

Tasmanian road rules



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For further information on this publication please visit www.transport.tas.gov.au

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TASMANIAN ROAD RULES

Version 12
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This book has road rules and information for car drivers and motorcycle riders. Learn to drive videos are also available online at www.transport.tas.gov.au

If you're going to drive a heavy vehicle, you can get the *Tasmanian Heavy Vehicle Drivers' Handbook* online at www.transport.tas.gov.au

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Speed limits

Never go faster than the speed limit.

Go slower than the speed limit when:

- road conditions aren't good (when the roads are wet, gravel, narrow or winding)
- weather conditions aren't good (when there is fog or rain)
- there is lots of traffic or pedestrians
- you're tired, upset, worried or ill.

A speed limit is the maximum speed you can go in good road and weather conditions.

You must go at a speed appropriate to the road, weather and vehicle conditions.

Speed limit signs

Speed limit signs show the fastest speed allowed on a road.

When you pass a **speed limit sign**:

- never go faster than the speed on it
- go slower than the speed limit when necessary.

This speed limit applies until:

- you come to another **speed limit sign**
- you turn off the road (where the default speed limit will apply if there's no **speed limit sign**).

Some speed signs are electronic. The speed limit on an electronic sign only applies when the sign is illuminated. If no electronic speed limit is displayed you must obey the default speed limit or the speed limit shown on the last sign you passed on that road.



Speed limit sign



Electronic speed limit sign



Rural road signage

Default speed limits

When there isn't a **speed limit sign** for a road, never go faster than the default speed limit. Default speed limits do not require signposting.

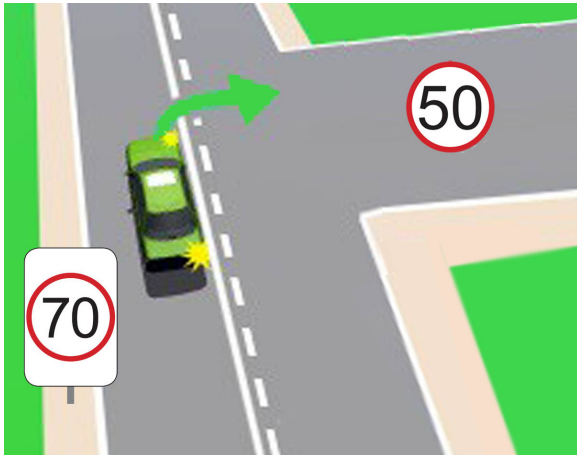
Tasmania has three types of default speed limits:

- 50 km/h in urban (built-up) areas
- 80 km/h in country areas on an unsealed road
- 100 km/h in country areas on a sealed road.

Speed cameras operate in Tasmania.

Default speed limits *continued*

Keep within these speed limits when:



You turn off a road with a speed limit sign on to another road without a speed limit sign.

So, in a built-up area, you would not go faster than 50 km/h in the blue parts of the road (shown in the above pictures).

Novice speed limits

Car

L1 car drivers can never go faster than 80km/h. When there's a lower speed limit, you must obey it.

L2 and P1 (first year provisional) car drivers can never go faster than:

- 90 km/h in a 90 km/h zone
- 90 km/h in a 100 km/h zone or
- 100 kmh in a 110 km/h zone.

When there's a lower speed limit, you must obey it.

Motorcycle

Learner and P1 (first year provisional) motorcycle riders can never go faster than 80km/h. When there's a lower speed limit, you must obey it.

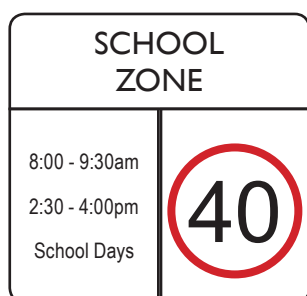
School zones

Don't go faster than 40 km/h when you pass a **school zone sign** on official school days during the times on the sign.

Official school days are usually Monday to Friday during school terms. This sign doesn't apply on school holidays, weekends and public holidays.

School zones usually apply over an area. The 40 km/h speed limit applies until you pass an **end school zone sign** or a **speed limit sign**, even if you turn into another street.

So, if you pass a school zone sign, don't go faster than 40 km/h until you pass either a **speed limit sign** or an **end school zone sign**.



School zone sign

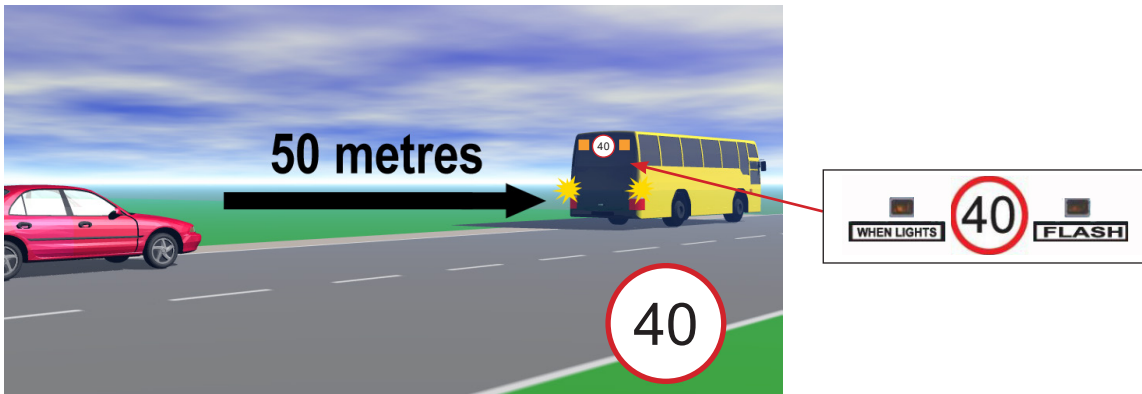


End school zone sign



Electronic school sign

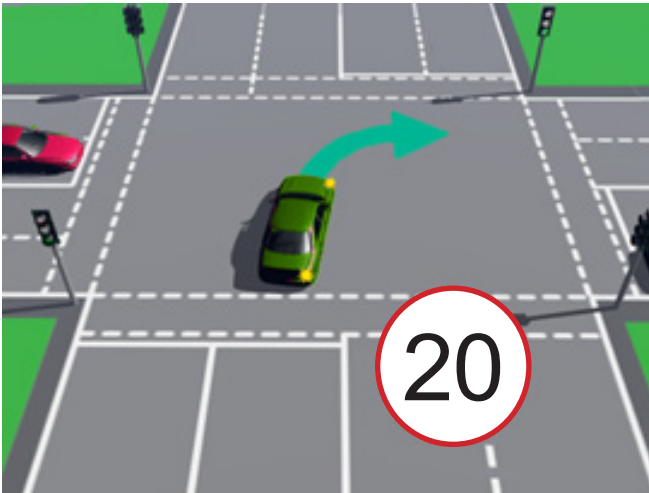
School buses



Don't go faster than 40 km/h within 50 metres of a bus with a school bus warning sign and lights. This includes driving behind or towards a bus.

Drive carefully and look out for pedestrians, especially school children.

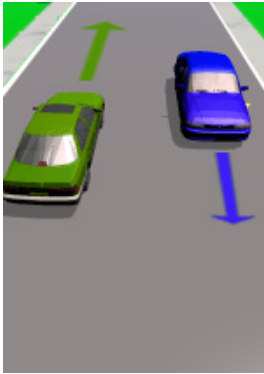
Controlled intersections



Don't go faster than 20 km/h when you're turning at an intersection with traffic lights.

Keeping left

Keep as close as practical to the left side of a road.



With no marked lanes-
so that you're on the
left of any oncoming
vehicles.

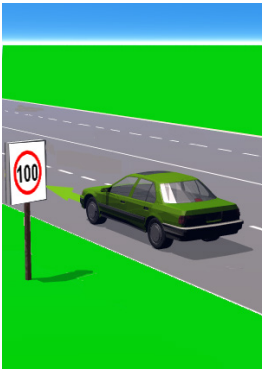


With only one lane
going one way-so that
you're to the left of the
dividing line.



When there is a median
strip in the middle of
the road (except if
you're turning into a
median strip parking
area).

Keep as close as practical to the left side of a road with two or more lanes going the same way.



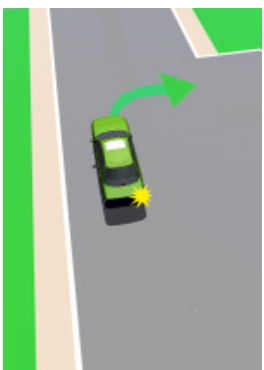
If the speed limit is
more than 80 km/h.



If there is a **keep left
unless overtaking** sign.

Exceptions to keeping left

On a road with single lines of traffic going the opposite way **and** no dividing line, you can cross over to the right side of the road (if it's safe) to:



Turn into another road
or do a U-turn.



Turn into an area like a
driveway or carpark.



Overtake another
vehicle.

Before crossing to the right side of the road - indicate, check your blind spots and the road ahead for traffic.

You can cross over to the right side of the road if you're avoiding a hazard on the road or passing a bike rider, only when its safe.

Exceptions to keeping left *continued*

When you're on a road:

- with two or more lanes of traffic going the same way and
- with a speed limit of more than 80 km/h.

You can drive in the right lane when:



You're turning right or do a U-turn (and your right indicator's on).



You're overtaking a vehicle in the left lane.



There is a **left lane must turn left** sign and you're not turning left.

You can also drive in the right lane if:

- you're avoiding a hazard on the road or bike rider, when it is safe
- traffic in the left lane is congested
- the left lane is a "slow vehicle turnout" lane.

When you're on a road with two or more lanes of traffic going the same way, you can drive in the right lane when:



The speed limit is 80 km/h or less.

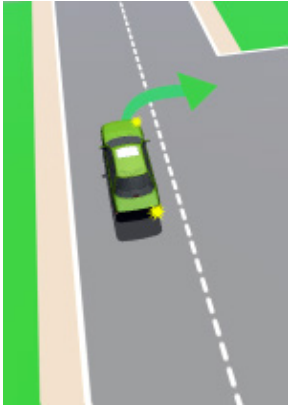
See also pages 6, 7 and 8 for exceptions to keeping left on single lane roads with dividing lines.

Dividing lines

Often a road has painted dividing lines. They separate one line of traffic from another.

Single broken line

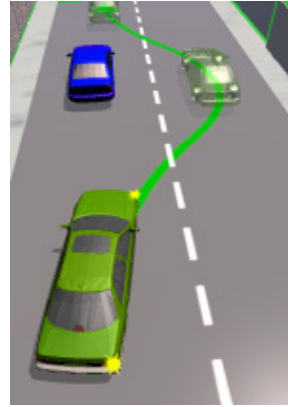
You can cross a single broken dividing line (when it's safe) to:



Turn from or into another road.



Turn from or into an area like a driveway or carpark.



Overtake another vehicle.



Do a U-turn (if no other signs or rules say you can't).

You can cross the line to avoid a hazard or pass a bike rider when it is safe.

Double continuous lines

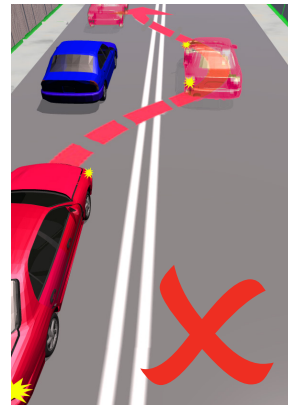
You **can't** cross double continuous dividing lines to:



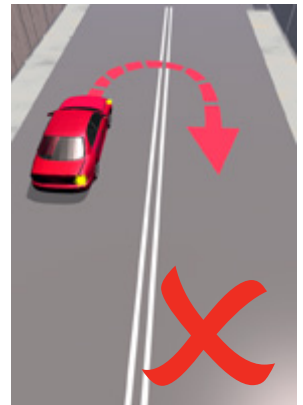
Turn from or into another road.



Turn from or into an area like a driveway or carpark.



Overtake another vehicle.



Do a U-turn.

You can cross the line to avoid a hazard or bike rider when it is safe.

Single continuous line

Single continuous lines are replacing double broken lines. You can cross a single continuous dividing line when it's safe to:



Turn from or into another road.



Turn from or into an area like a driveway or carpark.

You can cross the line to avoid a hazard or pass a bike rider when it is safe.

You **can't** cross it:

- to overtake another vehicle
- to do a U-turn.
- to do a three point turn (unless you are fully leaving the road way).



Double broken lines

You can cross a double broken dividing line (when it's safe) to:



Turn from, or into another road.



Turn from, or into an area like a driveway or carpark.

You can cross the lines to avoid a hazard or pass a bike rider when it is safe.

You **can't** cross them:

- to overtake another vehicle
- to do a U-turn.
- to do a three point turn (unless you are fully leaving the road way).



Single continuous line next to a broken line

When the broken line is on your side of the solid line, you can cross them (when it's safe) to:



Overtake another vehicle.



Turn from or into another road.



Turn from or into an area like a driveway or carpark.



Do a U-turn (if no other signs or rules say you can't).

You can cross the line to avoid a hazard or pass a bike rider when it is safe.

Single continuous line next to a broken line *continued*

When the broken line is **not** on your side of the solid line, you can cross them (when it's safe) to:

You can cross the line to avoid a hazard or pass a bike rider when it is safe.



Turn from, or into another road.



Turn from, or into an area like a driveway or carpark.

You **can't** cross them:

- to overtake another vehicle
- to do a U-turn.
- to do a three point turn (unless you are fully leaving the road way).



Overtaking

Overtaking requires skill and judgement and can be dangerous.

Only overtake when it's safe.

When overtaking always:



Have a clear view of the road ahead and make sure there is no oncoming traffic.



Check your blind spot and mirrors, then signal your intention to overtake.



Allow enough room to overtake safely.



