experience

Once you have passed your PDA, you must complete a further 25 hours of supervised driving experience. The 25 hours is a minimum - try to get as many hours as possible.

Young novice drivers who gain at least 100-120 hours of supervised experience are better prepared for a lifetime of safe driving and are less likely to be in serious crashes.

During this stage you must still display 'L' plates and drive within any permit conditions.

Getting experience in varied conditions will better prepare you for solo driving and will help you pass the Hazard Perception Test. Your supervised experience should include:

- driving on freeways, highways and/or major roads
- driving at night time
- driving at speeds between 80km/h and 100km/h on permitted roads

Take care of your Learner Guide and Log Book – keep it in a safe place.

Only driving properly recorded in the log book will be credited. If your log book is lost, or destroyed you must pay for a new one and previous experience will not be credited.

The log book sections of the Learner Guide and Log Book are legal documents. False or misleading information will mean those that have signed will be liable to prosecution.

Step Five - Hazard Perception Test (HPT)

6 months after passing the PDA, and once your log book has been verified to show you have completed at least 25 hours post-PDA supervised driving, you can sit the HPT to obtain your provisional licence. This computerised test will assess your ability to respond to different traffic situations and to make safe driving decisions.

The test consists a series of moving traffic scenes. You respond to each scene by clicking a mouse to indicate when it is safe to commence a manoeuvre or when it is necessary to take the appropriate action to reduce the risk of a crash situation.

The recorded response time, or lack thereof, will be compared to the recommended response (or no response) times required, to determine if you've passed the test.

You will be charged a fee prior to sitting the HPT. When you pass the HPT and pay relevant licence fees, you will be issued with a provisional licence.

Step Six - Provisional Licence

On your provisional licence, you can drive solo. You must display 'P' plates for 2 years.

A person will be issued with a provisional licence if they:





- have not previously held a valid driver's licence (issued in either WA or another State or Country) for an aggregate period of 2 years
- are younger than 19

If you hold a provisional licence and you are convicted of any of the following, you may be fined and your provisional licence will be automatically cancelled:

- failing to stop after a crash
- failing to report a crash
- dangerous or careless driving
- driving or attempting to drive a vehicle with a BAC equal to or more than 0.02%
- failing to supply your correct name and address when required by police
- failing to stop when called upon to do so by a police officer
- applying for or obtaining a licence while disqualified
- forging or altering any driver or vehicle licence document, or number plate
- unlawfully possessing and using false number plates
- unlawfully interfering with the mechanism of a vehicle
- being in possession of false driver or vehicle licence documents
- lending someone any driver or vehicle licence document, or number plate.
- stealing a motor vehicle
- unlawfully killing a person while driving
- dangerous driving causing injury/death

Important:

- While on 'P' plates it is illegal to drive with any alcohol in your blood
- You will be subject to night driving restrictions for the first 6 months of your provisional period. You are unable to drive between the hours of 12am-5am.
- Night driving restrictions do not apply to people travelling for paid or voluntary work or for training or education purposes. If you do drive between 12am-5am for these reasons, we suggest you carry proof, such as an employer letter.
- You will also be subject to demerit point restrictions until you have held a driver's licence for periods adding up to 2 years.
- During your provisional period, display P plates in a visible position at the front and back of your vehicle at all times.



Must be displayed for the first 6 months of your provisional licence period



Must be displayed for the remaining 18 months of your provisional licence period

Getting a Motorcycle Licence

To get a class R-N (moped), R-E (motorcycle restricted) or R (motorcycle) licence, you must obtain a learner's permit. You can apply to drive a moped at 15 years 6 months - you must answer questions on road rules and specific motorcycle questions.

You can't ride on the road unless you have an instructor with you. This can be a driving instructor or someone who currently holds a licence for the same motorcycle class as your learner's permit and has held that class of licence or equivalent for 4 or more years. For a moped, your instructor must have held a class C, R-E or R licence (or





equivalent) for at least 2 years. Your supervisor can be carried on the pillion seat, in the sidecar, or they may ride another motorcycle. You must display 'L' plates on the front and rear of the motorcycle. *You must carry your permit and drive within its conditions.*

Getting a Heavy Vehicle Licence

Before you get a heavy vehicle licence class LR (light rigid), MR (medium rigid), HR (heavy rigid), HC (heavy combination) or MC (multi-combination), you must meet the experience requirements for that class.

You may need to obtain a learner's permit prior to taking lessons for a heavy vehicle. You cannot learn to drive unless an instructor is with you. Your instructor can be a professional driving instructor or someone who currently holds a licence for the same class as your learner's permit and has held that class of licence for 4 years or more.

Assessment for Heavy Vehicles

If the vehicle used for your assessment is fitted with a non-synchromesh gearbox, you must change gears using the double de-clutch method. If you pass with an automatic or synchromesh gearbox, you will be granted a licence stating such conditions.

To obtain an MC class licence, you have to meet the class eligibility requirements and successfully complete an industry training course.

Seniors Assessments

Persons aged 85 and over are required to undertake a driving assessment to retain the authority to drive/ride heavy vehicles or motorcycles each year before licence renewal. When multiple entitlements are held for various vehicle licence classes an assessment must be undertaken for each class to be retained.

Annual medical reviews are required for all licence holders 80 years and over. Doctors concerned about a person's fitness to drive may recommend a driving assessment.

Bribery

It is a serious offence to offer any gift or payment to obtain a licence. Any person who makes such an offer will be prosecuted.

Organ Donation

When you reach the age of 16, you can register to make an organ or tissue donation if an unexpected event takes your life. Registering means that if you are declared dead, your family will be asked to allow your wishes to donate organs for transplantation.

The importance of organ donation

There are a considerable number of people desperately waiting for transplants. Donations can be a life saving or a life enhancing procedure.





The organs that can be donated are kidneys, heart, lungs, liver and pancreas. Tissue donations include corneas, heart valves and long bones. You can choose all of these, or select individual organs or tissue. You can indicate that you do not wish to donate.

Circumstances of organ and tissue donation

Donation only take places after you are certified dead and family has given approval.

Tissue donation takes place after clinical death when the heart and breathing has stopped. Tissue donation can take place up to 24 hours after death. Organ donation can take place under certain circumstances where someone is declared 'brain dead' in hospital. This usually occurs in intensive care and the donor is always on a ventilator.

Medical procedures in organ donation

Donated organs are removed by some of Australia's leading surgeons. Once the organs are removed, the operation is complete. The donor's body is not disfigured and can be seen by the family after the procedure. Funeral and burial arrangements are not affected by organ donation, and remain the responsibility of the family.

Becoming a registered organ donor

To register as an organ donor you need to complete an Australian Organ Donor Register (AODR) form (available at www.DonateLife.gov.au).

Both young children and elderly adults can register on the AODR.

You must also talk to your family because they are the people who must give final approval. If they are not aware, they may not give permission. Their decision is much harder if unaware of your wishes so family discussion is very important.

Blood Donation

Every single day someone needs blood to help them with cancer, organ diseases, pregnant women and babies, road trauma victims and many other medical situations.

The importance of blood donation

1/3 people are likely to need blood at some stage and yet only 1/30 donate. Once you reach your 16th birthday you can start saving lives by giving blood.

Are you eligible?

Blood donors need to be between 16 and 70 years old, weigh over 45kg, feel fit and healthy, not had a tattoo or body piercing in the last 12 months and not lived in the UK between 1980 and 1996 for 6 months or more. Special criteria applies to donating blood to ensure the safest blood supply for the Australian Health System.





3. Major Road Rules and Additional Safety Advice

Speed Limits

What are the speed limits?

There are 3 major types of speed limits:



Speed limits shown on signs

These vary from 10km/h up to 110km/h. Times when limits apply can be shown on signs (e.g. school zones), or the signs can apply for an area (e.g. area speed limits).

Speed limits that apply when there are no speed limit signs

Called 'default' limits, there is a 'Built-Up' Area limit and a maximum State Speed limit.

In 'Built-Up' Areas

In a 'built-up' area, the 'default' speed limit is 50 km/h unless signed otherwise.

A 'built-up' area is any road:

- on which street lighting is at intervals not over 100m for 500m or more
- which is 'built up' with structures devoted to business, industry or dwelling houses at intervals of less than 100m for a distance of 500m or more



Outside 'Built-Up' areas

The limit that applies in unsigned areas outside 'built-up' areas is 110km/h. This limit starts beyond signs such as a 'derestriction sign' or a speed limit sign with 'END' on it.

Temporary speed limits

For speed limits lower than normal, a temporary speed limit sign may be installed for reasons such as poor conditions, work or events being undertaken. These temporary limits are for the safety of drivers and people participating in work or an event.

Do not exceed temporary speed limits shown on a sign.

Speed limits that apply for certain vehicles and drivers

There are limits placed on certain vehicles and drivers even when a higher limit applies:

Speed limits are the maximum allowed under the best conditions. Drive slower when conditions dictate (e.g. the road is wet, winding, visibility is poor or traffic requires).

Driver / Vehicle type	Max Limit
Learner drivers	100km/h
Vehicles towing caravans or trailers	100km/h
Buses and coaches over 5 tonnes Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM)	100km/h
Vehicles with a Gross Combined Mass (GCM) over 12 tonnes	100km/h





Provisional drivers can drive up to 110km/h (where this is the limit), but should remember they are still gaining experience and need to take extra care.

Following Distances

Maintain distance behind a vehicle to enable safe stopping in an emergency without hitting the vehicle in front. *Most rear end collisions are caused by following too closely.*

The space or 'cushion' in front of you is called following distance. To determine required following distance, consider the speed of traffic and condition of the road.

The '2 Second' rule

The '2 second' rule can estimate an adequate following distance.

While driving look at an object by the roadside (tree or pole), that the vehicle ahead will pass. When the vehicle passes the object, count, '1001, 1002'. You should take the full 2 seconds it takes to say this to reach the object. If you get there before, you are too close. Slow down until you are at least 2 seconds behind the vehicle ahead.

Remember that this '2 second rule' is a guide for good road, traffic and weather conditions. If they are not good, increase your following distance to 4 or 5 seconds.

Always allow a 'cushion of space' at the front, rear and on both sides of your vehicle. This is the margin for error you have in an emergency. The easiest 'cushion of space' to control is the one in front– make sure you always maintain a safe following distance.

How long does it take to stop your car?

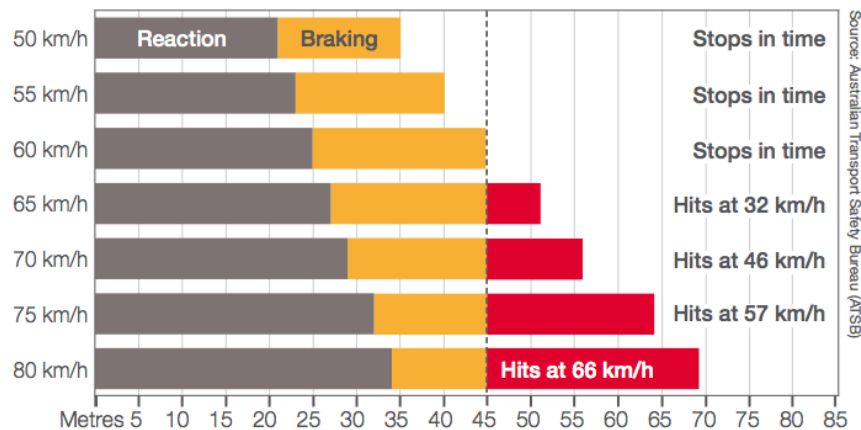
The time it takes to stop a car depends on:

- reaction distance – the distance travelled from the time you realise you need to until you apply the brakes. An alert driver takes at least 1.5 seconds to react. At 60km/h you will travel 25m in this time. If you aren't concentrating, your reaction time may be 3 or 4 seconds, and in some instances you may not react at all.
- braking distance – the distance travelled from braking until stopping. At 60km/h you will cover another 20m before this happens (on a dry road in a modern car with good tyres and brakes). When the road is wet, the braking distance will increase because braking hard on a wet road may cause you to skid. The distance will also increase if your tyres and/or brakes are not in good condition.
- stopping distance –total of reaction distance plus braking distance. Distance travelled once you react, brake, and stop. If you are doing 60km/h, add 25m to 20m (the best case reaction and braking distances) = 45m.
- road conditions – drive carefully over road surfaces covered with loose material or in poor condition. Adverse conditions increase stopping distances.