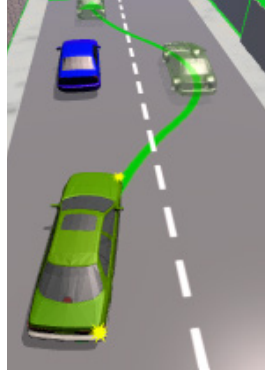
Keep to the speed limit.

Overtaking on the right

You can overtake a vehicle on its right when:



There are no marked lanes on a two-way road.



There is a single broken dividing line.



There is a broken line on your side of a solid line.



There are two or more lanes of traffic going the same way **and** it can be safely overtaken in a marked lane on the right.

Overtaking on the left

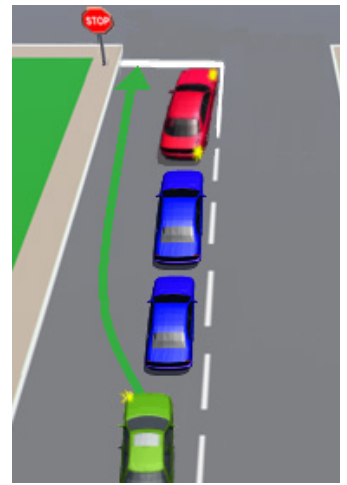
You can overtake a vehicle on its left when:



It's turning right from the centre of the road.



It's doing a U-turn from the centre of the road.



It's stationary, and it's safe to pass to the left.



There are two or more lanes of traffic going the same way **and** it can be safely overtaken in a marked lane on the left.

When not to overtake

Don't overtake a vehicle when:



The dividing lines don't allow overtaking (like double continuous lines).

Don't overtake a vehicle when:



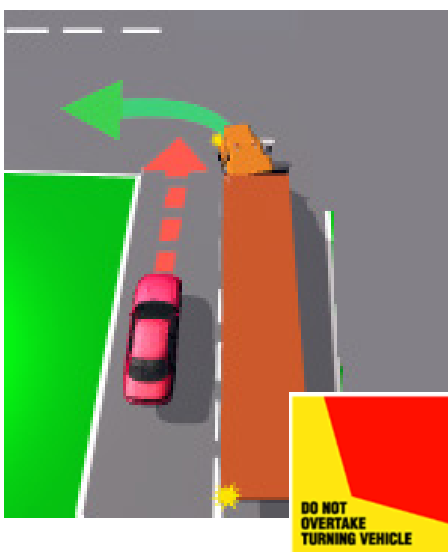
It's giving way, such as at a crossing.



You're coming to dividing lines that don't allow overtaking.



You don't have a clear view of the road ahead, such as at a blind corner or on a hill.



When a turning vehicle has a **do not overtake turning vehicle** sign:

- you must not drive past it on the left if it's turning left (or signalling to turn)
- you must not drive past it on the right if it's turning right (or signalling to turn).

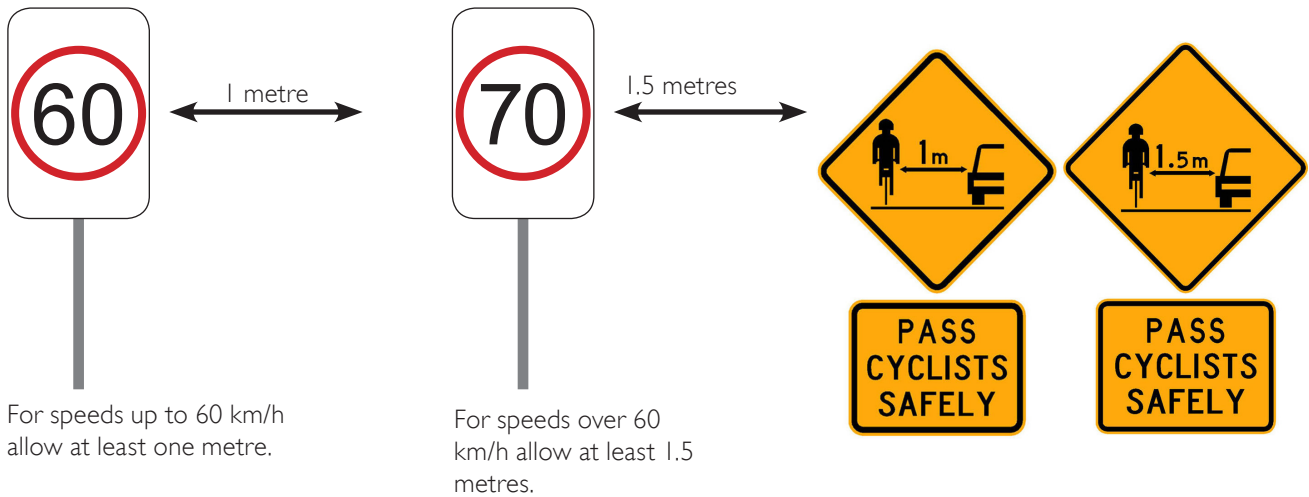
Be careful when overtaking.

Each year there are a number of crashes on rural roads where a vehicle that has slowed down to turn is hit by another vehicle that is trying to overtake it.

Being overtaken

If a driver behind you indicates they want to overtake you, allow the vehicle to pass. You must not speed up if you're being overtaken.

Crossing the centre line to overtake or pass a bike rider



When passing a cyclist, drivers must maintain a safe passing distance of:

- at least 1.5 metres in speed zones higher than 60 km/h
- at least 1 metre in 60 km/h or lower speed zones

The law applies to all roads, even where there are bicycle lanes.

Before passing a cyclist, drivers must:

- check that the road ahead is clear
- check mirrors and blind spots
- indicate
- pull out to pass, leaving plenty of room between their vehicle and the cyclist
- after passing, check for the cyclist in their mirror before moving back into the lane.

If it's not safe (for example the road is too narrow or the view ahead is not clear), then drivers must slow down and wait until road conditions change before passing safely.

When passing cyclists riding two abreast, drivers must provide a minimum safe passing distance (either 1 or 1.5 metres) between their vehicle and the cyclist closest to the vehicle.

For more information www.rsac.tas.gov.au

Signals and signs

Signalling

A signal lets other road users know you're changing direction or stopping.

Change of direction signal

To give a change of direction signal, use your vehicle's indicators as follows:

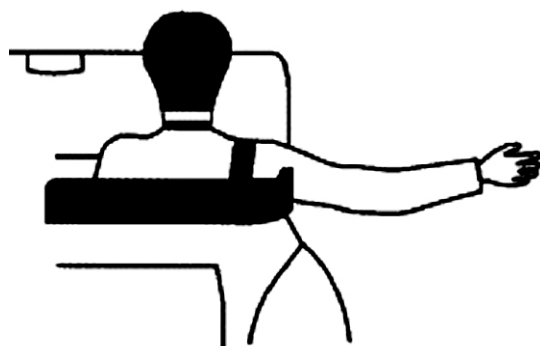
- left indicator when turning or changing direction to the left
- right indicator when turning or changing direction to the right.

Give a change of direction signal:

- for at least five seconds when pulling out from the side of the road or a median strip parking area
- for long enough to warn other drivers, riders and pedestrians that you're changing direction.

Turn off your indicator when you have finished turning or changing direction.

If your vehicle's indicators don't work or can't be seen clearly, give a hand signal.



If your indicators don't work or can't be seen, get them fixed as soon as possible.

When turning right, put your right arm out like this.

Stop signal

Brake lights are a warning to other road users that you're stopping or suddenly slowing. When you use the foot brake, the brake lights will turn on.

If your brake lights don't work or can't be seen clearly, give a hand signal.

It's illegal to drive an unroadworthy car.

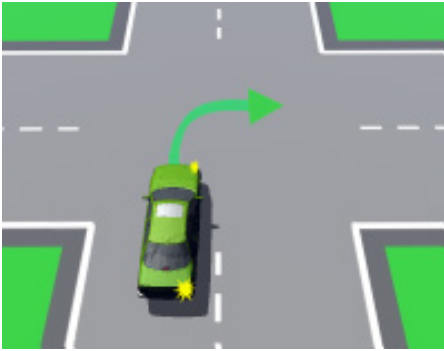


If your brake lights don't work or can't be seen, get them fixed as soon as possible.

When slowing or stopping, put your right arm like this.

When to signal

Give a change of direction signal before you:



Turn:

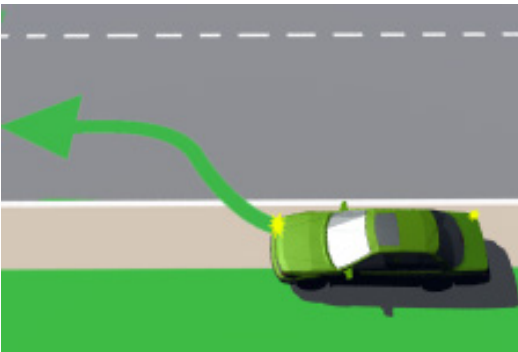
- at an intersection
- into or out of a side road
- into or out of an area like a carpark or driveway.



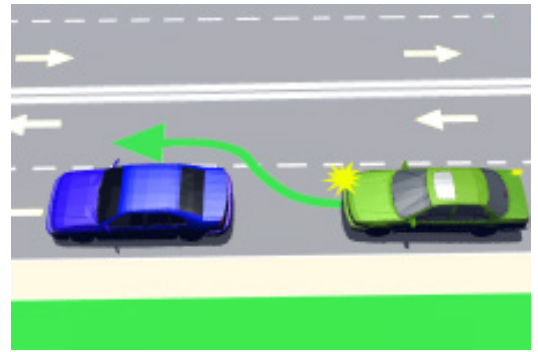
Pull into or out of a parking place.



Overtake (before you begin and as you're pulling back in).



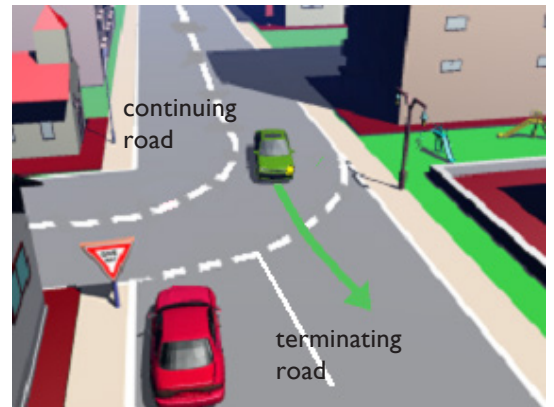
Move off from the side of the road or pull over to the side of the road.



Change lanes.



Make a U-turn.



Leave the continuing road at a T-intersection where the continuing road curves.

Remember – the signalling laws apply whether you're driving forward or in reverse.

Traffic lights

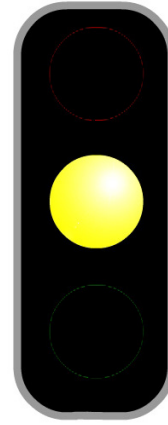
Follow these rules at an intersection with traffic lights:



A red light means – stop before (but as close as you can to) the solid white stop line (or before the intersection if there's no stop line).



A green light means – you can go straight ahead or turn left or right, as long as you give way to pedestrians and other vehicles as needed.



A yellow light means – stop unless you're so close to the stop line that you can't stop safely.

Giving way at traffic lights

When turning left at an intersection with traffic lights, give way to:

- any pedestrians on the road you're entering.

When turning right at an intersection with traffic lights, give way to:

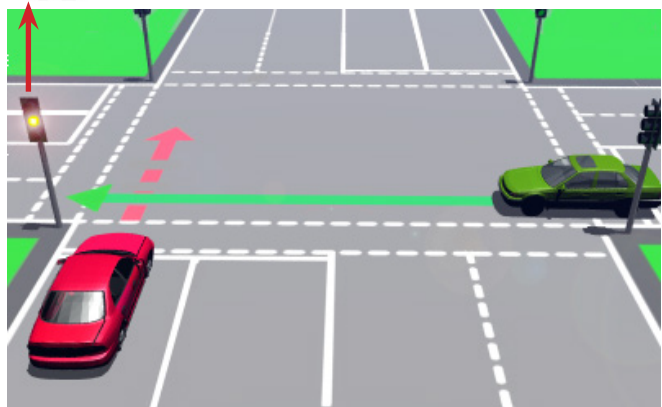
- any oncoming vehicle that is going straight ahead or turning left at the intersection (except a vehicle turning left using a slip lane)
- any pedestrians on the road you're entering.

Traffic lights not working

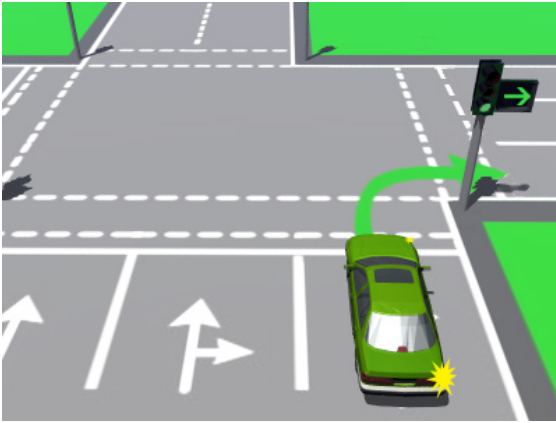
A flashing yellow light at an intersection means the traffic lights aren't working so:

- slow down
- treat the intersection as uncontrolled (no traffic lights, stop signs, stop lines, give way signs or give way lines)
- give way to vehicles coming from your right, then drive on cautiously
- if you're at a T-intersection, treat the intersection as uncontrolled, and apply the give way rules for T-intersections (see pages 26 and 27 *T-intersections*).

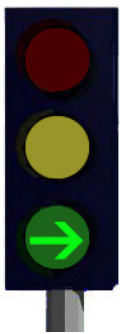
This does not apply for flashing yellow lights at a pedestrian crossing (see page 28 *Crossings*).