Remember, the main factors that can influence stopping distance are your vehicle's speed, the condition of your brakes and tyres and the road and weather conditions.

On a dry day, in a new car with good tyres and brakes, you are driving when a child runs onto the road 45m ahead. The graph shows what happens at different speeds.





How long does it take to stop a heavy vehicle?

Heavy vehicles likely require more stopping distance. If you cut in front of a heavy vehicle and then brake suddenly (e.g. at traffic lights), you could cause a crash resulting in damage to your vehicle and injury to yourself and your passengers.

Driving in Different Conditions

Driving at night

The distance you see ahead and to the side is reduced after dark meaning it will take you longer to respond to hazards. About 1/3 of serious crashes occur after dark, so use extra caution to allow for the reduced visibility.

Switch on your headlights

Use your headlights between sunset and sunrise or when conditions require. You need good visibility to drive safely and it is equally important for others to be able to see you.

Be aware of reduced vision

Drive so you can stop within the area lit by your headlights. Your headlights light ahead, not around corners. When entering curves at night, slow down and drive carefully.

Use of high beam

High beams increase visibility but may dazzle oncoming drivers, dip your lights when:

- an approaching vehicle's lights are dipped
- within 200m of an approaching vehicle
- less than 200m behind another vehicle

If a vehicle comes towards you with lights on high beam:

- slow down
- look to the left of the road
- keep to the left of the road
- if you cannot see, stop

To alert a driver you are about to overtake you are able to briefly switch your headlights to high beam when approaching another vehicle from behind.

Tips for driving at night

- keep your windscreen and headlights clean





- do not wear tinted glasses, except under the advice of an eye specialist
- turn your headlights on when it begins to get dark so others can see you
- do not use fog lamps except where visibility is very poor
- stop and rest if sleepy

Driving in wet or hazardous weather

It is difficult to see clearly in the rain. To improve safety when driving in wet weather:

- be sure your wipers are in good condition and your windscreen is clean
- turn your headlights on to low beam
- use your air conditioner to prevent your windscreen from 'misting up'
- if you do not have an aircon, use the heater demister and/or open the windows

Be especially observant while in the rain as pedestrians and cyclists can be hard to see.

Keeping your distance

It takes longer to stop in the wet, so you should at least double the following distance to the vehicle in front when the road is wet or visibility is poor.

Driving in fog or smoke

It is difficult to see clearly in fog/smoke. Don't use high beams as this only lights up the fog/smoke and makes the road more difficult to see. In fog/smoke:

- drive slowly
- use fog lights if you have them
- not follow closely behind another vehicle
- dip your headlights so you can see more easily

Using fog lights incorrectly is illegal. If you have fog lights (front or rear) you must:

- only use them in fog or other hazardous weather conditions that reduce visibility
- not have front fog lamps and headlights on at the same time

Country driving

- consider other road users and be patient
- watch out for animals on roads particularly at sunrise and after sunset
- watch out for tractors, especially during seeding and harvest times
- plan to ensure you have enough fuel and water to get to the next town
- don't stop on or near bridges, floodways or on narrow sections of roadway
- park at the forward end of roadside parking bays to allow others to enter/leave
- don't pull out when you see a vehicle approaching. Wait until they have passed

Keeping to the Left

Roads without marked lanes

The 'keep left' rule on these roads means you must keep as far left as practical, especially when turning left or going up a hill. (Motorcycle riders are exempt from this requirement and may ride away from the left side but left of the road centre).

If driving a slow moving vehicle, pull well over to the left to allow traffic to overtake.



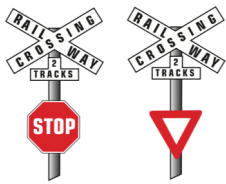


Roads with 2 or more lanes

If the speed limit is 90km/h or higher or there are 'KEEP LEFT UNLESS OVERTAKING' signs, you are not permitted to drive in the right lane unless:

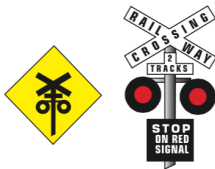
- you are turning right or making a 'U' turn and giving a right turn signal
- you are overtaking a vehicle
- the adjacent left lane is a special purpose lane (e.g. bus or bicycle lane)
- the left lane is a left turning lane and you are travelling straight ahead
- the other lanes are congested with traffic

Railway Crossings



Railway crossings are dangerous, especially if no flashing lights or boom gates.

Trains cannot stop quickly even under emergency brakes. A train can take over 1km to stop and cannot swerve to avoid a vehicle.



Always look for railway crossing signs. If there are no lights or boom gates, look and listen and be prepared to slow down, give way or stop. In country areas, always look as trains are not always on schedule. Obey all the traffic rules stated on any crossing signs.

When you must stop

You must stop before a rail crossing when:

- you are directed by a railway employee, police officer or authorised person and you may only proceed when told
- you can see or hear a train coming and there is any possibility of a collision
- there is a 'STOP' sign near the crossing. (If there is a 'STOP' line you must stop before it. If there is no 'STOP' line, you must stop before the 'STOP' sign)
- warning bells or flashing red lights are operating
- boom gates are down
- there is traffic ahead that prevents you from clearing the crossing safely

If there is no 'STOP' line or sign, stop well clear of the crossing (at least 3m from the nearest rail). Remember the train can be up to 1m wider than the tracks on both sides.

You must not:

- stop or park at any rail crossing within 20m of the nearest rail (either before or after) unless parking signs allow
- drive through/around/under any gate/boom/barrier, when it is down or being raised/lowered

When can you drive on

You can drive on when:

- the lights and bell have stopped flashing and ringing
- you are certain (after checking both directions) no more trains are coming





- you are sure you can safely clear the crossing
- you are directed by a railway employee, police officer or authorised person

Buses and Taxis



Give way to a bus moving out from a bus stop in a 'built-up' area if the bus is indicating and has a 'GIVE WAY' sign displayed on the back.

Bus lanes are reserved for public buses. In some instances taxis are also permitted. Do not drive in a bus lane or a bus/taxi lane unless leaving or entering a road, passing a turning vehicle or an obstruction. Give way to vehicles already in these lanes before you cross or enter them.

Crossing Water on Roadways

Floodways and river crossings are dangerous. Do not cross if water is too deep or fast.

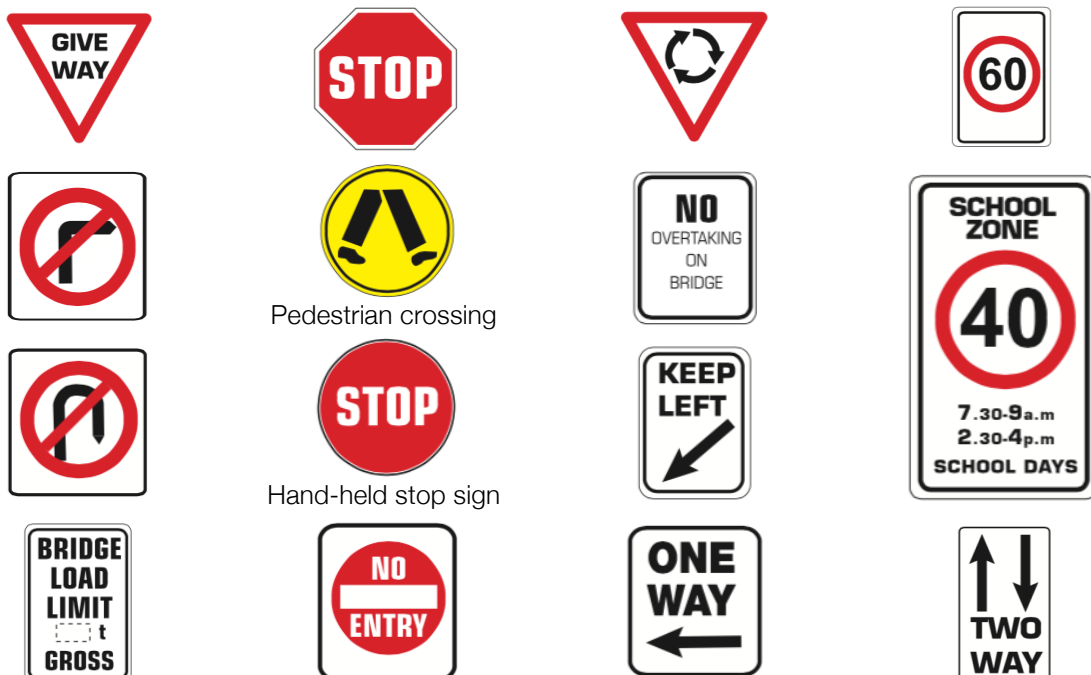
Inexperienced drivers should use an alternative route if available. If no alternative, before crossing water (e.g. floodways, streams or rivers) always check the depth by getting out and walking the intended crossing if safe. If the water is not flowing, the water level should be no higher than the bottom of the vehicle on conventional 2 wheel drives and no higher than the average adult's knee (when standing) on higher 4 wheel drives. If the water is flowing and deeper than the bottom of the vehicle, do not cross.

Traffic Signs

Signs make roads safer for all. There are a number of sign categories:

Regulatory signs

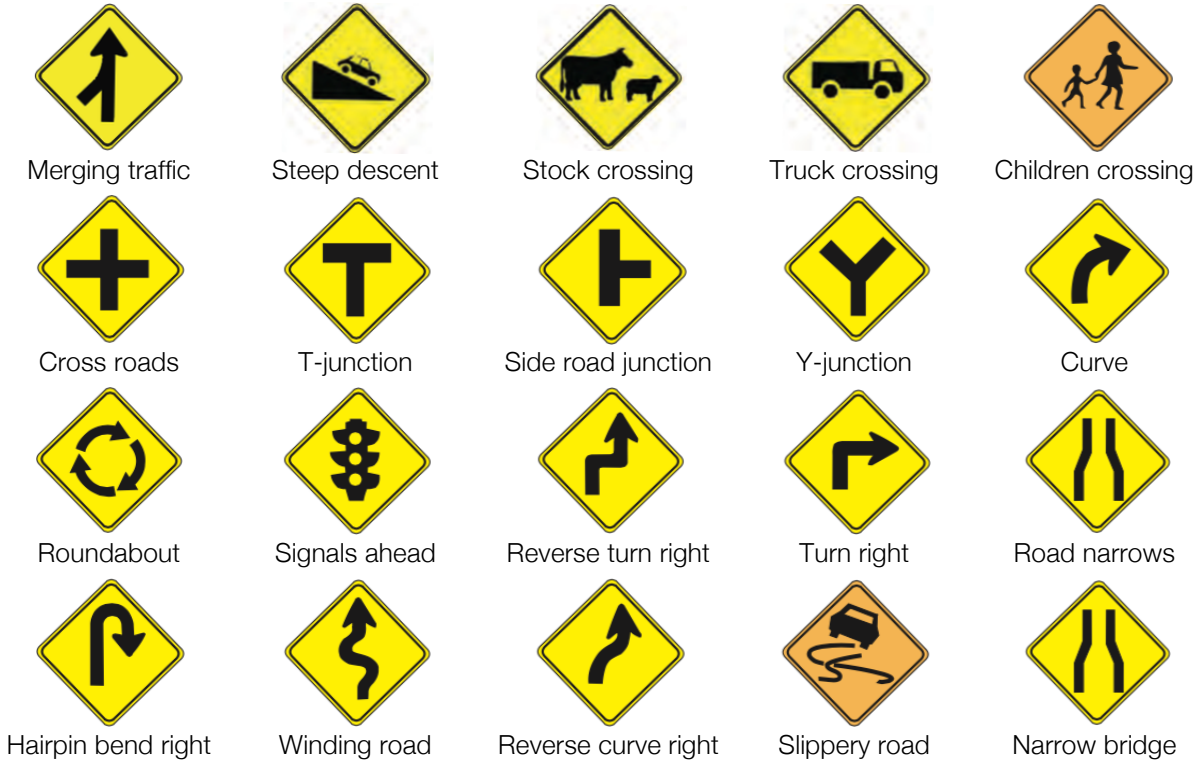
Regulatory signs control traffic and must be obeyed.





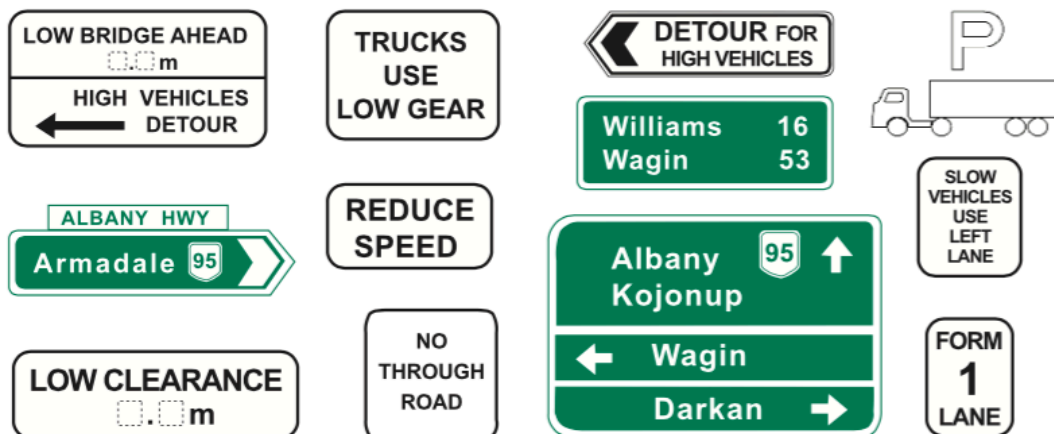
Warning signs

Alert you to possible danger. Generally yellow with black lines, writing or numbers. Pedestrian warning signs are usually red-orange. Slow down when you see one. Advisory speed signs can accompany warning signs (e.g. approaching curves/bends). You should slow down to at least the signed speed (even slower in wet weather).



Guide signs

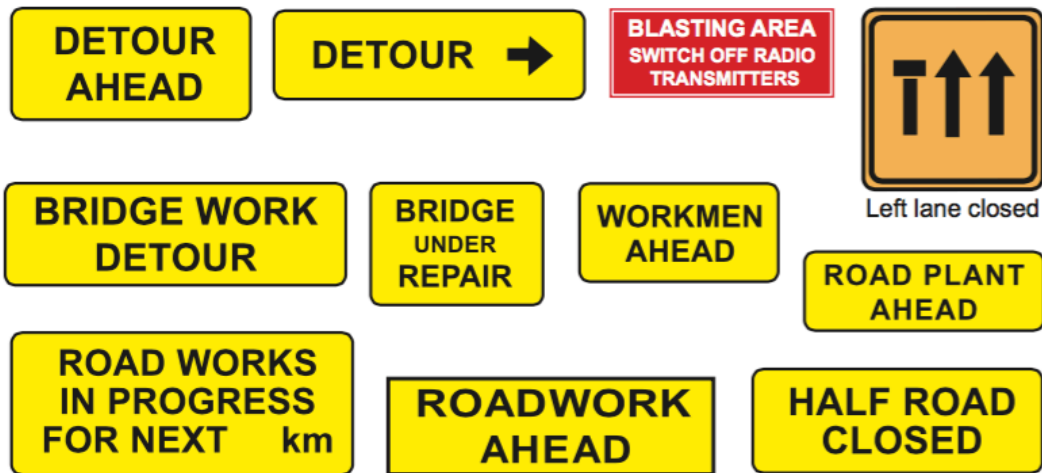
Guide signs help you find your way around. They give directions, distances, routes, and information on road user services and points of interest.



Signs and devices for road works and special purposes

These signs warn about temporary hazards. They are used where road works are in progress. They protect people working and driving, guarding against vehicle damage and protecting the road. Pay particular attention to changed speed limits attached.





Road Markings

Broken lines

Broken lines mark lanes for traffic in the same direction or dividing lines on roads. A broken white line means you may cross to overtake or change lanes, provided it is safe.

Single continuous (unbroken) white lines

Single unbroken lines mark edge lines, lane lines or dividing lines (centre lines).

Where single continuous line is a centre line, do not cross except to leave/enter the road, turn at an intersection or 'U' turn. Where the line is a lane line, do not cross the line to change lanes. Where the line is an edge line, you may cross to stop, enter or leave a road, or pass on the left side of a vehicle turning right.

Double continuous (unbroken) lines

These lines are used as dividing lines (centre lines). Do not cross these lines to overtake but you can cross them to turn right at an intersection, 'U' turn or enter/leave a road.

Continuous line and broken line combinations

Combinations of these lines mark dividing lines where it may be dangerous to overtake. A continuous line on your side of the road and a broken line on the other side means you must stay to the left of both lines. If the broken line is on your side, you may cross the lines to overtake, turn right, 'U' turn or enter or leave the road if it is safe.

Merging lanes

When two lanes merge into one (might also be indicated by signs such as 'LANE ENDS MERGE LEFT' or 'LANE ENDS MERGE RIGHT' or 'FORM ONE LANE', or symbolic warning signs) you must give way to vehicles in any way ahead of you.

Indicate you are merging by using your indicator or hand signal.

Keep a safe distance between vehicles and take turns to merge in long lines of traffic.

Arrows on the road

You must drive in the direction of arrow markings unless you are able to change to another lane where another direction can be followed.



Children's crossing

When the children's crossing guard extends the flags, you must stop before the stop line if there is one and wait until the flags are removed before driving on. Do not enter a children's crossing if the road beyond is blocked by traffic.

Pedestrian crossing

You must give way to all pedestrians on a pedestrian crossing. Painted zigzag lines can indicate you are approaching a pedestrian crossing.

KEEP CLEAR area

Do not stop your vehicle on road that has the words 'KEEP CLEAR' written on it.

Single yellow line

A 'NO STOPPING' area may be marked with a single yellow line on the road edge.

Do not stop a car next to or on a single yellow line unless you are held up by traffic.

Traffic Control Signals

Traffic control signals regulate intersection traffic by deciding who goes and who stops.

It is an offence to disobey signals. When nearing signals, be prepared to stop.

Do not do a 'U' turn at a traffic light unless a 'U TURN PERMITTED' sign allows.

Intersection traffic control signals

- Traffic control signals always have the coloured lights in the same order.
- Red means STOP.
- When the light is red, wait behind the stop line marked near the signal.
- If there is a traffic sign facing you with the words 'LEFT TURN ON RED PERMITTED AFTER STOPPING', you may turn left, if safe. Give way to pedestrians and other traffic. Remember, always stop at the red light first.
- A yellow light warns the signal is about to change to red. *If the light is yellow as you approach you must STOP, IF YOU CAN DO SO SAFELY.*
- When the light is green, proceed through provided it is safe. *Watch out for vehicles disobeying signals as vehicles driving through red lights cause crashes.*
- Watch out for pedestrians who may still be crossing the road.

A flashing yellow light indicates the signals are not working properly. Do not confuse these with Pelican Lights that provide safe crossing for pedestrians. If there is a flashing yellow light, treat the intersection as if you have a 'GIVE WAY' sign facing you. The same should be done if *no light is displayed at all - slow down and be prepare to stop.*

Intersection traffic control arrows

Some traffic control signals have arrows in addition to circular lights. Arrows control the movement of turning traffic. If turning, obey arrows pointed in your intended direction.

Red light with green arrow

Do not go straight ahead. You may turn in the direction of the arrow, if safe.





Always give way to all pedestrians crossing at the intersection.

Green light with green arrow

You may go straight ahead or turn in the arrow's direction, if safe. If the green arrow disappears and no red light or arrow appears, you may proceed – only if safe.

Green light with red arrow

You may go straight ahead, if safe. You may not turn in the arrow's direction.

Pelican signals

A pelican crossing works like normal traffic control signals, except there is an extra phase – a flashing yellow light (not to be confused with lights that are not working).

The flashing yellow light at a pelican crossing means 'PROCEED WITH CAUTION'.

You may proceed, unless pedestrians are crossing. If there are, you must give way.

Officer directing traffic

During unusual traffic flows, or if the power is cut, police or authorised persons may be on duty to ease traffic flow. Get into the correct lane and indicate clearly.

Comply with all directions of police or authorised persons. Their directions overrule:

- traffic control signals
- the 'give way to the right' rule
- 'STOP' and 'GIVE WAY' signs
- arrows or other markings on the road

INDICATORS and HAND Signals

Indicators and hand signals are an effective way to communicate. Stopping, changing lanes or turning without letting others know can cause problems. Be consistent and considerate by using indicators/signals at the appropriate times.

When must you indicate/signal?

You must indicate/signal your intention before:

- turning left/right
- making a 'U' turn
- changing lanes
- pulling out to overtake
- pulling out from a stationary position
- moving back after overtaking
- moving to the left/right
- slowing down or stopping

Types of indicators/signals

Brake lights

You must signal your intention to stop using brake lights to warn other road you are slowing down. Brake lights must be clearly visible at all times up to 60m.

Flashing indicators

You must give sufficient warning of your intention to turn, diverge, change lanes or overtake. 'Sufficient warning' depends on circumstance but should be enough so other road users can take appropriate safety precautions.





On high speed roads, ‘sufficient warning’ may be necessary for several hundred metres, while on low speed roads much less may be sufficient.

If starting from a stationary position at the roadside you must indicate for at least 5 seconds prior to moving. You must also give way to following or overtaking traffic.

Do not drive until it is safe and turn the indicator off after the movement is complete.

Hand signals

Must be used if a vehicle is not equipped with stop light or flashing indicators.