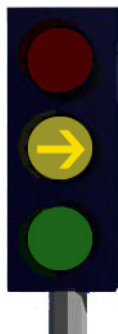
Traffic arrows



A right arrow at traffic lights only applies to traffic turning right.



When the arrow is green, you can turn right (give way to pedestrians).

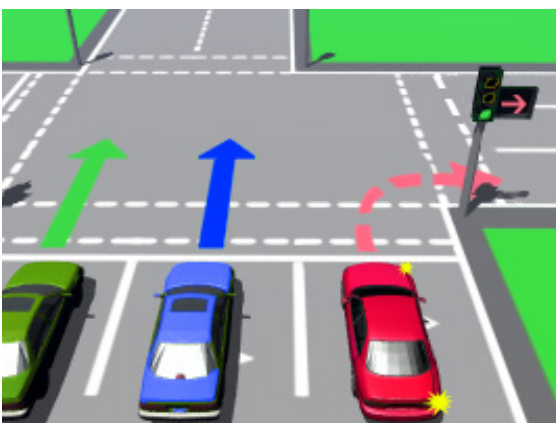


When the arrow is yellow, stop before the solid line (unless you're so close to the stop line that you can't stop safely).



When the arrow is red, stop before (but as close as you can to) the solid white stop line (or before the intersection if there's no stop line).

When there are no arrows (they're all black), you must obey the traffic lights.

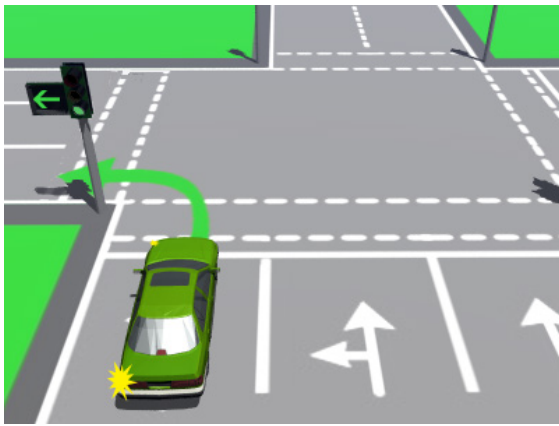


When there is a red arrow (even with a green traffic light) you **can't** turn right.

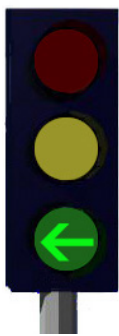


When there is a green traffic light, but no arrow, you can turn right.

Traffic arrows *continued*



A left arrow at traffic lights only applies to traffic turning left.



When the arrow is green, you can turn left (give way to pedestrians).

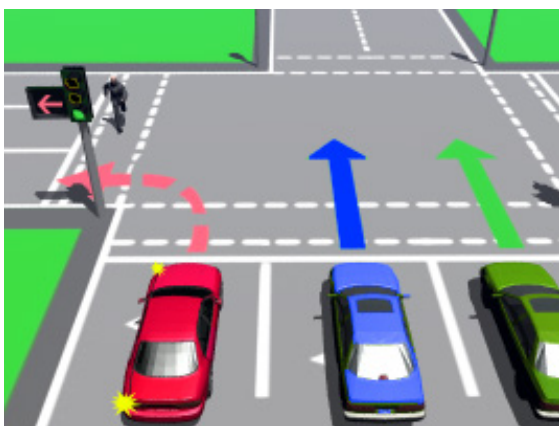


When the arrow is yellow, stop before the solid line (unless you can't do so safely).

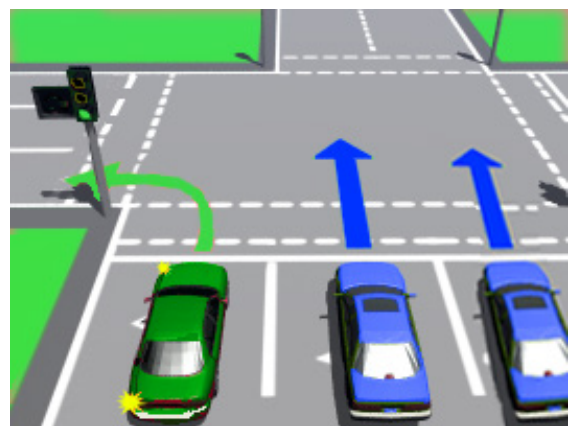


When the arrow is red, stop before (but as close as you can to) the solid white stop line (or before the intersection if there's no stop line).

When there are no arrows (they're all black), you must obey the traffic lights.

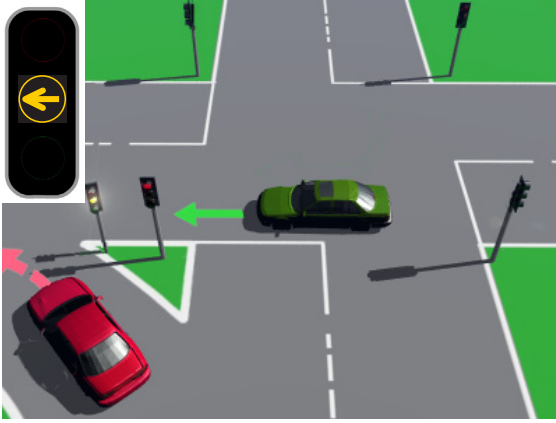


When there is a red arrow (even with a green traffic light) you can't turn left.



When there is a green traffic light, but no arrow, you can turn left.

Traffic arrows *continued*



If there is a flashing yellow arrow at an intersection, you can turn after you give way to:

- traffic travelling on the road you're entering
- any pedestrians on the road you're entering.

Regulatory signs

Regulatory signs are used to control traffic. They **must** be obeyed. Some examples of regulatory signs:



Speed limit sign

The fastest speed for a road.



No entry sign

Don't go past the sign.



Stop sign

Stop at the white stop line and give way to traffic and pedestrians.



Give way sign

Slow down and be prepared to stop at the give way line and give way to traffic and pedestrians.



One way sign

Traffic can only travel in the direction shown by the arrow.



No left turn sign

Don't turn left at a street or entrance with this sign.



No right turn sign

Don't turn right or make a U-turn at a street or entrance with this sign.



No U-turn sign

U-turns aren't permitted past this sign.



No stopping sign

Don't stop in the area covered by the sign for any reason.



No parking sign

Don't park (unless you're stopping for two minutes or less to pick up or drop off goods or passengers and you're not leaving the vehicle unattended).



No overtaking or passing sign

Don't go past this sign when there is oncoming traffic.



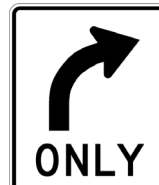
No overtaking on bridge sign

Don't overtake another vehicle on the bridge past the sign.



Left turn only sign

Turn left at the intersection.



Right turn only sign

Turn right at the intersection.



No turns sign

Don't turn left or right, or make a U-turn at the intersection.



Left lane must turn left sign

Turn left if you're in the left lane at an intersection.



Right lane must turn right sign

Turn right if you're in the right lane at an intersection.



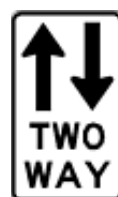
Keep left sign

Drive to the left of the sign.



Keep right sign

Drive to the right of the sign.



Two way sign

Traffic travels in both directions.

Warning signs

Warning signs alert drivers to approaching hazards. They are always black on yellow. Some examples of warning signs:



Hairpin bend ahead



Sharp bend ahead



Winding road ahead



Divided road ahead



Stop sign ahead



Slippery surface ahead



T-intersection ahead



Crossroad intersection ahead

Sometimes a warning sign will also have an advisory speed sign. They tell the speed at which the stretch of road (like a curve or bend) can be safely driven in normal conditions.



Curve to the right ahead with an advisory speed of 40 km/h

Temporary warning signs

Temporary warning signs are mostly used at road works to warn road users of temporary hazards or detours. Some examples of temporary signs:



Workers ahead



Prepare to stop



Roadwork ahead

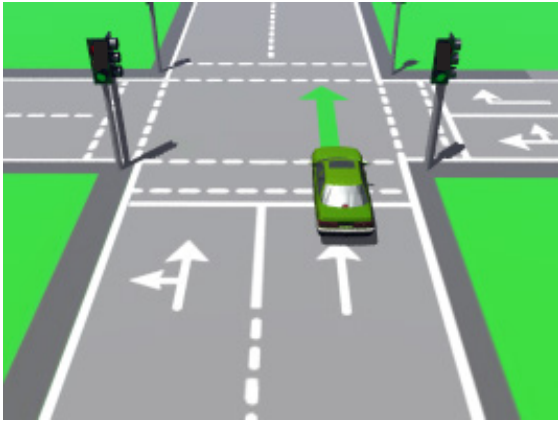


Lane designation sign

This sign means the left lane is closed, and the two right lanes are open.

Road markings

Some intersections have painted traffic arrows. You must drive in the direction shown by the traffic arrows.



When there is a single direction arrow in your lane, go in the direction of that arrow.



When there is an arrow in your lane with two directions, you can go in either direction of that arrow.



Keep clear markings on the road mean that you can't stop in the marked area of the road.

You must not enter the marked area unless there is room for your vehicle on the other side.

Special purpose lanes

Special purpose lanes are marked lanes only for certain types of vehicles. They have a sign showing the type of vehicle that can use it. For example, bicycle lanes and bus lanes. Generally, you can't drive your car or motorcycle in a special purpose lane.

You can drive for up to 50 metres in a bicycle lane and 100 metres in any other special purpose lane **only** when:

- you need to cross it to enter or leave the road
- avoiding a hazard in your lane
- overtaking a vehicle turning right.



Bicycle lane sign

Police signals

Sometimes Police officers or Transport Inspectors control an intersection. For example, if the traffic lights aren't working properly, at a crash scene or during random breath testing.

Signals given by a Police officer, Transport Inspector or authorised person must be obeyed, even if it means disobeying another rule or signal.

Examples of Police officer or Transport Inspector signals:

Traffic to proceed in the direction shown



Proceed left



Proceed right



Traffic from the side to proceed



Stopping traffic from behind and in front



Stopping traffic from the side



Stopping traffic from behind



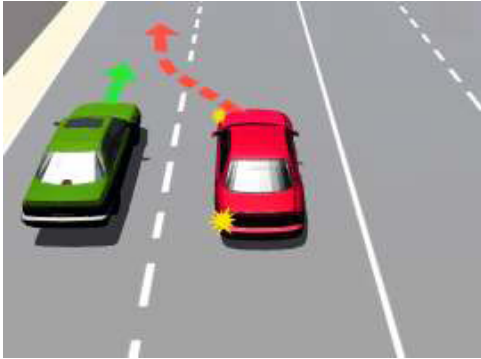
Stopping traffic in front

Giving way

Giving way means that you must slow down or stop until it is safe to proceed and slow down or stop to avoid a crash.

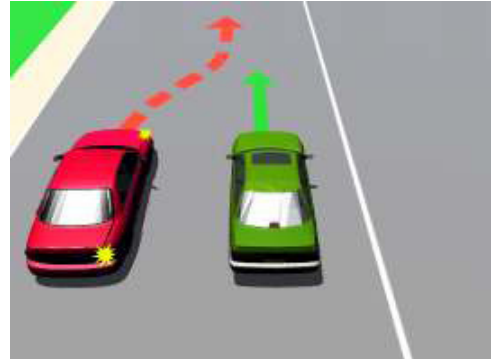
You must always drive safely to avoid crashing with other road users (including pedestrians). For example, if someone is trying to change lanes at the same time as you, you should wait until it's safe.

Changing lanes



When you're about to move from one marked lane to another marked lane of traffic:

- indicate and
- give way to any traffic in the lane you're moving into.



When you're about to move from one line of traffic into another line travelling in the same direction in unmarked lanes:

- indicate and
- give way to any traffic in the line you're moving into.

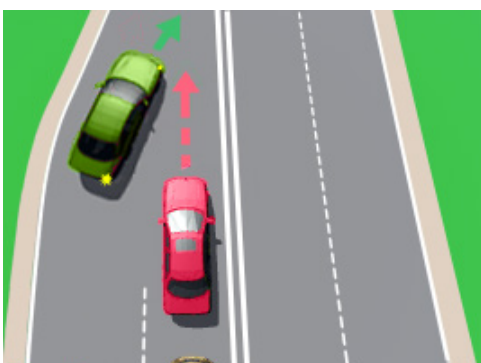


If your **marked lane** ends:

- indicate and
- give way to any traffic in the lane you're moving into.

You must give way if the lane markings continue to the end of the lane.

Merging



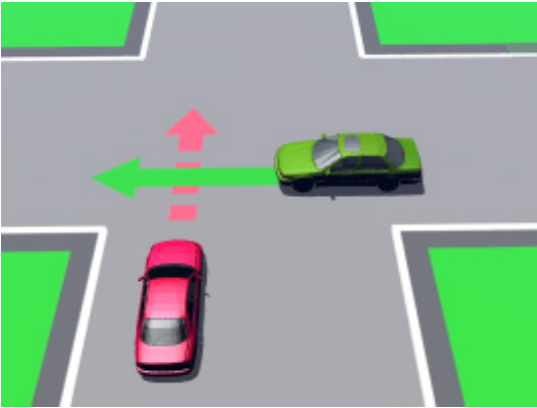
When you're in a line of traffic **merging** with another line of traffic moving the same way:

- give way to any vehicle ahead of you.

This rule only applies where there are **no lanes marked** on the road (this is sometimes called the **zip merge** rule).

Uncontrolled intersections

Uncontrolled intersections have no traffic lights, **stop signs**, **give way signs**, stop lines, or give way lines. The **Give way to the right** rule applies.