You must indicate out the driver window with a bent arm (hand up to the sky) when:

- slowing down
- stopping
- turning left

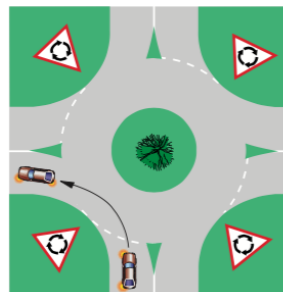
You must indicate out the driver window with a straight arm when:

- turning right
- overtaking another vehicle

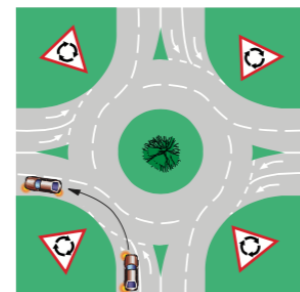
Indicators/signals at roundabouts

Roundabouts have several exit points. Enter only when there is a safe gap in traffic.

When turning left at a roundabout, approach from the left lane, indicate left, stay in the left lane and exit in the left lane.

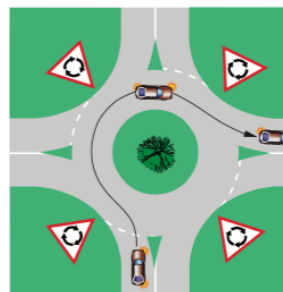


Turning left - single lane

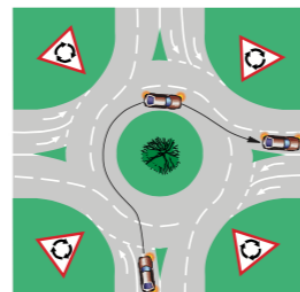


Turning left - two or more lanes

When turning right at a roundabout, approach from the right lane, indicate right and stay in the right lane. Indicate left, if practical, as you are passing the exit before the one you wish to use. When leaving the roundabout, exit in the right lane.



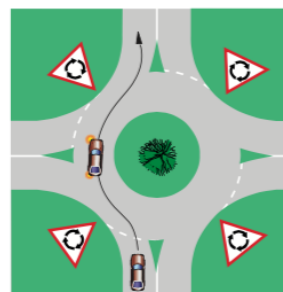
Turning right - single lane



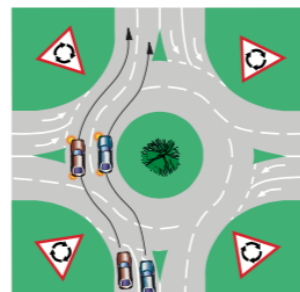
Turning right - two or more lanes

You do not need to indicate when you are approaching a roundabout if going straight ahead.

Unless the road markings show otherwise, approach from either the left or right lane and drive in that lane throughout.



Going straight ahead - single lane



Going straight ahead - two or more lanes

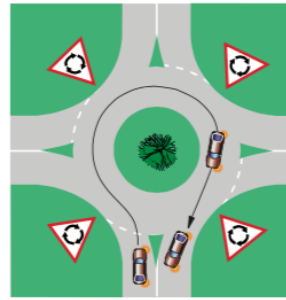
Indicate left if practical, as you are passing the exit before the one you wish to use. Exit in the same lane in which you entered (exit in the left lane if you entered in the left lane or the right lane if you entered the roundabout in the right lane).



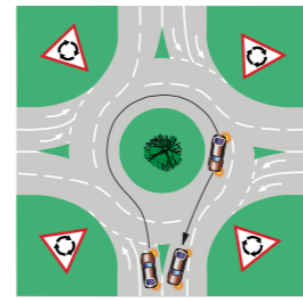


If you are using the roundabout to make a full turn ('U' turn), follow the instructions for turning right.

Generally, take care when you drive in a roundabout, especially when changing lanes and leaving. Watch out for vehicles leaving the roundabout, vehicles making a full turn, and bicycles, long vehicles and motorcycles.



Full turn - single lane



Full turn - two or more lanes

Freeway Driving

Basic freeway rules

Before you drive on a freeway, make sure you are confident drive at freeway speeds.

As freeway speeds are higher than normal roads, be aware of your surroundings:

- check your mirrors frequently and your blind spots before changing lanes.
- indicate/signal well before you change lanes, enter/leave the freeway. Give way to traffic in the lane you are moving into and move smoothly.
- be smooth and courteous when merging. Give way to vehicles with any part ahead of you. Maintain a safe distance in front.
- lookout for directional signs so you are prepared to get into the correct lane. Move into the lane when practical but remember not to use the right lane unless overtaking or lanes are congested (where freeway limit is 90km/h or higher).
- in reduced visibility (rain, fog or smoke) reduce speed and increase following distance. Turn your headlights on to low so others can see you.
- if your vehicle breaks down on a freeway, pull into the emergency stopping lane or nature strip. Use your hazard lights, stay away from traffic. Be careful when you re-enter traffic. Give way and indicate for at least 5 seconds before moving.

Entering a freeway

Before getting on the freeway:

- be sure your vehicle is roadworthy, has enough fuel, and any load is secure.
- plan your journey – know your entry/exit points.
- adjust your speed as you drive along the entry ramp.
- make sure you are not entering the freeway at a sharp angle.
- drive so you merge smoothly with traffic.
- clearly signal your intentions. Indicate before and while merging. Turn off your indicator when the merge is complete.

Appropriate speeds for freeway driving

Freeways are designed for higher speed traffic flow than standard roads.

Driving too slowly can cause dangerous situations, so to travel at a speed no more





than 20km/h below the posted limit (unless conditions prevent you from doing so).

Leaving the freeway

Select the correct lane and indicate your intention to leave in advance of the exit. When safe, move gradually but positively into the exit lane. Slow down when entering the exit ramp and adjust your speed to be prepared for driving in suburban or city conditions.

What you must not do on a freeway

When driving on a freeway, you must not:

- stop unnecessarily
- carry an oversize load
- ride a moped, bicycle or animal
- stop on the median/nature strip or emergency lane (except in emergencies or to help another disabled vehicle)
- reverse your vehicle, or make a 'U' turn
- drive a tractor (other than a prime mover)
- enter a Bus/Taxi lane (unless authorised)

Pedestrians and cyclists are not allowed on freeways except on paths.

Intersections

The rules for the different types of intersections help to reduce their danger.

Controlled intersections

A controlled intersection can be controlled by:

- traffic control signals
- 'STOP'/'GIVE WAY' sign
- a roundabout
- a police officer or authorised person directing traffic

Traffic control signals - be prepared to stop if the light changes to yellow or red.

'GIVE WAY' sign - give way to traffic on or turning from the intersecting road.

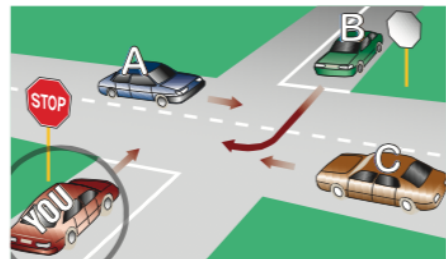
'STOP' sign - stop and give way to traffic on or turning from the intersecting road.

Stop at the line marked across the road before 'STOP' signs. *If you have to stop back from the line, stop again as close to the line as you can when you move forward.*

If there is no line, stop as close to the intersection as practical but before entering it.

Give way to all traffic coming from the left or right, including turning vehicles.

In the image, YOU must give way to Car A and Car C. Car B must give way to YOU, Car A and Car C.



When a Police officer or authorised person is directing traffic, take direction from them as their directions overrule traffic control signals and signs. If their back is towards you, stop your vehicle and wait for instructions before driving.

Uncontrolled intersections

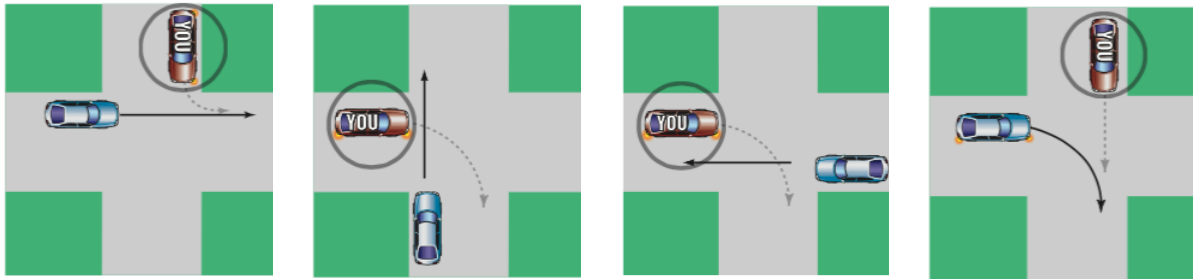
Uncontrolled intersections are all others apart from those mentioned above.



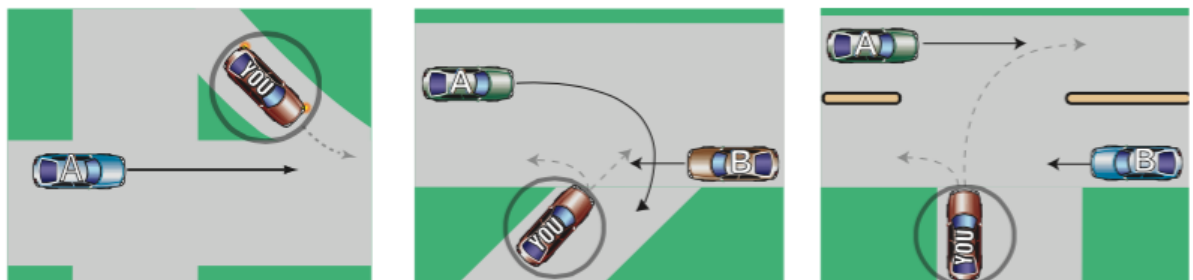


The rules for uncontrolled intersections that make them safer are:

- at a 4-way intersection, give way to cars on your right, whether turning or going straight ahead



- at a three way intersection, give way to Car A and Car B that are on or turning from the continuing road

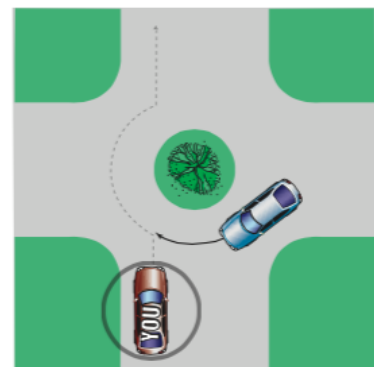


- If you are turning right at any uncontrolled intersection, give way to oncoming traffic travelling towards you or turning left.

Roundabouts

At a roundabout, YOU must:

- give way to all traffic already on the roundabout
- enter only when there is an adequate and safe gap in the traffic
- always travel in a clockwise direction.

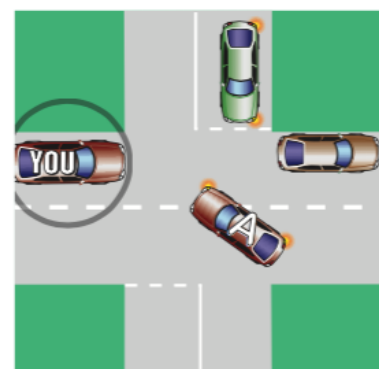


Keep intersections clear

Do not enter an intersection when a queue of traffic prevents you from fully exiting on the other side.

Stop before you enter the intersection so that you do not block crossing traffic.

In the diagram, YOU must stop before the intersection. This allows vehicles such as Car A to cross the road.





Turning

Ensure that a turn can be made without interfering with the progress of oncoming vehicles. While waiting to turn, keep the wheels in the 'straight ahead' position because if you're struck from behind, you will not be pushed into the path of oncoming traffic.

When to indicate/signal your intention to turn?

Indicate for sufficient distance before turning/diverging to warn others of your intentions

Give as much warning as possible. 'Sufficient distance' depends on the circumstances. If travelling at high speed, a sufficient distance may be several hundred metres.

Turning

The rules when making a turn are as follows:

- turning vehicles must give way to pedestrians
- when turning left you must:
 - indicate/signal before you turn and move to the left side of the road
 - when 'turning lanes' are marked, move into the lane marked for left turns
 - look out for and give way to cyclists if crossing a bicycle lane or shoulder
 - give way to pedestrians and turn only when safe
 - keep close to the left of the road after turning
- when turning right you must:
 - indicate/signal before you turn
 - when lanes are not marked, move as close as possible to the left of the centre of the road and turn to the right of the centre of the intersection
 - when turning right into a multi-lane carriageway (no turning lanes marked) you can enter the carriageway in any lane to the left of the centre of that carriageway, provided it can be done without interfering other traffic
 - on a one-way street, turn from the right side of the road unless marked turning lanes allow alternate turning
 - give way to pedestrians and turn only when it is safe

'U' turns

You must not make a 'U' turn:

- if there is a 'NO U TURN' sign
- on a freeway
- unless it can be made safely and without interfering with other traffic
- at traffic control signals (unless there is a 'U TURN PERMITTED' sign)

Correct 'U' turn procedure is to:

1. look in your rear view mirror
2. indicate/signal your intention
3. head check for traffic
4. turn only if it is safe

Turning at a multi-lane intersection

- move into the correct lane early (not at the last moment)
- do not cross unbroken lane lines (unless you cannot turn from a single lane because you are a vehicle 7.5m long or longer)





- be in the correct position on the roadway before the intersection
- if you are in an arrow marked lane, go in the direction of the arrow

Turn only when you can see clearly – large vehicles may block approaching traffic.

Changing Lanes

A lot of crashes occur when vehicles change lanes because drivers are not aware another vehicle is already in the lane into which they move. To safely change lanes:

- check your internal and external mirrors
- indicate for a sufficient distance to warn of your intentions before beginning your manoeuvre (the higher the speed, the greater the required indicator distance)
- glance over your shoulder to make sure another vehicle is not in your blind spot
- check for other drivers who may also be moving into the lane
- give way to vehicles already in the lane you are entering
- never change lanes while going through, or approaching an intersection
- never change lanes where the line between lanes is a continuous line

If someone you indicates they wish to change into your lane be polite and let them in.

Overtaking

Overtaking is one of the most dangerous manoeuvres. Overtake if safe, wait if unsure.

Do not exceed the speed limit or cross continuous line/s to overtake.

When can you overtake?

You can overtake a vehicle on the left only when:

- directed to do so by a police officer or authorised person
- on a multi-lane road and it is safe
- a vehicle indicating to turn right (you can also pass stationary vehicles behind it)

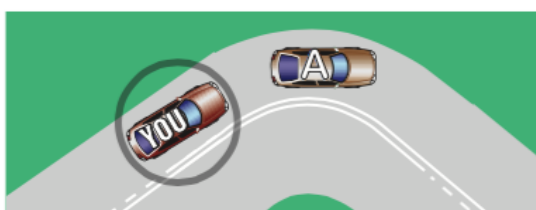
You can overtake on the right when travelling in the same direction and it is safe/legal.

When you must not overtake

You must not overtake another vehicle when:

- it has slowed down or stopped at a railway, pedestrian or children's crossing
- it is stopped at an intersection (unless they signal they are turning) and it is safe
- there is a 'NO OVERTAKING' sign
- you are nearing a blind bend or hill crest, or you do not have a good view ahead

Do not cross continuous dividing line/s to overtake another vehicle (Car A):





How to overtake

To overtake safely you must:

- get a good view of the road ahead to make sure you have plenty of time/space to return safely to the correct side of the road
- look behind and to the side of you before overtaking, check your mirrors and head check your blind spots as another vehicle may be overtaking you
- indicate/signal for a sufficient distance before you pull out to overtake
- keep to the speed limit when overtaking another vehicle
- move back into line when safely clear of the vehicle(s) you have overtaken, having indicated your intention to do so before moving back

What to do when you are being overtaken

Move to the left to allow plenty of clearance for the overtaking vehicle. You must not:

- increase your speed until the overtaking vehicle has completely passed
- drive in a way that prevents a vehicle from overtaking you

Large and oversize vehicles

Be careful when travelling near vehicles 7.5m long (or longer) turning or negotiating a roundabout. Before and during turns, they are allowed to cross continuous line/s. Do not overtake after they have signalled to turn. Tips for encounters with large vehicles:

- they need more space to stop so do not overtake and then cut in at locations where traffic queues occur (e.g. traffic signals, roundabouts)
- be patient they accelerate slowly (they have to move through many gears)
- when a large vehicle is turning onto the road you are on, keep back from the intersection as it will require more space to make the turn

Reversing is difficult for drivers of large vehicles, so give them plenty of room.

REMEMBER: If you can't see the driver's side mirrors, the driver can't see you.

A guide to overtaking large vehicles:

- be patient and stay back several car lengths without crossing the road centre.
- when safe - indicate, move out, accelerate and overtake quickly and positively, keeping in mind the road, visibility, weather conditions and speed limit.
- use your left indicator when you are about to return to the left.
- after overtaking, maintain your speed. Do not overtake and slow down.
- allow for oncoming vehicles that may be travelling faster than you think. Only overtake when the road clear - waiting could save your life.
- never attempt to overtake a large vehicle on a curve/hill where visibility is limited, even when the vehicle is moving slowly.
- make good use of overtaking lanes to overtake large vehicles.
- be ready for the wind buffeting you as you pass.
- be extra careful after dark.

Letting an oncoming oversize vehicle accompanied by a pilot vehicle pass:

- many oversize vehicles are accompanied by a pilot vehicle with two rotating yellow lights and warning signs on its roof that usually travels in front.





- pilot vehicles warn approaching drivers. Slow down until the oversize vehicle passes or stop if directed by the pilot vehicle driver.
- cooperate with the pilot vehicle driver when they signal you to move over as the oversize vehicle may need to be in the centre of the road.
- if you move off the bitumen, slow down and watch for guide posts that indicate a deep culvert. Use extra care if the road's edge is wet.

Overtaking an oversize vehicle accompanied by a pilot vehicle from behind:

- passing an oversize vehicle is dangerous. If there is only one pilot vehicle, it will be in front and will not be able to see you. Be patient and wait for a safe time to pass. Usually the oversize vehicle will periodically pull over to allow traffic to pass
- if there is also a rear escort vehicle, take directions from this driver. Drivers of pilot vehicles are 'authorised traffic wardens' whose directions must be obeyed
- CB radio (UHF channel 40) can be used to discuss overtaking with pilot drivers

Stopping

There are places where stopping can be dangerous to road users. You must not stop:

- in intersections or within 10m of an intersection (unless signs allow)
- between another stopped or parked vehicle and the centre of a road
- within 20m (approach side) and 10m (leaving side) of a pedestrian/children's crossing or bus stop
- on a bridge or in a tunnel
- within 3m of a letter box
- on a median strip or path
- within 20m of a railway crossing
- within 1m of a fire hydrant or fire plug
- in bus lanes, bus/taxi lanes or bicycle lanes
- in CLEARWAYS during the times shown on signs
- on Freeways (except in the emergency stopping lane or on nature strip if in an emergency, broken down or helping someone who's broken down)
- where there are 'NO STOPPING' or 'NO STANDING' signs or a single yellow line along the edge of the road. ('NO STANDING' = 'NO STOPPING')
- on the road on crests or curves where the vehicle is not visible to an overtaking driver for at least 50m in a 'built-up' area or 150m outside a 'built-up' area

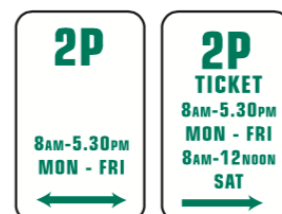


Parking

To 'park' means to remain stationary whether the vehicle is attended or not - except for the purpose of avoiding conflict with traffic, complying with another law, or picking up or setting down passengers or goods (for a maximum of 2 minutes).

Before you park your vehicle, ask yourself:

- is it safe to park here
- is it legal
- will it cause trouble to others





Where you must not park

You must not park part of your vehicle where stopping is not permitted (above) or:

- in front of a right-of-way, passage or private driveway
- in a 'NO PARKING' area (except for up to 2 minutes to pick up or put down goods or passengers)
- in parking bays for people with disabilities (misuse can result in a fine). Bays marked with the symbol shown are reserved for holders of a current ACROD parking permit.



How to park

Before you move into a parking place:

- check for traffic behind
- slow down
- give correct signals

When you leave, apply the park brake, remove the ignition key and lock the doors.

When parking in a two-way street, park close to, and parallel with, the left boundary of the street. Unless signs say otherwise, you may park on either side in a one-way street.

When parking in a confined space (reverse parallel park):

- pull alongside, and parallel to, the car you wish to park behind
- reverse very slowly
- steer sharply to the left, until your car is nearly 45° to the kerb with your left front door opposite the rear bumper of the car in front
- when your front bumper is clear of the rear bumper of the car ahead, turn your steering wheel fully to the right and continue reversing
- straighten your wheels and move forward to the correct position

Before reversing:

- use caution and reverse no further than necessary. Remember, it is an offence to reverse when unsafe, or for a greater distance than is reasonable
- make sure that all is clear behind you

When parking on a hill:

- apply the park brake, if you are driving a vehicle with:
 - automatic transmission, select 'PARK' (P)
 - manual transmission, select the gear which is opposite to the hill slope (if facing uphill, select 'first' gear, if facing downhill, select 'reverse' gear)

A good idea is to turn your wheels towards the kerb so that the kerb will help stop the vehicle if it does move. After you park, look out for traffic, especially cyclists, and wait until it is safe before opening the door. If there is too much traffic, it may be safer to get out on the side of the vehicle away from the traffic.

Before pulling out from a parking spot:

- make sure you are in the correct gear
- do not allow the vehicle to roll back
- check for traffic, indicate for at least 5 seconds and drive off into a safe gap





Clearways

Clearways are sections of roads where vehicles cannot stop during certain times. Clearways allow the traffic to flow more easily during peak traffic periods.

How do you know which roads are clearways?

Clearways are marked by a sign with a large white 'C' on a red shield or on a parking meter.

When can you park?

The times stated on signs tell you when you cannot park. This is usually during the morning and/or evening peak traffic periods.

What happens if you park when you are not supposed to?

Parking your vehicle in a clearway will slow down traffic flow. Penalties are high and can include heavy fines or your vehicle being towed away.





4. Emergencies and Crashes

How to Handle Emergencies

Do not use the horn, except in an emergency or to prevent injury to people or property.

Breakdown on the road

Approach a broken-down vehicle or crash scene with caution. Do not allow yourself to be distracted from the road. Look out for pedestrians at the scene.

If your vehicle has engine trouble and slows, move left, as far as possible from traffic.