When you're driving towards an uncontrolled intersection (with no signs, road markings or traffic signals):

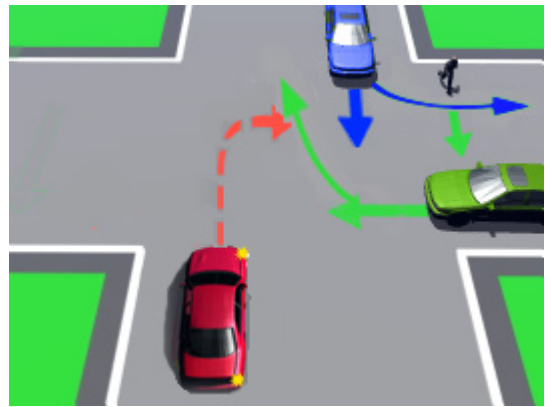
- give way to all traffic coming from your right.

Even if someone should give way to you, drive carefully and courteously to avoid a crash.



Before going straight ahead, give way to:

- traffic coming from your right that is going straight ahead or turning right.



Before turning right, give way to:

- traffic coming from your right that is going straight ahead or turning right
- oncoming traffic that is going straight ahead or turning left
- pedestrians on the road you're turning into.



Before turning left, give way to:

- traffic coming from your right that is going straight ahead
- any pedestrians on the road you're turning into.

Controlled intersections

A controlled intersection has one or more:

- traffic lights
- **stop signs**
- solid white stop lines
- **give way signs**
- broken white give way lines.



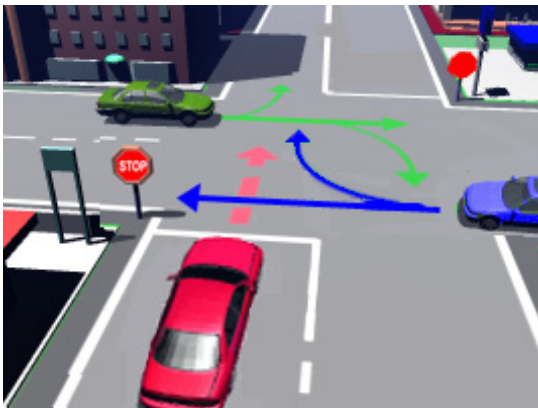
Give way sign



Stop sign

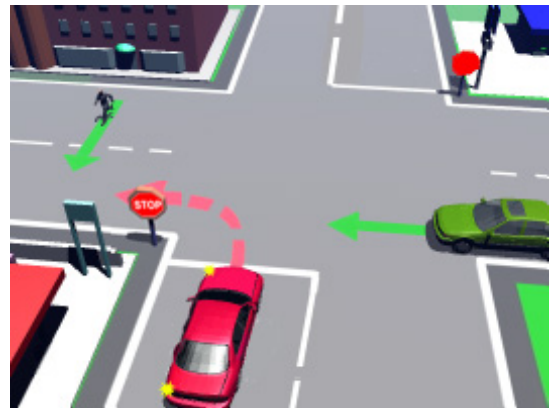
Intersections with a stop sign or stop line

At intersections with a **stop sign** or stop line (but no traffic lights), you must stop as near as practical but before the stop line and:



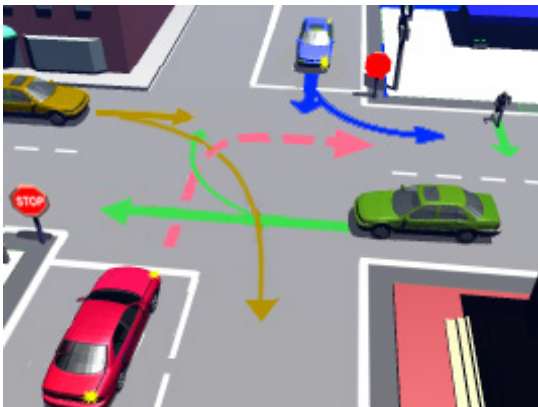
Before going straight ahead:

- give way to traffic coming from your left going straight ahead or turning left or right
- give way to traffic coming from your right that is going straight ahead or turning right.



Before turning left:

- give way to traffic coming from your right that is going straight ahead
- give way to pedestrians on the road you're entering.

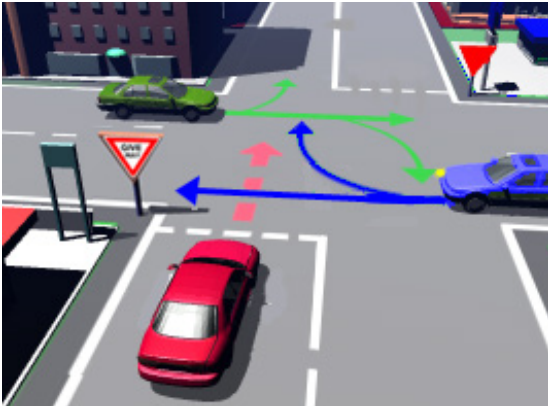


Before turning right:

- give way to traffic coming from your left that is going straight ahead or turning right
- give way to traffic coming from your right that is going straight ahead or turning right
- give way to oncoming traffic going straight ahead or turning left
- give way to pedestrians on the road you're turning into

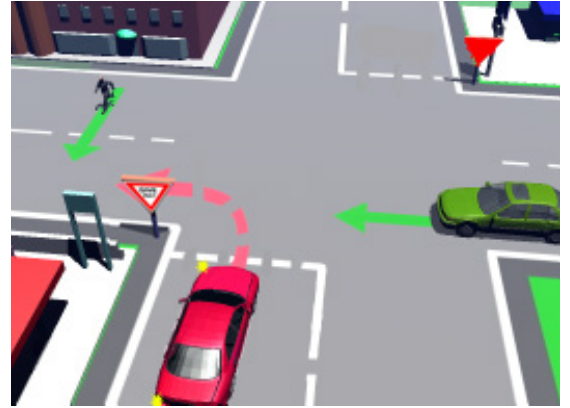
Intersections with a give way sign or give way line

At an intersection with a **give way sign** or give way lines, go towards the intersection slowly, stop before the give way line if necessary and:



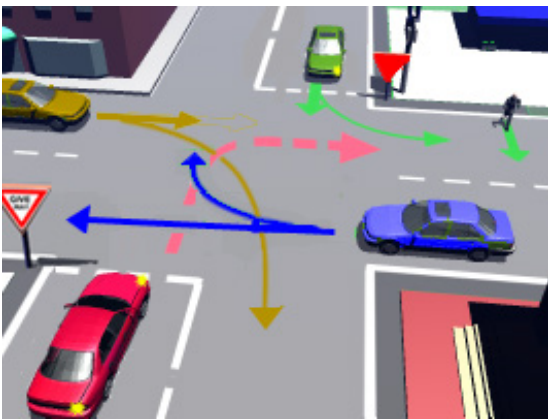
Before going straight ahead:

- give way to traffic coming from your left that is going straight ahead or turning left or right
- give way to traffic coming from your right that is going straight ahead or turning right.



Before turning left:

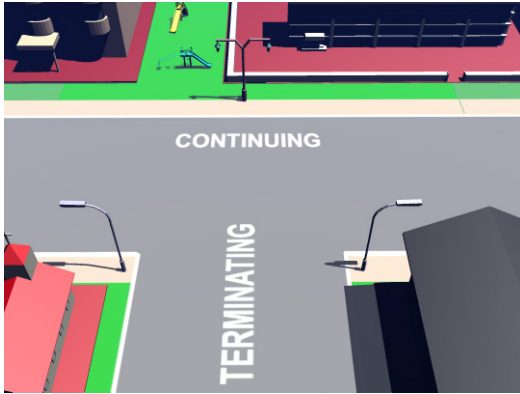
- give way to traffic coming from the right that is going straight ahead
- give way to pedestrians on the road you're entering.



Before turning right:

- give way to traffic coming from the left that is going straight ahead or turning right
- give way to traffic coming from the right that is going straight ahead or turning right
- give way to oncoming traffic that is going straight ahead or turning left (even if it has a **stop sign**)
- give way to pedestrians on the road you're entering

T-intersections



A T-intersection has a continuing road and a terminating road. A terminating road is the road that ends (like a side street meeting a main road).



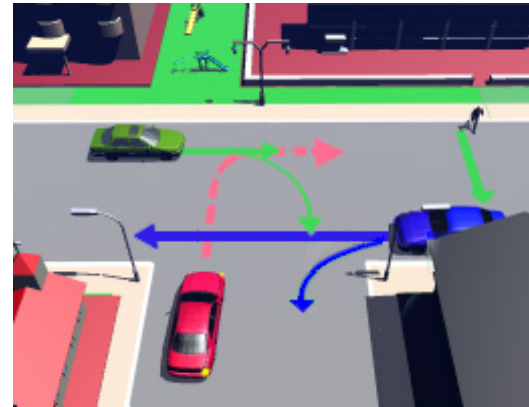
On some T-intersections, the continuing road curves around. There'll be road markings to show that the curved road is the continuing road. Sometimes there may be a **stop sign** or **give way sign** at the terminating road.

At an uncontrolled T-intersection (no traffic lights, road signs or lines):



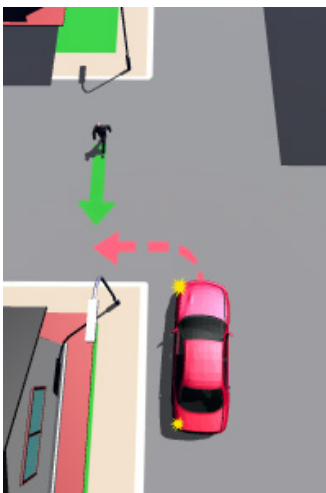
Before turning left from the terminating road give way to:

- any traffic approaching from your right on the continuing road **and**
- any pedestrians on the continuing road.



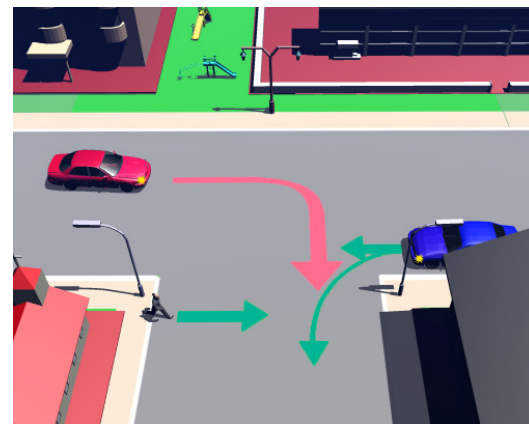
Before turning right from the terminating road give way to:

- any traffic on the continuing road **and**
- any pedestrians on the continuing road.



Before turning left from the continuing road give way to:

- any pedestrians on the terminating road.

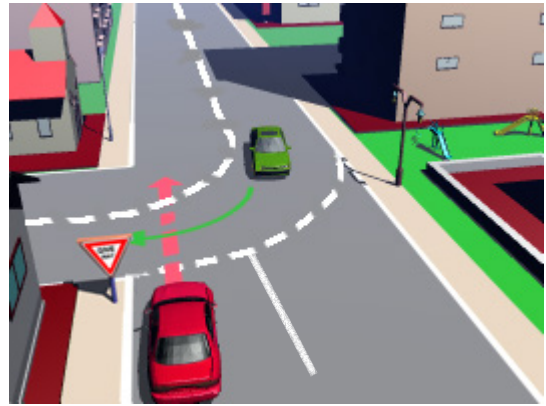
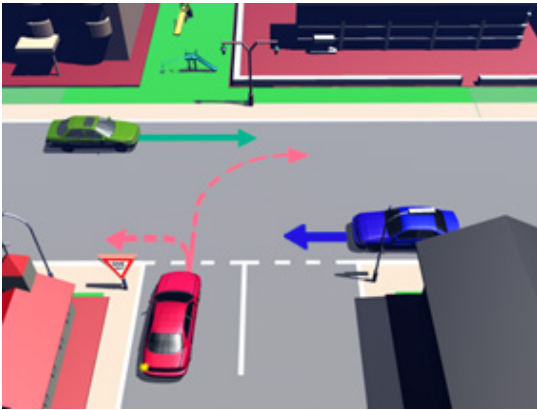


When turning right from the continuing road, give way to:

- any traffic on the continuing road turning left or going straight ahead **and**
- pedestrians on the terminating road.

T-intersections *continued*

At controlled T-intersections, obey the road signs, road markings or traffic lights. When you're on a terminating road with a give way sign, give way to all traffic on the continuing road.



Slip lanes

A slip lane is an area of road for vehicles turning left, which is separated from the rest of the intersection by a painted island or traffic island.

Giving way at a slip lane

Before turning left using a slip lane, you must give way to:

- traffic on the road you're entering
- oncoming traffic turning right at the intersection
- any other traffic or pedestrians in the slip lane.



Giving way to vehicles in a slip lane

If you're making a U-turn at an intersection you must give way to vehicles in the slip lane if you're:

- driving straight ahead at an intersection (either controlled or uncontrolled)
- turning right at an intersection (either controlled or uncontrolled).

You **do not** need to give way to vehicles in the slip lane.

Crossings

When driving towards a **pedestrian crossing**, slow down so that you can stop safely before the stop line if necessary. Stop for anyone (including cyclists) on the crossing. When a car in front has stopped at a crossing, stop behind them and wait for them to drive on.

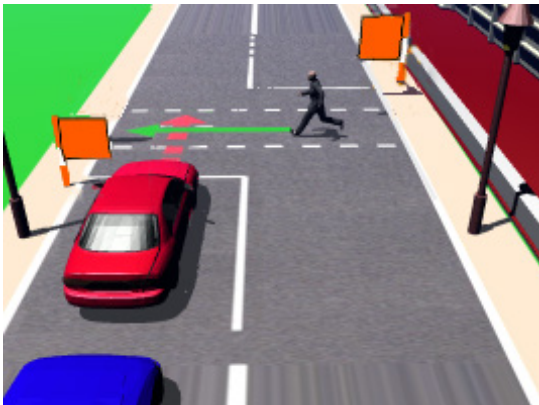
Do not overtake it.



Pedestrian crossings have pedestrian crossing signs.

When driving towards a **children's crossing**, slow down so that you can stop safely before the stop line if necessary. Stop for anyone (including cyclists) on or entering the crossing. Don't drive on until the pedestrians and cyclists have left the crossing. When a car in front has stopped at a crossing, stop behind them and wait for them to drive on.

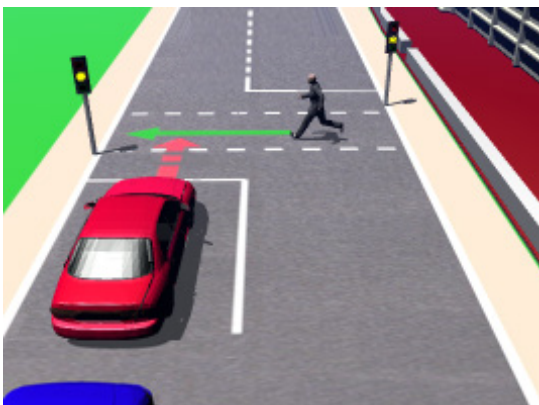
Do not overtake it.



Children's crossings have flags or children's crossing signs.

At a pedestrian crossing with **traffic lights**, you must stop when the light is red. If there is a flashing yellow light, you must give way to any pedestrians or cyclists on the crossing, and drive on when the pedestrians or cyclists have left the crossing. When a car in front has stopped at the crossing, stop behind it and wait for it to drive on.

Do not overtake it.



Pedestrian crossing with traffic lights.

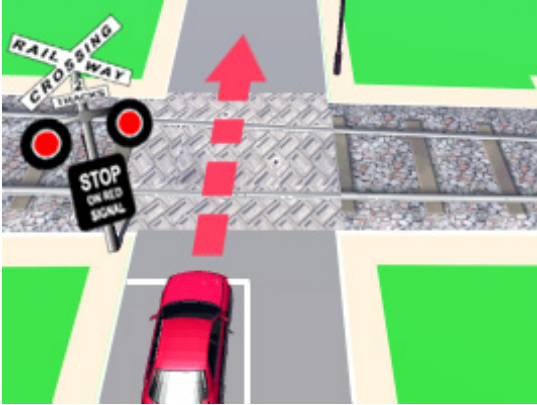
Level crossings

A level crossing is where a road and railway line meet.

Drive towards level crossings slowly and look both ways for trains.

When there is a **stop sign** and line, stop and give way to any train coming towards or entering the crossing.

If there is a **give way sign** and line, slow down and give way to any train coming towards or entering the crossing.



Don't enter a level crossing if:

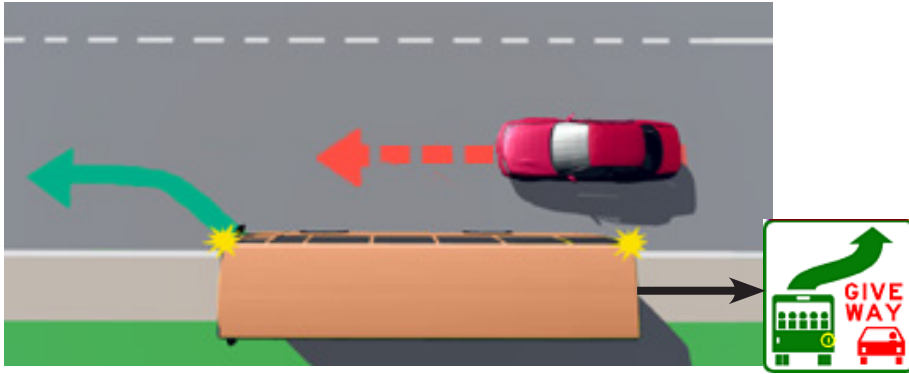
- a train is on or entering the crossing
- you can see or hear a train
- the crossing or the road on the other side is blocked
- warning lights are operating
- warning bells are ringing
- a gate or barrier at the crossing is closed, closing or opening.

You must wait for the warning lights to stop flashing before driving on, even if the train has passed.

Emergency vehicles

- Give way to an emergency vehicle (like a police car, ambulance or fire engine) with flashing blue or red lights or a siren.
- Pull over or move into another lane (when it's safe) to get out of the path of the emergency vehicle.
- **Don't** go through a red light to get out of the way.

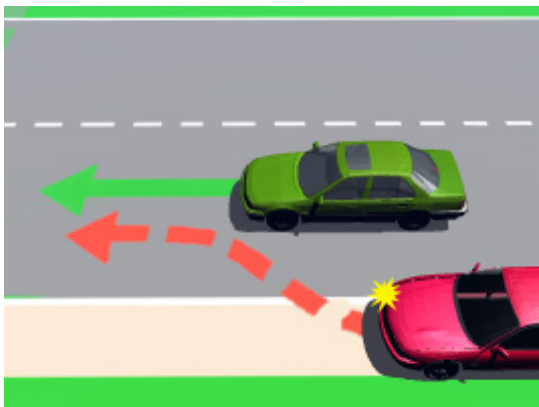
Buses



Give way to a bus in front of you when it:

- has stopped or is moving slowly at the far left of the road, on the shoulder of the road, or in a bus stop **and**
- has a **give way to buses sign** and
- has its indicators on **and**
- is about to enter your lane of traffic.

Entering traffic



When entering traffic from the side of the road:

- give way to traffic travelling in the lane you're about to enter.



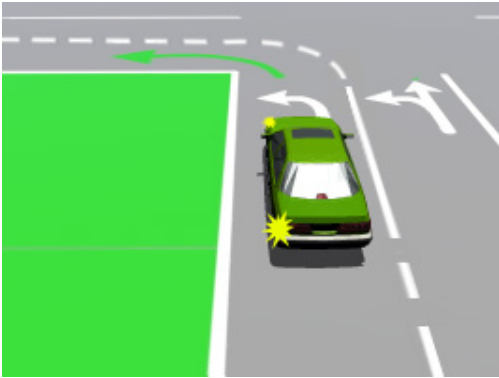
When entering traffic from a carpark or driveway, give way to:

- traffic travelling in the lane you're about to enter or cross
- any pedestrians.

Making turns

Left turns

Before turning left:



Signal before making the turn, even when your lane has traffic arrows.

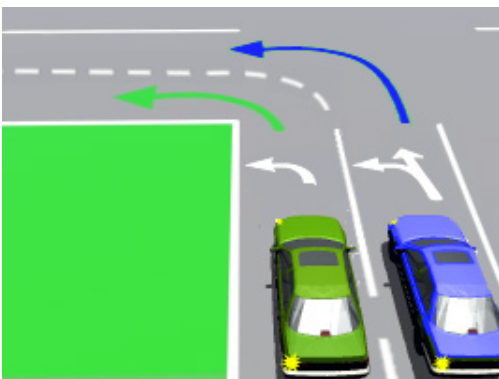


Give way to all pedestrians on the road you're turning into.

When turning left from a two-way or one-way road drive as close as you can to the left of the road.



If there are line markings going around the corner (turn lines) you must make the turn as shown by the turn lines. Otherwise, you can choose the lane you want to turn into (if it's safe)



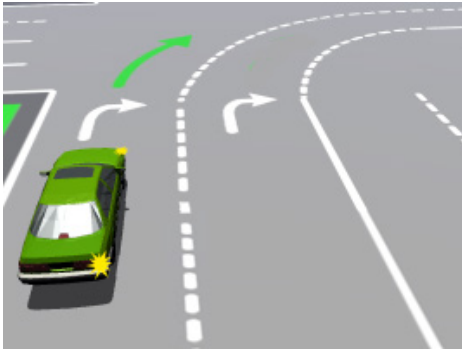
When turning left from a **multi-lane road**:

- turn from the left lane
- turn left from another lane **only** if traffic arrows show that you can turn left.

If there are line markings going around the corner (turn lines) you must make the turn as shown by the turn lines. Otherwise, you can choose the lane you want to turn into (if it's safe).

Right turns

Before turning right:



Signal before turning, even if you're in a lane with traffic arrows.

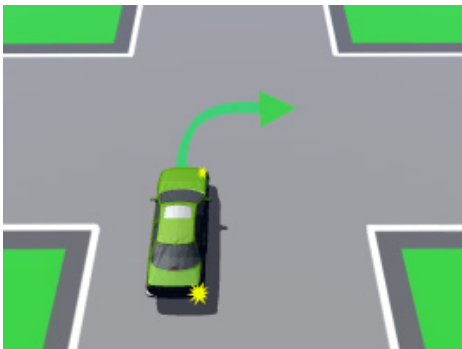


Apply the give way rules.

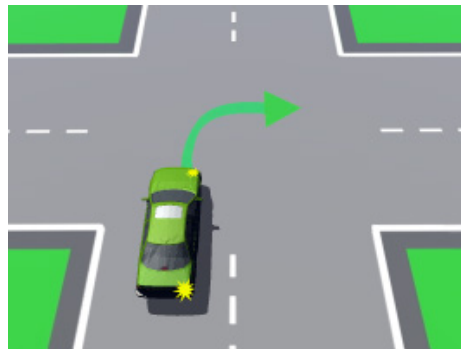


Give way to all pedestrians on the road you're turning into.

When turning right from a **two-way road**:

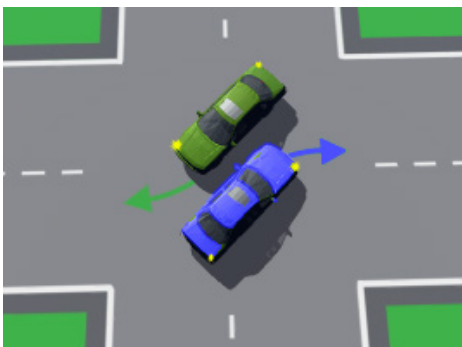


Start the turn from as close as you can to (and to the left of) the centre of the road if there is no centre line.



Start the turn from as close as you can to (and to the left of) the centre line if there is one.

When there is no road marking showing how the turn is to be made, keep right, and close to, the centre of the intersection.

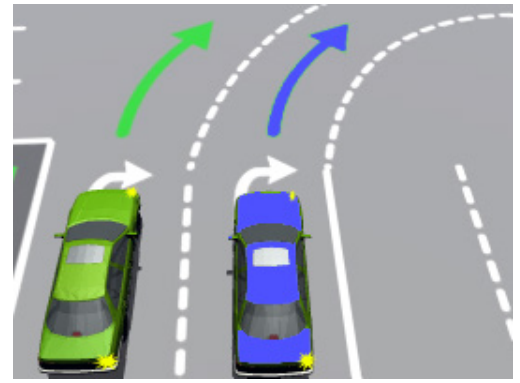


When an oncoming vehicle also making a right turn, your paths should not cross.

Right turns *continued*



When turning right from a **one-way road** start the turn from as close as you can to the right of the road.



When turning right from a **multi-lane road**:

- always turn from your right hand lane, unless traffic arrows allow you to turn right from another lane.

If there are line markings going around the corner (turn lines) you must make the turn as shown by the turn lines. Otherwise, you can choose the lane you want to turn into (if it's safe).

U-turns

A U-turn is when you turn around so that you can go the opposite way (other than turning at a roundabout).

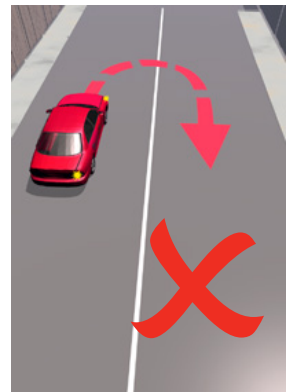
You must **not** do a U-turn:



Anywhere there is a **no U-turn sign**.



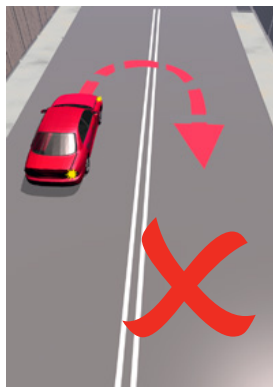
Across a single continuous line left of a broken line.



Across a single continuous line.



Across double broken lines.



Across double continuous lines.



At an intersection with traffic lights (unless there is a **U-turn permitted sign**).

U-turns *continued*

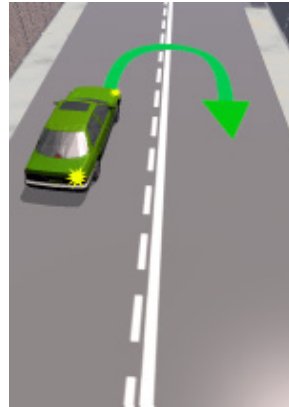
You can only make a U-turn (if it's safe):



Where there are no marked lanes.



Where there is a single broken line.



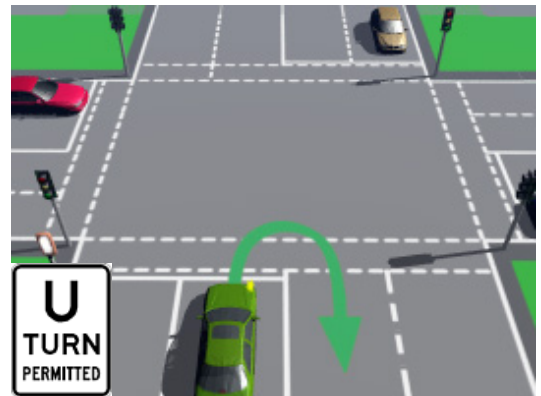
Where there is a broken line left of a single continuous line.



At a break in the median strip (unless there is a **no U-turn sign**).



At an intersection without traffic lights (unless there is a **no U-turn sign**).