If your vehicle breaks down on the road in an exposed position:

- activate the hazard warning lights immediately
- have passengers leave the vehicle when safe and keep them well clear of traffic
- if possible, avoid working on the traffic side of your vehicle
- you may place a hazard warning triangle to the side of the road or lane. Within a 'built-up' area, place the triangle up to 50m away. Outside 'built-up' areas or on high-speed roads, place it up to 200m away. When walking to place the triangle, hold it in front of you to alert drivers to the hazard. Hold it behind you when you collect it and return. If you are driving a heavy vehicle (more than 12t), use these triangles if you are broken down at night on a road outside 'built-up' areas
- if you have a bright, reflective safety vest – wear it
- during an on-road emergency use a CB radio 'road channel' to alert traffic, particularly heavy vehicles

Emergency assistance may sometimes be reached via the government allocated CB radio 'Emergency Channel' - 9 (on HF) or 5 (on UHF). Try both simplex and duplex.

Tyre blow-out (rapid puncture)

A front wheel puncture will pull your vehicle in the direction of the puncture.

A rear wheel puncture will tend to cause you to swerve side to side.

If a puncture occurs:

- keep a firm grip on the steering wheel
- do not oversteer to correct any swerve or pull
- take your foot off the accelerator
- once you have better control, gently apply the brakes
- slow down, pull over to the roadside, and stop in a safe spot
- use hazard lights (if fitted)

A stuck accelerator

A stuck accelerator is when you release the accelerator and you continue at the same speed or accelerate. If this happens:

- depress the clutch, or in an auto, select 'NEUTRAL' ('N')
- apply firm pressure on the brakes without locking the wheels





- find a safe place to pull off the road and stop
- stop and then turn off the ignition
- use hazard lights (if fitted)

Brake failure

Brake failure is when you push the brake and you do not slow down or stop:

- it may help to pump the brake pedal hard and fast
- move to a lower gear whether you are driving a manual or an automatic
- gently apply the handbrake
- if necessary, use your horn and/or flash your headlights to warn others
- move to the side of the road
- carefully stop the vehicle using the handbrake
- use hazard lights (if fitted)

Possible head-on collision

Another vehicle is speeding towards you and a head-on collision seems likely:

- brake firmly without skidding, while flashing your lights and sounding your horn
- give the oncoming vehicle all the room you can
- look for an avenue of escape
- prepare for further evasive action, including pulling off the road if necessary

Forced on to the gravel

If forced on to the gravel road edge, don't rush to get back on to the road, instead:

- keep a firm grip on the steering wheel and drive in a straight line
- slow down and check traffic before you re-enter

Bonnet flies up

If your bonnet flies up:

- slow down
- look through the hinge gap or use side windows to retain a view of the road
- brake smoothly to a stop, pulling off the road as soon as possible

Shattered windscreen

If your windscreen shatters:

- slow down
- pull over to the roadside as soon as possible

Stalled on a railway crossing

If you hear or see a train coming, leave the car immediately. Do not risk your or others' lives trying to save a car. If no trains are coming:

- make 1 or 2 attempts to re-start the engine, be careful not to flatten the battery
- if you cannot re-start the engine, get out and seek help to push your vehicle off
- if your car is a manual, you may be able to move it by trying this:





- put the car in first or reverse gear
- release the clutch and take your feet off all pedals
- turn the key to, and hold it in, the start position (the car should move enough to get you off the track)
- if your car is an auto, select 'NEUTRAL' ('N') and try to push it off the track

Car fire

Most vehicle fires are caused by a short circuit in the electrical system. If this happens:

- slow down, stop and turn off the ignition
- get any passengers out and away from the fire
- if the fire is beyond control, move away as petrol may explode
- if you have an appropriate extinguisher, put the fire out
- if you do not, try to extinguish the flames with a thick cloth/garment, sand or dirt
- try to isolate and remove the cause. Disconnect the battery quickly if possible. If this is not practical, rip loose burning wires with a tool
- NEVER touch burning wires or insulation with your bare hands
- call for help

Skids

A skid is when your wheels lock and the car is dragged along by momentum, meaning you lose steering control. The only way to regain control is to stop the skid.

What causes skids?

A skid does not just happen. It is almost always the result of a driver's actions:

- excessive speed
- sudden/excessive braking
- harsh acceleration
- coarse/uncontrolled steering

Skids are always dangerous, but certain conditions can make them even worse:

- poor car maintenance, such as bald tyres and low tyre pressure
- road conditions - water, oil or sand on the road can make it slippery

The ABC of avoiding skids

You are unlikely to have much time/space to correct a skid. Understanding skid causes helps you to avoid them. Adjust your speed to suit conditions and remember the ABC:

- Accelerate gently
- Brake gently
- Corner gently

Post Crash Management

Avoid crashes, but know if you are involved in one, stop immediately and:

- help anyone injured after checking your actions do not put yourself or others in danger. Send someone for help if required
- give your name, address and number plate to the owner or driver of the other vehicle. If property has been damaged, give the owner your particulars as well
- if someone has been injured, report the crash to the Insurance Commission of WA. Provide the name and address of all drivers, number plates of all vehicles, time, date and crash location





- if any injury has occurred, or there is > \$3,000 damage to vehicles/property (in total), or if the owner of the damaged property is not present, you **MUST** report the crash to the police

Penalties are severe for not stopping to help when involved in a crash where someone has been injured (prison, loss of licence, fines, demerit points).

If removing a wrecked vehicle from a road, you must remove any glass or destructive or dangerous substance or item that has fallen on the road. This is the responsibility of the driver, or if they are injured, the person who removes the vehicle from the road.

First Aid

The first few minutes after an injury are vital. Until trained help arrives, your knowledge may save a life. Injuries like blocked airways or severe bleeding may be life-threatening. Consider undertaking a first aid course to prepare you to help at the scene of a crash.

How can you help?

Remember the St John Ambulance Action Plan, DRSABCD:

Danger, Response, Send, Airway, Breathing, CPR, Defibrillation

Danger

Check if there is any danger to you first, then bystanders and then the injured person.

If possible:

- Position your car to protect the crash scene
- Switch on hazard warning lights or indicators
- Send someone to warn approaching traffic
- Secure the crashed vehicle by turning it off and putting on the handbrake
- Prevent others from smoking near the crash site
- Stay away from fallen power lines, especially if close to or touching the vehicle

Do not move injured people unless they are in danger (e.g. the vehicle is on fire).

Response

1. Check whether the injured person is conscious
2. If conscious, talk to and reassure them. Check for injuries and treat
3. If unconscious, send for help and then check their airway

Send for Help

- Call Triple Zero (000) for an ambulance
- If there is a bystander, ask them to make the call

Airway

The highest priority is to ensure the airway is open and clear so breathing is possible.

1. Open the airway by lifting the chin and tilting the head back
2. Open mouth to look inside for foreign material (e.g. vomit, fluid, broken teeth)
3. If foreign material is found, clear the airway using your fingers





Breathing

1. Check for normal breathing for up to 10 seconds by looking for chest movement, listening and feeling. Gasping is not normal breathing.
2. If breathing normally, monitor breathing, manage injuries and treat for shock.
3. If not breathing normally, start CPR.

If unconscious and trapped in the car, you can still perform CPR by tilting the seat back as far as possible to allow for better access and positioning.

CPR = Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

CPR is the process of giving 30 chest compressions followed by 2 breaths. Expect to do 5 sets of 30 chest compressions and 2 breaths in about 2 minutes.

Signs of life = breathing normally, responsive and moving.

If not breathing normally (e.g. gasping), responding or moving, begin CPR.

Giving chest compressions

With the injured person on their back, give 30 chest compressions:

- Locate the lower half of the breastbone and place the heel of one hand, the other on top, to push the breastbone down 1/3 in depth.

Giving breaths

- Give 2 breaths by tilting the head with a chin lift, pinch the nose, cover the injured person's mouth with your own and breathe.
- Only stop CPR if the person begins to breathe normally and is responsive, more qualified help arrives, or you are physically unable to continue.

If unwilling/unable to perform breaths, compression-only CPR is better than nothing.

Defibrillation

A defibrillator is used to treat sudden cardiac arrest. If a defibrillator is available, apply the defibrillator and follow the voice prompts. Recommence CPR when prompted and continue until the injured person pushes you away or more qualified help arrives.

Moving a patient

Unless absolutely necessary, do not move a patient until aid arrives as it may lead to further injury. If the patient's life is endangered, remove the person from the scene in the quickest and safest way, regardless of injuries or the manner of removal.

If head/neck/spinal injuries are suspected, support the head/neck in a neutral position before carefully moving. *Remember, airway and breathing always take precedence.*

Stay with the patient

If it is safe, stay with the injured person, and do not leave them alone. This is particularly important if they are in shock. If you are the only one on scene and need to get help, place a breathing unconscious person in the recovery position. This assists breathing. On your return, check airway and breathing and continue to monitor until aid arrives.





When the injured person is bleeding

To stop external bleeding:

- apply direct pressure using available material (e.g. your hands or clothing)
- if an arm or leg is bleeding, raise it to reduce blood flow to the area
- if you have a cloth, use it to make a pad and cover the wound, then bandage it
- never remove the original dressing as this will disturb the forming clot. If bleeding continues, put more pads over it
- if pieces of metal, glass or wood are found in the wound apply pressure to surrounding areas but do not remove object. If a broken bone is protruding apply pressure to the wound edges only.

If the person is bleeding from the ear, lay them on their side (bleeding side down) with a pad under the ear. If bleeding from the nose, apply direct pressure on the soft lower part of the nostril, sit the casualty up and lean the head forward.

Rest and reassure the injured person

Do not make injuries worse by moving the person unnecessarily. Move the casualty if:

- They are in danger, such as from fire or traffic
- Their position makes it impossible to give first aid
- They are unconscious and breathing and must be put in the recovery position

4.4 Emergency Vehicles

You can identify an emergency vehicle by its siren or its red and/or blue flashing lights. The vehicles used in emergencies are:

- police cars
- fire engines
- ambulances
- vehicles used to convey blood or supplies for urgent treatment

What should you do when there is an emergency vehicle in your immediate vicinity?

- do not panic
- check where the emergency vehicle is coming from and give way to it
- move as far as to the left of the road if you can
- if you cannot move left, slow down or stop to let them drive around you.

It is an offence not to give way to an emergency vehicle – look, listen and merge left.

Aggressive Driving or Behaviour

Aggressive driving includes the following types of behaviour:

- person driving alongside you, shouting or making obscene gestures, pointing and demanding that you pull over
- another vehicle following too closely (tailgating)
- the driver in front slowing down in an attempt to force you to stop
- a driver flashing headlights and/or sounding the horn continuously
- a person getting out of a vehicle and approaching you in a threatening manner





Minimising risk

You can reduce the risk of being confronted by an aggressive driver if you:

- drive in a courteous manner
- are aware of what is happening around you
- avoid cutting in front of others
- slow down to allow a vehicle to move into your lane
- do not follow the car in front too closely
- keep well clear of a vehicle being driven in an unsafe way

Protecting yourself

If another driver acts aggressively or abusively, you should:

- keep calm and remain in control
- make sure your windows are up doors are locked
- aim to distance yourself from the vehicle
- if you are followed, drive to a police station or public place with people
- record the number plate, colour, make and model of the driver's vehicle
- remain courteous and tolerant and try to diffuse the situation

Reporting aggressive driving or behaviour

If you witness an aggressive driving incident, call the police ASAP on 9222 1111.