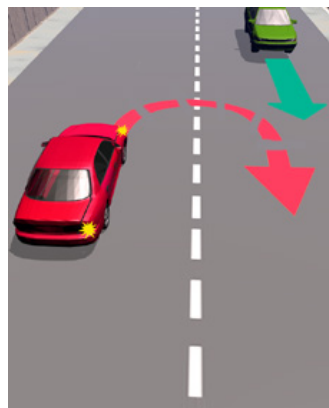


At an intersection with traffic lights **only** if there is a **U-turn permitted sign**.

Before you do a U-turn:



Have a clear view of any approaching traffic and indicate.



Give way to all traffic and pedestrians.



Make sure you will not block the traffic flow.

Roundabouts

What is a roundabout?

A roundabout is an intersection with a traffic island in the centre of it. Traffic goes around clockwise, keeping to the left of the island. It may have more than one traffic lane.

There should be a roundabout sign at each entrance.



Single lane roundabout.



Roundabout sign



Multi-lane roundabout.

Giving way



When approaching a roundabout, adjust your speed to stop safely if needed.

Before entering a roundabout, give way to all traffic in the roundabout.

Entering and leaving roundabouts



When you're leaving the roundabout less than half way round it:

- indicate left when approaching and leaving the roundabout
- on a multi-lane roundabout, enter and leave the roundabout from the left lane, or a lane with a left arrow in it.



When you're going straight ahead at a roundabout:

- on a multi-lane roundabout, you can enter and leave the roundabout from any lane with a straight ahead arrow
- on a multi-lane roundabout, if there are no arrows marked in the lanes, you can enter and leave the roundabout from any lane
- you only need to indicate left when leaving the roundabout (where practical).



When you're going more than halfway round a roundabout:

- indicate right as you approach the roundabout
- on a multi-lane roundabout, enter from the right lane, or a lane with a right arrow
- indicate left as you leave the roundabout (where practical).

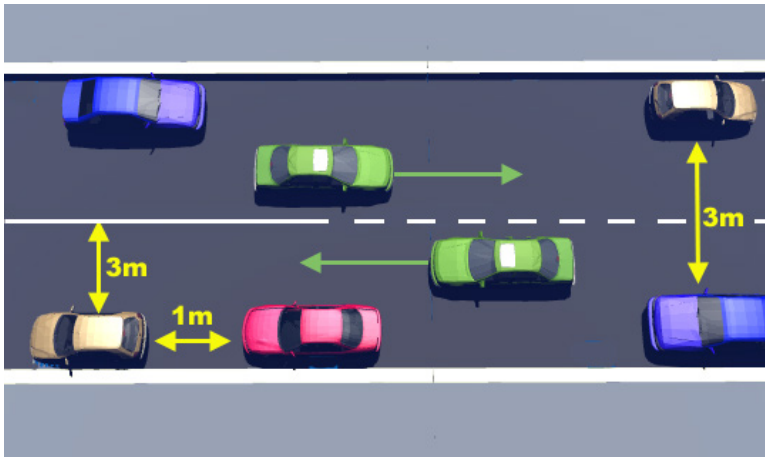


You can change lanes in a multi-lane roundabout, when:

- it is safe and legal to do so **and**
- you indicate your intention to change lanes.

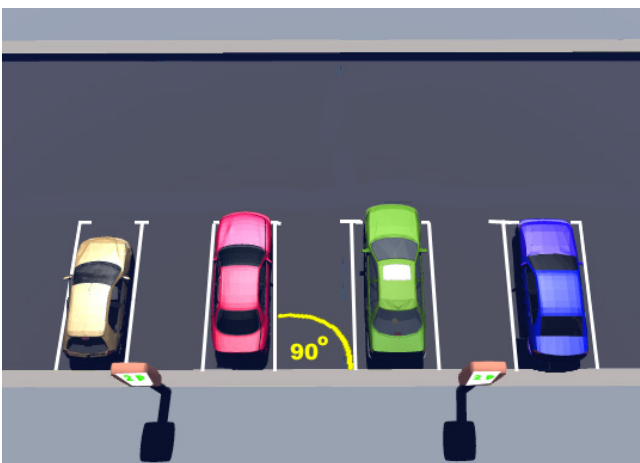
Stopping and parking

Where to park



Where there are no parking signs or lines:

- park parallel, and as close as you can to the kerb or side of the road
- park the same way as vehicles going along that side of the road
- leave a gap of at least 1 metre between your car and other vehicles in front or behind you (where there are no parking bays)
- leave a gap of at least three metres between the side of your car and double continuous dividing lines, a single continuous dividing line or a median strip
- leave at least three metres of the road next to your car clear so traffic can pass when there's a broken dividing line or no dividing line or strip.



Usually signs or road markings will show you:

- if you must park at an angle
- the angle to park.

Sometimes signs tell you where you can and can't park, and how long you can park for.



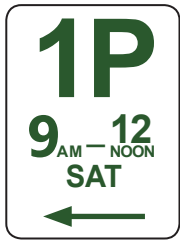
No parking sign

You can't park in the area covered by the sign.

You can stop, for up to two minutes, when you're dropping off or picking up passengers or goods, provided you don't move away from your vehicle.

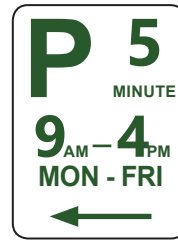
If your car has a parking permit for people with disabilities you can stop for up to five minutes.

Where to park *continued*



Permissive parking sign

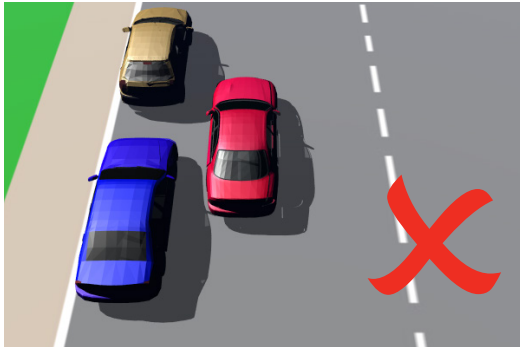
There will be a number before the P that will tell you how many hours you can park for in the area covered by the sign.



Permissive parking sign

There will be a number after the P that will tell you how many minutes you can park for in the area covered by the sign.

Except in a parking area for people with disabilities, if your car has a parking permit for people with disabilities you can park for twice as long as shown on the sign.



Don't park next to a vehicle that is parked at the side of the road.

Parking rules

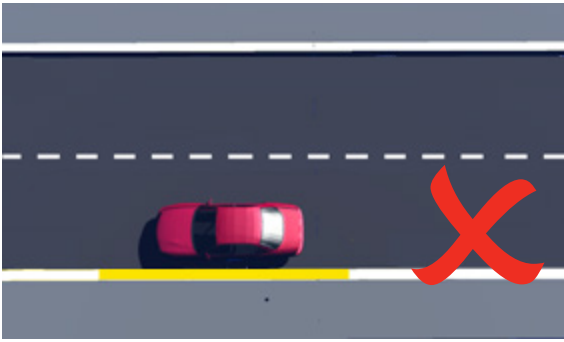
Don't leave your car (unless a person aged 16 or more is in it) until:

- the engine is switched off
- the parking brake (hand brake) is on
- the key is removed from the ignition
- the doors are locked and the windows are secured.

You should also:

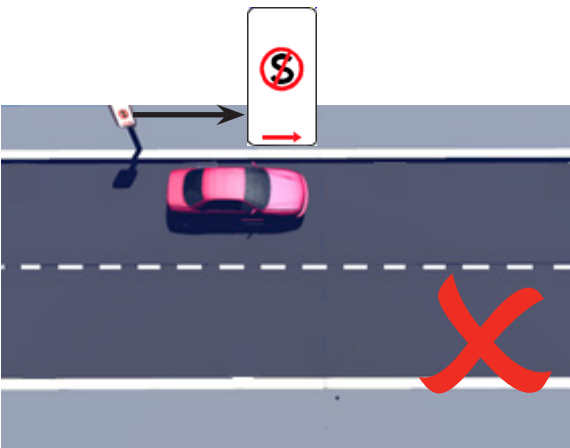
- turn the wheels to the side or kerb if parking on a hill
- avoid using doors on the traffic side (where possible)
- check before opening your door (for traffic and cyclists).

Stopping restrictions

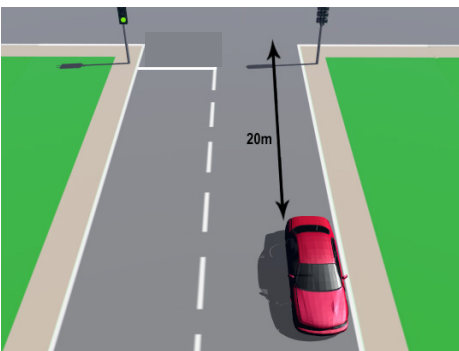


Don't stop or park at a yellow line along the side of a road.

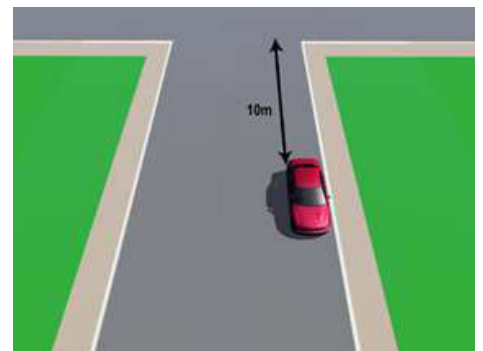
Unless a sign says otherwise, don't stop or park:



Don't stop or park in an area covered by a **no stopping** sign.



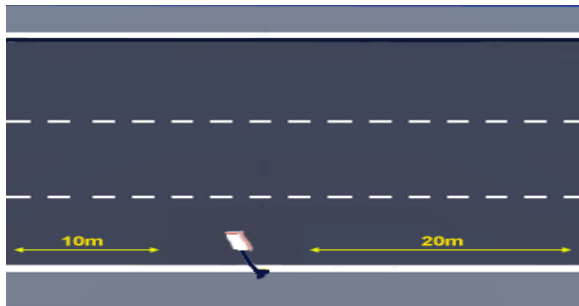
Within 20 metres of an intersection with traffic lights.



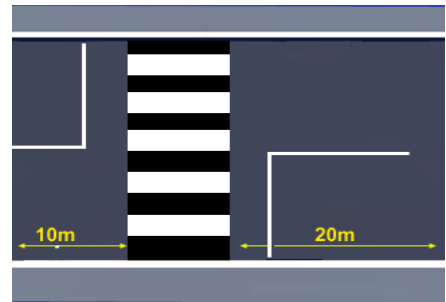
Within 10 metres of an intersection without traffic lights.

Stopping restrictions *continued*

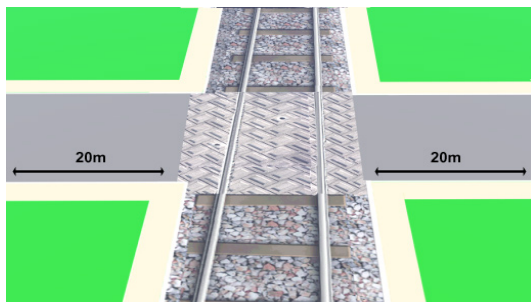
Unless a sign says otherwise, don't stop or park:



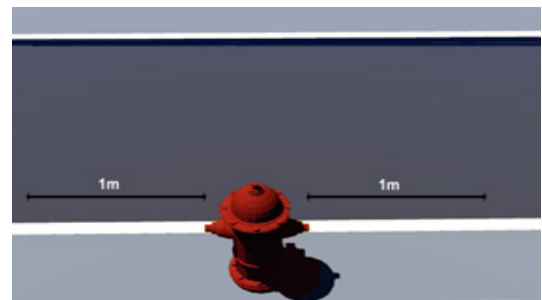
Within 20 metres before and 10 metres after a bus stop.



Within 20 metres before and 10 metres after a pedestrian or children's crossing.



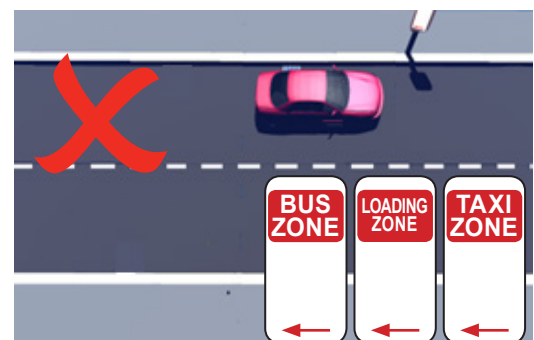
Within 20 metres before and after a level crossing.



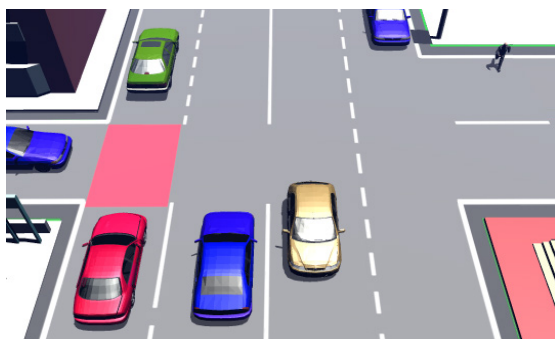
Within one metre of a fire hydrant, fire hydrant indicator or fireplug indicator.



On a clearway during the times and days displayed on the sign.



In an area covered by a **loading zone**, **taxi zone** or **bus zone sign** (unless you have a vehicle that can legally stop there).



In an intersection, pedestrian crossing or children's crossing. If there isn't enough room for your car on the other side of the intersection or crossing, wait until it's clear so you can drive through without blocking it.



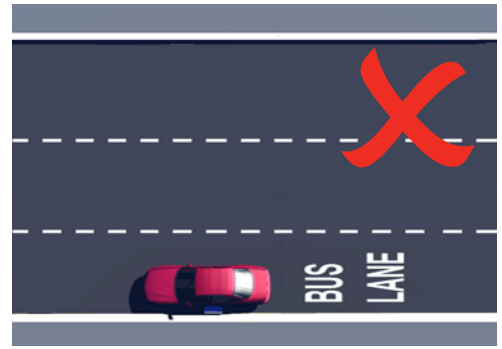
In a parking area for people with disabilities (unless you have a current parking permit that allows you to).

Stopping restrictions *continued*

Unless a sign says otherwise, don't stop or park:



On a bicycle path, footpath, shared path, dividing strip, painted island or nature strip (except your own nature strip).



In a special purpose lane, such as a bicycle or bus lane.



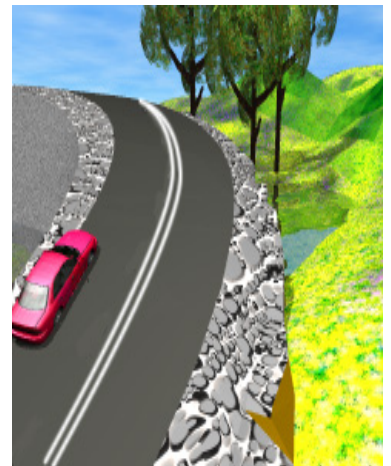
On a bridge, causeway or ramp.



In a slip lane.



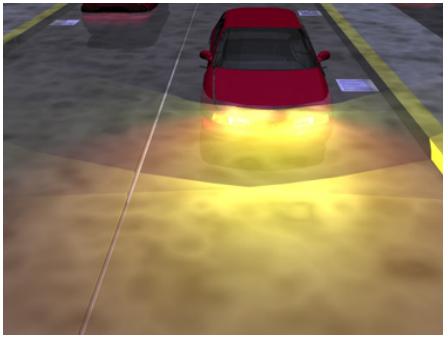
On or across a driveway, even your own (unless you're picking up or dropping off passengers or goods, but for no more than two minutes).



Outside built-up areas on the crest of a hill or on a curve (unless your vehicle can be seen by drivers in both directions from 100 metres away).

Other rules

Lights and warning devices



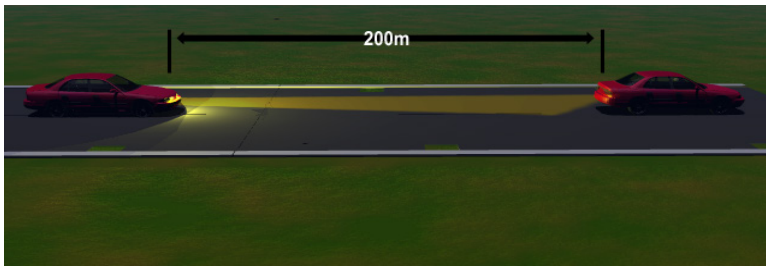
When you're driving at night or in bad weather conditions (like fog) your car must have:

- two working headlights
- two working tail lights
- a working number plate light.

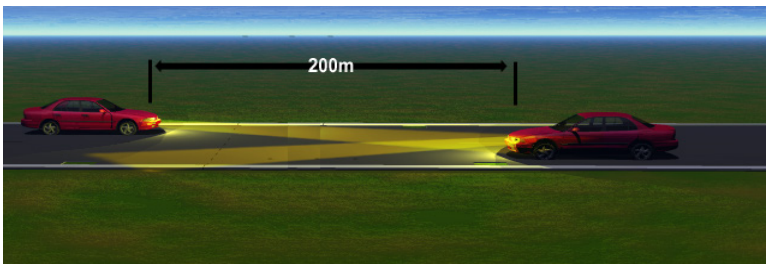
When you're driving at night, go slower so you can stop within the distance you can see. Don't look directly at oncoming lights, but keep your eyes on the left-hand side of the road. If dazzled, slow down or pull over to the side of the road.

Adjust your driving to the road and weather conditions. When the roads are wet and visibility is reduced, you need much longer to stop your car.

Only use your headlights on high beam when you're:



- more than 200 metres behind another vehicle



- more than 200 metres from any oncoming vehicles.

Never use your lights to dazzle another road user.

Hazard lights

Only use your vehicle's hazard warning lights when:

- it's stopped and it may obstruct other vehicles or pedestrians
- it's being driven slowly (and may cause an obstruction)
- it's being towed
- it's stopped in an emergency stopping lane
- there are dangerous weather conditions (like fog or smoke) and your vehicle does **not** have a front or rear fog light.

Horns

Only use your horn in an emergency to warn other road-users, or as an anti-theft device.

Radar detectors

Don't use anything that:

- detects a speed-measuring device (like a speed camera or radar)
- prevents a speed-measuring device from being used effectively.

If caught using one of these, you will be fined.

Driving in reverse

Only reverse when it is safe. Before reversing, check for pedestrians, obstructions or other vehicles. Never reverse more than is necessary and reasonable.

Mobile phones

You must not use a mobile phone to make or receive a call when you are driving or when the traffic is stationary, unless:

- the mobile phone is in a commercially designed holder and fixed to the vehicle, or
- the mobile phone can be operated without being touched.

Use, in relation to a mobile phone, includes any of the following:

- holding the mobile phone in your hand or resting it on any part of the your body (whether or not engaged in a phone call)
- entering or placing anything into the mobile phone, or sending or looking at anything that is in the mobile phone
- turning the mobile phone on or off
- operating any other function of the mobile phone.

A mobile phone's GPS function may only be used if:

- the phone is secured in a commercially designed and manufactured fixed mounting,
- the mounting is fixed in a location that will not distract or obscure your view in any way,
- the use of the GPS does not distract you from driving or from being in proper control of your vehicle.

If you want to hold your mobile phone to make a call, text or check a message, you must pull over in a safe location and turn your vehicle off, before touching the mobile phone.

Television receivers and visual display units in motor vehicles

You must not drive a motor vehicle that has a television receiver or visual display in or on the vehicle operating while the vehicle is moving, or is stationary in traffic if any part of the image on the screen is visible to the driver from the normal driving position or is likely to distract another driver.

However a driver's aid can be used if it is an integrated part of the vehicle design, or secured in a commercially designed holder, which is fixed to the vehicle.

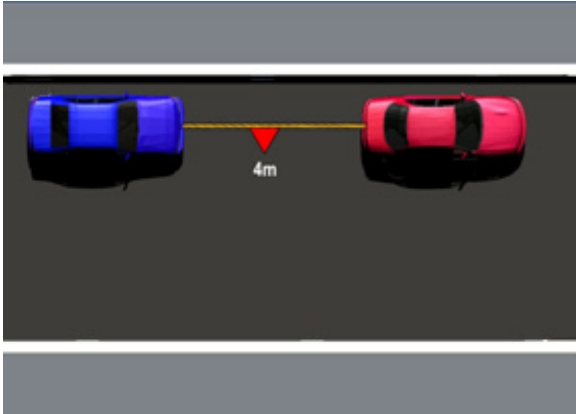
A driver's aid is for example:

- a navigational system, such as GPS
- reversing camera
- a taxi dispatch system
- ticket-issuing machines.

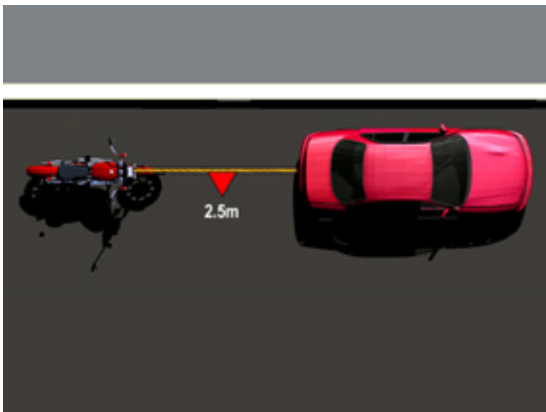
Towing rules

You must not tow another vehicle (including a trailer) unless:

- you can control the movement of your car and the vehicle being towed
- it is safe
- the brakes and steering wheel of the towed vehicle are in working order and a licensed driver is sitting in the driver's seat controlling them.



When you're towing another car with a towline, there must be no more than four metres between the two vehicles.



When you're towing a motorcycle with a towline, there must be no more than 2.5 metres between the two vehicles.

If your towline (distance between the two vehicles) is longer than two metres, attach a flag halfway along it to warn other road users. It must be at least 30 cm square and visible for at least 100 metres.

Novice learner drivers (L1 and L2) can't tow another vehicle including a trailer.

Don't tow a trailer with anyone in it.

Trailers including caravans

Towing a trailer can be dangerous and difficult, requiring more knowledge and skill than controlling one vehicle. Towing a trailer may affect braking distances, vehicle manoeuvrability and driver visibility.

Only one trailer (caravans, horse floats are also trailers) can be towed by a motor vehicle. The trailer must be securely attached to the towing vehicle by an appropriate mechanical coupling and safety chain, both of which are properly adjusted. The lowest of the motor vehicle's tow capacity, tow bar and coupling mass ratings must not be exceeded when towing. The motor vehicle owner's manual and tow bar or tow bar manufacturer specify the maximum ratings.

If fitted, the trailers braking system must be operational when towing. This may involve the attachment of additional fixtures to the motor vehicle to enable the brakes to operate.

All trailers must have the following lights that functions as required;

- directional indicator lights
- tail lights and brake lights
- number plate light
- reflectors

No person is permitted to ride in a trailer while it is being towed.

All loads are to be appropriately secured within the vehicle in such a way to prevent a danger to other road users, property and from becoming dislodged.

Additional information specific to towing and the regulatory dimensions is available from the Transport Tasmania website at www.transport.tas.gov.au/vehicles/specifications/vehicle_specification



Loads on vehicles

Any load on a vehicle (including a trailer) must be safely and securely placed so that it can't move around or fall off.

There are weight and size limits for carrying loads. If you plan to carry a load you can find more information at www.transport.tas.gov.au/vehicles/specifications/vehicle_specification

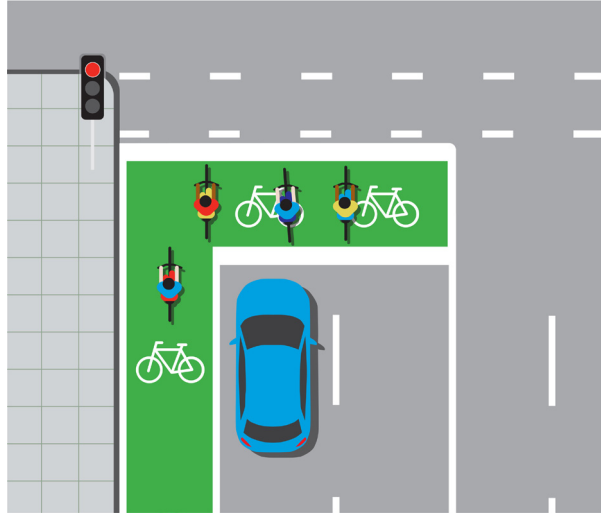
Bicycle paths

Pedestrians must not use a bicycle path unless they are:

- crossing the path by the shortest and quickest route
- in or pushing a wheelchair
- on rollerblades, rollerskates or other wheeled toys
- allowed to because of signs on the bicycle path.



Bicycle path sign



Bicycle storage area

Bicycle storage areas

A bicycle storage area (BSA) is an area of road before an intersection with traffic lights, that is painted with a bicycle symbol and is between two parallel stop lines. The BSA usually opens out from a bicycle lane. BSAs allow cyclists to wait safely at the traffic lights.

When stopping at a red light or arrow, drivers must stop at the first stop line and must not enter a BSA.

Drivers must give way to a cyclist already in a BSA when proceeding on a green light.

Rules for riders

Wearing a bike helmet

You, and any passenger you are carrying, must wear an approved, correctly fitted and fastened bike helmet at all times.

Equipment on a bike

Your bike must:

- have at least one effective brake; and
- have a bell, horn or similar warning device in working order.

When riding at night, or in weather conditions with reduced visibility, you must display on your bike or on yourself:

- a flashing or steady white light on the front of the bike that can be seen for at least 200 metres and
- a flashing or steady red light on the rear of the bike that can be seen for at least 200 metres and
- a reflector on the rear of the bike that can be seen for at least 50 metres when a vehicle's headlights shine on it.

Bike lanes

You must ride your bike in a bike lane unless it is impracticable to do so.

Riding on the footpath

You can ride your bike on the footpath, unless prohibited by a **no bicycles sign**.

You must give way to pedestrians and ride in a manner that does not inconvenience or endanger others.

At pedestrian crossings with lights, the same rules apply to cyclists as pedestrians. Cyclists must not cross the road when the pedestrian lights are red, and only cross the road when the pedestrian lights are green.

Overtaking on the left

You can overtake slow moving or stationary vehicles on the left, but do not overtake on the left if the other vehicle is giving a left change of direction signal.

Riding two abreast

You can ride alongside another bike rider, but not more than 1.5 metres apart.

Carrying people on a bike

You must not carry passengers on a bike unless the bike is designed to carry more than one person, or has a specially mounted seat for the passenger to sit.

For example, a single-seat bike with a child's seat attached is designed to carry two people, one on the bike seat and one on the attached child's seat.

Bikes being towed

You must not ride on a bike that is being towed by another vehicle, or hold onto another vehicle while the vehicle is moving.

Riding on pedestrian crossings

Cyclists can ride across pedestrian crossings, marked foot crossings (controlled by lights) and children's crossings.

When riding across a crossing, cyclist

- ride slowly and safely
- give way to pedestrians on the crossing
- keep left of oncoming cyclists or pedestrians

At pedestrian crossings with lights, the same rules apply to cyclists as pedestrians. Cyclists must not cross the road when the pedestrian lights are red, and only cross the road when the pedestrian lights are green.