5. The Law and You

Change of Address or Name

Change of address

If you hold a driver's licence, or have a vehicle licensed in your name, you must notify the Department of Transport (DoT) within 21 days if you change address.

When notifying DoT, include:

- your driver's licence number and plate numbers of ALL vehicles licensed in your name. Also include details of any boat or firearm licences you hold.
- your full name, date of birth, current and previous residential address.

You will be forwarded a label that should be attached to the your drivers licence card.

Change of name

If you hold a WA driver's licence or have a vehicle in your name and you change your name, notify the DoT ASAP. This must be done in person at a DVS centre or agent.

You will need to provide documentary proof of your previous and current identity.

You will need to provide one Category A document (e.g. birth certificate) and evidence of your new name (e.g. marriage certificate or change of name certificate). All docs presented must be original - copies certified as true copies will not be accepted.

Traffic Infringement Penalties

Penalties that can be imposed on drivers who commit traffic offences by Courts or infringement notices include fines, licence sanctions (e.g. demerit points, suspension or cancellation) and imprisonment. Penalties imposed by infringement notices are usually much less than those imposed by a Court. Not all traffic offences warrant infringement notices. Infringements include fines imposed for a range of traffic offences that are often significant and sometimes demerit points (in addition to fines).

You may also be disqualified from driving without incurring demerit points if you:

- are convicted of a drink/drug related driving offence
- offend repeatedly
- have a provisional licence, and are convicted of certain offences (You must re-apply for a licence after disqualification and may require further assessments).

Demerit Points

Demerit Points Scheme

A national program in place in all Australian jurisdictions. Demerit points are a penalty imposed for a range of driving offences. The amount of demerit points accrued depends on the offence. Accumulating too many results in licence suspension.





Full Licence Holders

Under the Road Traffic (Authorisation to Drive) Act 2008, a full licence holder who accrues 12 or more demerit points within 3 years period is liable for disqualification from holding or obtaining a licence.

Demerit points are recorded against a person not a licence on the DoT demerit point register. Points reflect the offence date, not the date the points were registered. The offence date determines which demerit points count towards the 12-point limit.

The disqualification period length is based on the points accrued within the 3 years.

More than 12 points in a 3-year period increases the length of the disqualification:

Demerit points accrued	Disqualification period
12 to 15	3 months
16 to 19	4 months
20 or more	5 months

Disqualification periods begin 28 days after an 'Excessive Demerit Points Notice' is served. If ineligible or you choose not to elect a 'Double or Nothing' good behaviour period you will be required to surrender your licence at a DVS centre or agent prior to the disqualification taking effect. Failure to comply may render you liable for a penalty.

In a double demerit point period, demerit points for many offences are... doubled.

Double or Nothing (Good Behaviour Period)

An option where eligible drivers can elect a Good Behaviour Period (GBP) before being demerit point disqualified. To elect a GBP you must be served an Excessive Demerit Points Notice (disqualification notice). By electing the 'Double or Nothing' a person commits to driving for a period of 12 months without committing any further offences.

If a driver accrues more than 1 demerit point during the GBP or they commit an offence that results in a disqualification, they will be disqualified for double the original period.

All WA driver's licence holders can elect to undertake the 'Double or Nothing' unless:

- They do not hold a current WA driver's licence
- They hold a provisional driver's licence
- Their licence is already disqualified
- Their licence is invalid for any other reason
- Their licence is under fines suspension. (If the fines are paid to clear suspension within the 21-day election deadline, a driver may choose 'Double or Nothing')

Important notes:

- The 'Double or Nothing' replaces the demerit point disqualification.
- The 'Double or Nothing' is for a 12-month period.
- Committing an offence during the GBP will result in a breach period double the original disqualification period.
- Eligible drivers have 21 days from being served the Excessive Demerit Points Notice to elect to continue to drive by taking the 'Double or Nothing' option.





- Once the 21 days has lapsed, they cannot make an election to take the GBP.
- People disqualified for demerit point offences can no longer apply for an Extraordinary Licence. If a person is currently driving on an Extraordinary Licence and they get a demerit point disqualification they can still elect the 'Double or Nothing'. However, the GBP will be moved until the disqualification period related to the grant of the Extraordinary Licence has expired.

Graduated Demerit Point System (Novice Drivers)

A Novice Driver Graduated Demerit Point System means Novice Drivers have reduced demerit point limits dependant on the length of time a Driver's Licence has been held.

The system influences early stage (most effective time to motivate) driver behaviour to help Novice Drivers develop safe driving practices they will keep during their driving life. Plus, infringements as a Novice Driver are a good predictor of future crash involvement.

Novice Drivers

In the system a person is a novice driver until they have held a driver's licence for period/s adding up to 2 years. These drivers can include:

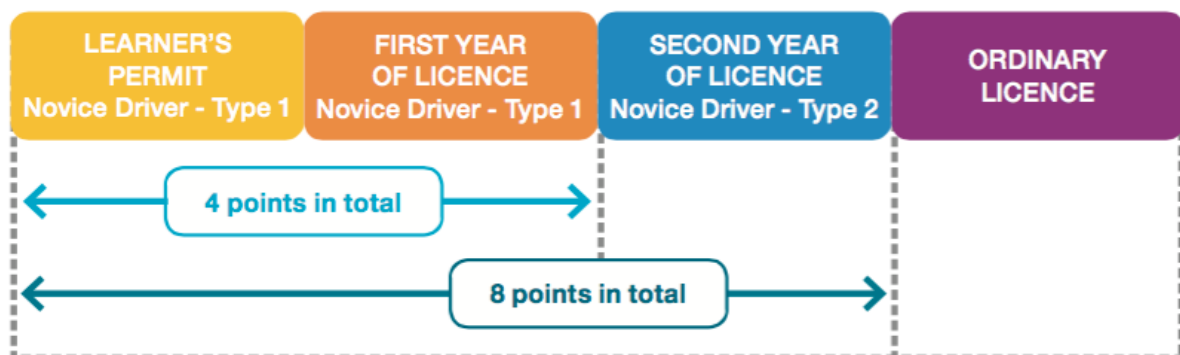
- the holder of a first time learner's permit
- the holder of a provisional driver's licence
- a driver from overseas who has not held a driver's licence for at least 2 years
- the holder of an extraordinary driver's licence

Novice Driver Types

There are 2 types of novice drivers.

- Type 1 (4 demerit point limit) - A person is Type 1 until they have held a driver's licence for periods adding up to 1 year. Type 1 also includes first time Learner's Permit holders and people who have never held a licence. Type 1s are disqualified for a minimum of 3 months if they accrue 4 or more demerit points.
- Type 2 (8 demerit point limit) - A person who has held a driver's licence for periods adding up to at least 1 year, but less than 2. Type 2s will be disqualified for a minimum of 3 months if they accrue 8 or more demerit points.

How do I know which limit applies to me?



If a Novice Driver exceeds the demerit point limit they will be disqualified from holding or obtaining a driver's licence for a minimum of 3 months. Holders of a provisional licence will have their licence cancelled and will need to re-apply once the disqualification has expired, this includes taking another Computerised Theory Test and Practical Driving





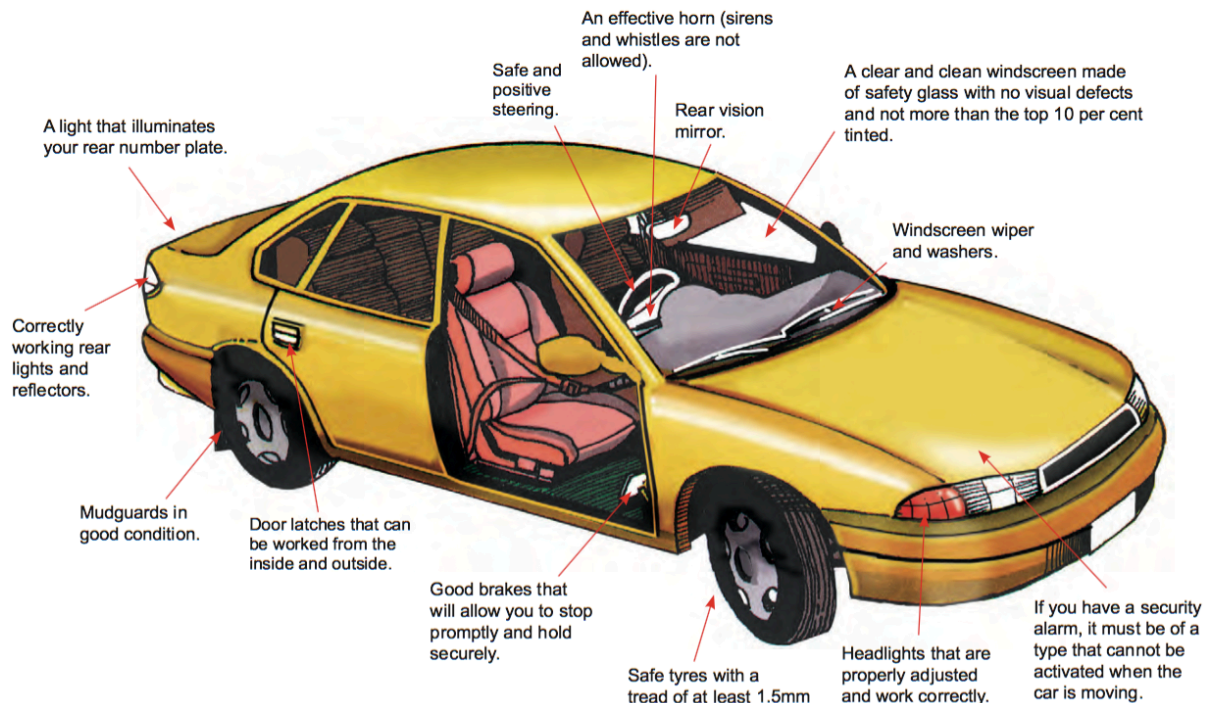
Assessment. Learner's Permit holders will not have their permit cancelled but will still be disqualified for 3 months.

Novice Drivers disqualified for exceeding the demerit point limit are not be eligible to apply for an Extraordinary Licence and will not be able to choose the 'Double or Nothing' good behaviour period.

In a double demerit point, the demerit points attached to many offences are... doubled. This makes it easy for a Novice Driver to exceed the lower demerit point limits and be disqualified. If you are disqualified for exceeding your demerit point limit you will not be able to lawfully drive at all, even if it is critical for work or study.

Regulations for Your Car

Your car must have the equipment shown:



Your car may have a hand-held spot lamp or search lamp that may be lit only when:

- the vehicle is stationary
- the lamp is used for examining or making adjustments or repairs to the vehicle
- the light from the lamp is projected not more than 6m from its source
- the vehicle is outside a built up area
- it is used only for the purpose of reading a road sign

Your car must not have:

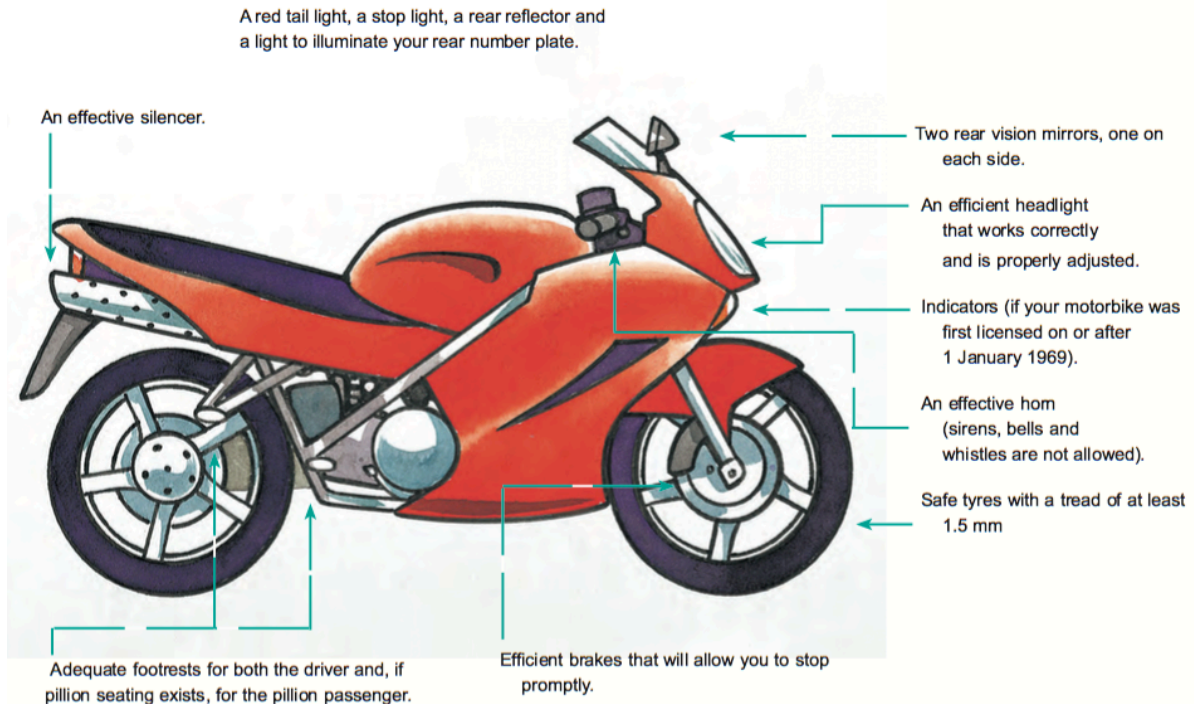
- any ornament or fitting which may cause injury in a crash
- any toy or mascot attached to the windows, mirrors, dash or any other part of the vehicle, that may obstruct the driver's view or cause distraction
- a rear-shining light (except reversing and number plate) that is not red or amber
- any red light showing to the front





Regulations for Your Motorcycle

Your motorcycle must have the equipment shown:



Your motorcycle must not:

- any ornament or fitting that may cause injury in a crash
- any lights (except indicators) shining to the rear that are not red
- any red light showing to the front

Regulations for Your Trailer or Caravan

You must not drive a vehicle with an insecure load.

Your trailer or caravan must have:

- the correct coupling
- at least 1 safety chain up to 2.5t GVM and 2 safety chains for between 2.5 and 4.5t GVM. Chains must be cross-hitched to ensure security if coupling breaks
- rear lights and reflectors
- a light illuminating the rear number plate
- side lights - if the vehicle is more than 2.1 metres wide
- a braking system (e.g. override brakes) if the gross trailer mass (GTM) is from 750kg to 2t and a breakaway braking system if the trailer is over 2t GTM

Brakes are not required if the trailer/caravan has a GTM less than 750 kg.

Ensure your vehicle has good exterior mirrors so you can see behind you when towing.

No one is allowed in a semi-trailer, trailer or caravan while being towed, unless the trailer has been approved and licensed for passenger carriage and is being driven in accordance with any conditions.





Towing Limits

Towing limits are determined by the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Regulations 2014.

Simply stated, the regulations mean that:

The loaded mass of the trailer you are towing must not exceed the lesser of the:

- manufacturer-specified towing capacity of your vehicle's towing apparatus
- manufacturer-specified maximum loaded mass of a trailer to be towed

Where vehicle manufacturer's specifications are not known, the maximum weight to be towed is either 1.5 times the loaded mass of the vehicle (if the trailer has brakes) or the unloaded mass of the vehicle (if the trailer has no brakes).

Towing Another Vehicle

Unless a licensed recovery vehicle or tow truck tows a vehicle, a licensed driver must be in charge of the towed vehicle.

If you are towing a vehicle, the space between the 2 vehicles must be less than 4m. If the vehicle being towed is a motorcycle, the space must be 2.5m or less.

The towing connection must be secure and safe. *If the rope/chain/wire used to tow is longer than 2m you must attach a flag to the rope/chain/wire to ensure its visibility.*

Do not exceed the manufacturer-approved towing capacity and regulatory towing limits

You may only tow a vehicle at night if it has appropriate lighting and the lights are on.

The use of 'A' frame trailers require approval from the DoT's Vehicle Safety Branch.

Horse and Animal Traffic

The appropriate lights must be fitted to a horse-pulled cart driven at night.

If you are riding an animal, you are not allowed to lead more than one additional animal.

If you are in a vehicle, you are not allowed to lead an animal.

Do not tie an animal to a motor vehicle to exercise it in any way.

You cannot drive cattle or sheep along a town road without written DoT permission.

Be courteous when approaching and passing people on horseback.

Do not sound your horn or accelerate, as this may frighten the horse.

If you see livestock on the road ahead, slow down and be prepared to stop.





6. Cycle Safe

Cyclists

Bicyclists share the same rights and responsibilities as drivers and motorcyclists.

Bicycles are smaller and can be more difficult to see than other vehicles, especially at night, dusk or dawn.

Cyclists share the road with you. Take care and allow them plenty of room when overtaking. A minimum of 1m overtaking clearance is recommended between 50 and 70km/h, and a minimum of 2m clearance at speeds over 70 km/h.

Take extra care around young riders (they are particularly unpredictable).

Cyclists are vulnerable road users that need special concern. Do not underestimate the speed of cyclists (they can reach 55km/h), especially when they are approaching an intersection or you are turning across their path. *Underestimating a cyclist's speed is one of the most common causes of crashes between vehicles and cyclists.*

Check behind you for bicycles before you leave your vehicle. Crashes caused by a door opening in front of cyclists may leave you legally liable and can cause severe injuries.

If you intend to turn left and a cyclist is in front of you, slow down and let them turn left or go through the intersection ahead of you. Do not cut across in front of a cyclist.

When driving at night, remember that high beam lights can dazzle people cycling and walking. Dip your lights when approaching or overtaking a cyclist at night.

Do not sound your horn at a cyclist except for safety reasons. It can startle the rider and cause them to swerve and possibly cause a collision. If a cyclist decides to ride on the road when there is a shared path available, give them enough clearance.

Cyclists and the law

Cyclists must obey the same rules and regulations as drivers of vehicles. These include traffic control lights, 'STOP' and 'GIVE WAY' signs, signals, and keeping to the left.

The rules and regulations that apply to cyclists only, include:

- riders and any passengers must wear a correctly-fastened approved helmet
- do not ride a bicycle on any portion of a freeway or on a highway that has signs banning cycling (e.g. sections of the Roe and Tonkin Highways)
- do not ride on footpaths unless under 12 years of age
- keep to the left on shared paths and do not ride abreast unless overtaking
- on a shared path, give way to pedestrians
- another vehicle or bicycle must not tow your bicycle
- you must ride astride a permanent and regular seat and have at least one hand on the handlebars
- don't carry more people than the number the bicycle is designed to carry

If a traffic control signal does not change after waiting for several minutes on a bike, use the pedestrian button to register your presence. This will cause the signals to change.





When riding at night, your bicycle must have:

- a white front light (visible up to 200m ahead)
- an unobstructed red light at the rear (visible up to 200m to the rear)
- a red reflector visible for 50m from the rear when lit up by a vehicle's headlights

Your bicycle must not have:

- a red light shining to the front
- any light except red shining to the rear

Cyclists Safety

Wear a helmet

It is compulsory to wear an Australian Standards approved helmet.

Many road injuries and deaths suffered by cyclists are due to head injuries. A correctly fitted, approved helmet will reduce your chances of death or serious injury, in a crash.

Child-carrying seat

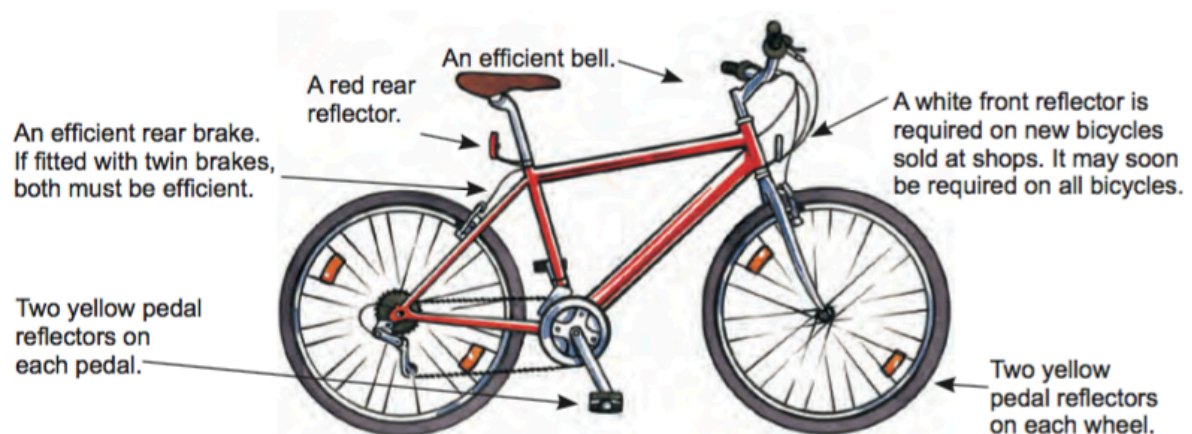
Any child-carrying seat on a bicycle must be securely attached to the frame, without sharp edges. It must have guards to prevent fingers and toes being trapped in moving parts. When a child is carried in a child-carrying seat, the rider must be at least 16.

For your own enjoyment and safety, also follow these important points:

- make sure your bicycle is correctly equipped.
- a shared path is for use by cyclists and pedestrians (designated by signs). While cyclists are not legally required to use them, they can be safer than roads. Cyclists must keep left and give way to pedestrians on shared paths.
- when riding at night, wear light coloured clothing. During daylight hours, vivid coloured clothing and/or helmet can help to attract motorists' attention.
- ride your bicycle in a predictable manner (don't change direction without looking behind and to each side). Use hand signals to indicate your intention to others.
- avoid cycling on roads that carry large volumes of high-speed vehicles unless an appropriate cycle lane or sealed shoulder has been provided.

Equipment for your bicycle

Your bicycle must have the equipment shown:





DRIVING TEST WA.com

LEARNER PERMIT RESOURCES



Check out some of the other
Learner Permit Resources on
drivingtestwa.com

- Practice tests
- Study tips
- Test tips
- Permit details

Provisional Licence (Red Ps) Resources



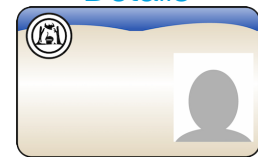
Hazard Perception
Test Resources
PDA Resources
Licence details

Provisional Licence (Green Ps) Details



Details on
qualifying for
green Ps
Licence details

Full Licence Details



Details on
qualifying for a
full licence
Licence details