Riding too close to the rear of a motor vehicle

You must not ride your bike within two metres of the rear of a moving motor vehicle continuously for more than 200 metres.

Caution around horses

You must give way to restive horses, which means animals refusing to move, or that are difficult to control on the road.

If the rider of a horse gives a signal, by raising a hand and pointing to the horse, the driver must steer his vehicle as far to the left side of the road as possible, turn off the engine and not move again until the horse is far enough away not to be aggravated.

Licensing and registration useful links

Below are some useful links to information regarding fees, the road rules and the driver knowledge test.

Driver knowledge practice test

www.transport.tas.gov.au/drkts

Tasmanian Road Rules – more details

www.thelaw.tas.gov.au

Example Driver Knowledge questions

www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/publications/tasmanian_road_rules

Learner Approved Motorcycles (LAMS)

www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/licence/rider/approved-novice-motorcycles.html

Learn to drive videos

www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/learning_to_drive

Licence and registration fees

www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees_forms/registration_licensing

Payment options

www.transport.tas.gov.au/registration/options/paying_for_registrations_and_driver_licences

The Driver Knowledge Test

You can use the online practice *Driver Knowledge Test* to test your knowledge of the road rules before you take the real one at Service Tasmania. You can choose to do a car or motorcycle test.

There are 35 questions in the test. You can mark each question as you go, so you'll know straight away if you answered it correctly. At the end of the test, it will show your result on the screen and say whether you would have passed the real *Driver Knowledge Test*.

As well as the on line test there is a list of the *Driver Knowledge Test* questions which you can print or view on line, if you prefer to practice for the test this way.

To get a learner licence, you must pass the real *Driver Knowledge Test* at a Service Tasmania shop.

The knowledge test can only be undertaken at Service Tasmania during business hours up until 45 minutes prior to the shop closure time. It takes approximately 30 to 45 minutes.

Your licence

You must have a driver licence to drive in Tasmania.

Licence classes

For a description of the licence classes, visit www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/information/licence_classes

Licence types

In Tasmania, there are three types of licences:

- Learner licence (including L1 and L2)
- P1 and P2 Provisional licence
- full licence.

If you are going to drive a heavy vehicle, you can get the *Tasmanian Heavy Vehicle Drivers' Handbook* at www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/publications.

Learner licence

There are many different learner licence types:

- Novice car L1 – issued for three years
- Novice car L2 – issued for three years
- Novice motorcycle – issued for one year
- Non-novice car or motorcycle – issued for one year.

You can find more information for novice drivers at www.transport.tas.gov.au/novice

When you can get your L1 car learner licence

You are a **novice driver** if you have never before had a full (not a learner or provisional) car licence anywhere in the world.

To get an L1 licence, you must be at least 16 years old. You can take the *Driver Knowledge Test* at 15 years 11 months but you are only able to apply for your L1 licence when you turn 16.

How to get it

Go to a Service Tasmania shop:

- show evidence of identity (see www.transport.tas.gov.au for evidence of identity requirements)
- fill in a *learner licence application*
- pass a computerised knowledge test about the information in this book
- have your eyesight tested
- pay the L1 licence fee
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature.

Sometimes, you may need to show evidence that you're medically fit to drive.

The practice online knowledge test has moving graphics to help you choose your answers.

You can practice the test online at www.transport.tas.gov.au/drkts

Rules for L1 car learner drivers

When driving:

- carry your licence
- a person with a current Australian full (not a provisional or overseas) car licence without any period of suspension or disqualification in the last 2 years, must be in the front passenger seat
- have a zero blood alcohol content
- clearly show L-plates at the front and rear of the car
- **don't** drive faster than 80 km/h at any time, even when a higher speed limit applies
- **don't** tow another vehicle, including a trailer.

Before you go for your L2 car learner licence you must:

- have held your L1 licence for a continuous period of three months immediately before taking your L2 driving assessment. This means that if your licence is suspended or cancelled, or you let it expire for longer than 28 days, you'll have to start the three months again
- be 16 years, three months old



- L-plates look like this (black L on a yellow square)
- L-plates can be bought at any Service Tasmania shop. L-plates show other road users that you're learning to drive.

Renewing your L1 car learner licence

You must not drive if your L1 licence expires. Before it expires, you should get a renewal form in the mail. If you don't, call 1300 135 513 or go to a Service Tasmania shop.

If you don't renew your learner licence within 28 days of its expiry, you'll need to restart your three months continuous period again before you can sit the L2 Driving Assessment.

To renew your L1 licence go to a Service Tasmania shop and:

- pass the *Car Driver Knowledge Test*
- fill in the *renewal form*
- show your licence or evidence of identity
- pay the L1 licence fee
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature.

You'll be given a driver licence receipt (temporary driver licence). You can drive using it until you receive your licence in the mail.

When you can get your L2 car learner licence

To get an L2 car licence you must:

- be at least 16 years three months old
- have held your L1 licence for a continuous period of three months (if your L1 licence is suspended or cancelled, the three month period will restart when you get your licence back)
- pass the L2 driving assessment.

There are no exemptions from the minimum three month continuous period on your L1 licence.

How to get it

Book and pay for your L2 driving assessment in person at:

- a Service Tasmania shop or
- online www.transport.tas.gov.au/MRSWebInterface/public/dtbs/default.jsf or
- contact an authorised driving instructor www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/getting-a-licence/assessments/authorised_driving_instructors

For more information about getting an L2 licence, see the *Novice Kit* or visit www.transport.tas.gov.au/novice

When you pass your L2 driving assessment, go to a Service Tasmania shop and:

- fill in a *licence application form*
- show your licence or evidence of identity
- show your L2 driving assessment sheet
- pay the L2 licence fee
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature.

You will then get your L2 car learner licence.

If you pass your L2 driving assessment in an automatic vehicle, you will still be able to drive a manual vehicle with your supervisory driver while you hold your L2 licence.

Rules for L2 car learner drivers

When driving:

- carry your licence
- a person with a current Australian full (not a provisional or overseas) car licence without any period of suspension or disqualification in the last two years, must be in the front passenger seat
- have a zero blood alcohol content
- clearly show L-plates
- **don't** drive faster than 90 km/h in 90 km/h zone, 90 km/h in 100 km/h or 100 km/h in 110 km/h zone
- **don't** tow another vehicle, including a trailer.

Before you go for your P1 car licence you must:

- have your L2 licence for a continuous period of 9 months immediately before taking your P1 driving assessment. This means that if your licence is suspended or cancelled, or you let it expire for longer than 28 days, you'll have to start the nine months again.
- record at least 50 hours supervised on-road driving in your L2 logbook
- be at least 17 years old.

It is recommended that you complete the eight driving tasks in the L2 logbook.

You can buy the Novice Kit which contains the *L1 & L2 Logbook* at any Service Tasmania shop or download it free at www.transport.tas.gov.au/publications

Renewing your L2 car learner licence

You must not drive if your L2 licence expires. Before it expires, you should get a *renewal form* in the mail. If you don't, call 1300 135 513 or go to a Service Tasmania shop.

If you don't renew your learner licence within 28 days of its expiry, you'll need to restart your nine months continuous period again before you can sit the PI driving assessment.

To renew your L2 licence go to a Service Tasmania shop and:

- pass the car driver knowledge test
- fill in the *renewal form*
- show your licence or evidence of identity
- pay the L2 licence fee
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature.

You'll be given a driver licence receipt (temporary driver licence). You can drive using it until you receive your licence in the mail.

When you can get your novice motorcycle learner licence

You are a **novice rider** if you have never before had a full (not a learner or provisional) motorcycle licence anywhere in the world.

- To get a novice motorcycle learner licence, you must be at least 16 years, six months old.
- You can take the knowledge test at 16 years, five months but you are only able to apply for your learner licence when you turn 16 years six months.
- Before you can get a motorcycle learner licence, you must pass the pre-learner training course. You can attend the course at 16 years, five months. You **must** pass the knowledge test first at Service Tasmania before attending the course.
- Visit www.transport.tas.gov.au for a list of training providers.

For more information on riding a motorcycle refer to www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing

How to get it

Go to a Service Tasmania shop and:

- show evidence of identity
- fill in a *learner licence application form*
- pass the *Motorcycle Driver Knowledge Test*
- show your certificate of competence for the pre-learner training course (valid for three months)
- have your eyesight tested
- pay the learner licence fee
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature.

If you want to learn to drive a motorcycle and a car, your learner licences will show on the one licence card. You must still make two applications and pay two learner licence fees.

Rules for motorcycle learner riders

When riding on your motorcycle learner licence:

- carry your licence
- only ride a Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS) motorcycle
- clearly display an L-plate on the rear of the motorcycle
- have a zero blood alcohol content
- only carry a pillion passenger if that person has held a motorcycle licence for at least three years and is riding pillion in order to instruct you
- wear an approved motorcycle helmet
- sit astride the seat and face forwards
- have at least one hand on the handlebars
- have your feet on the footrests (unless the motorcycle is stopped)
- **don't** ride more than two abreast within one lane
- **don't** lane filter
- **don't** ride faster than 80 km/h at any time, even when a higher speed limit applies.

Before you go for your P1 motorcycle licence you must:

- have your motorcycle learner licence for a continuous period of six months immediately before doing the pre-provisional motorcycle test. This means that if your licence is suspended or cancelled, or you let it expire for longer than 28 days, you'll have to start the six months again
- be at least 17 years old.

Renewing your motorcycle learner licence

You must not drive if your motorcycle learner licence expires. Before it expires, you should get a renewal form in the mail. If you don't, call 1300 135 513 or go to a Service Tasmania shop.

If you don't renew your learner licence within 28 days of its expiry, you'll need to restart your six months continuous period again before you can sit the pre-provisional motorcycle test and you will also need to undertake day 2 of the pre-learner and the check ride.

You can renew your motorcycle learner licence (within 28 days) without passing the pre-learner training course again provided you have booked and paid for the next stage in the motorcycle training program i.e. check ride or pre-provisional test, and your learner licence will expire before the course date.

To renew your motorcycle learner licence go to a Service Tasmania shop and:

- pass the *Motorcycle Driver Knowledge Test*
- fill in the *renewal form*
- show your licence or evidence of identity
- show proof of your booking and payment for the next stage of the motorcycle training program (within 28 days from expiry) **or** your certificate of competency for day 2 of the pre-learner training course (after 28 days from expiry)
- pay the learner licence fee
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature.

You'll be given a driver licence receipt (temporary driver licence). You can drive using it until you receive your licence in the mail.

Non-novice learner licence

If you have previously held a full licence (anywhere in the world) and you need to get a learner licence, you will be issued with a non-novice learner licence.

You may need to get a non-novice learner licence if:

- your full licence has been expired for more than five years
- your full licence was cancelled and it must be reissued as a learner licence
- you are applying for the transfer of your overseas licence and have failed a driving test.

How to get it

Go to a Service Tasmania shop and:

- show evidence of identity
- fill in a *learner licence application form*
- pass the car or motorcycle driver knowledge test
- have your eyesight tested
- pay the learner licence fee
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature
- for motorcycle applicants – show your certificate of competence for the pre-learner training course (valid for three months).

Sometimes, you may need to show evidence that you're medically fit to drive.

If you need a motorcycle and a car learner licence, your learner licences will show on the one licence card. You must still make two applications and pay two learner licence fees.

Rules for non-novice learner drivers

When driving or riding, you must:

- carry your licence
- have a zero blood alcohol content
- clearly show L-plates on the car **or** rear of the motorcycle
- **don't** drive faster than 90 km/h in 90 km/h zone, 90 km/h in 100 km/h or 100 km/h in 110 km/h zone

In addition, for car learners:

- a person who holds a current Australian full (not a provisional or overseas) car licence and has held that licence for at least 12 months, must be in the front passenger seat

In addition, for motorcycle learners:

- only ride a Learner Approved Motorcycle Scheme (LAMS) motorcycle
- only carry a pillion passenger if that person has held a motorcycle licence for at least three years and is riding pillion in order to instruct you
- wear an approved motorcycle helmet
- sit astride the seat and face forwards
- have at least one hand on the handlebars
- have your feet on the footrests (unless the motorcycle is stopped)
- **don't** lane filter
- **don't** ride more than two abreast within one lane.

Renewing your non-novice learner licence

You must not drive or ride if your learner licence expires. Before it expires, you should get a renewal form in the mail. If you don't, call 1300 135 513 or go to a Service Tasmania shop.

If renewing a motorcycle learner licence will need to provide evidence of booked and paid course/test refer to www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/renewing.

To renew your licence go to a Service Tasmania shop and:

- pass the car or motorcycle *Driver Knowledge Test*
- fill in the *renewal form*
- show your licence or evidence of identity
- pay the licence fee
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature.

You'll be given a driver licence receipt (temporary driver licence). You can drive using it until you receive your licence in the mail.

Provisional licence

When you can get your car provisional licence

To get a car provisional (PI) licence you must:

- be at least 17 years old
- have held your L2 licence for a continuous period of nine months (if your L2 licence is suspended or cancelled, the nine month period will restart when you get your licence back)
- pass the PI driving assessment.

How to get it

Book and pay for your PI driving assessment in person at a Service Tasmania shop, or online www.transport.tas.gov.au/MRSWebInterface/public/dtbs/default.jsf

For more information about getting a PI licence, see the *Novice Kit*, or visit www.transport.tas.gov.au/novice

When you pass your PI driving assessment, go to a Service Tasmania shop and:

- fill in a *licence application form*
- show your licence or evidence of identity
- show your PI driving assessment sheet
- pay the licence fee
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature.

Motorcycle provisional licence

You must be at least 17 years old.

You must undertake the check ride and have held your motorcycle learner licence for a continuous period of six months before you can attend the pre-provisional test. You must wait minimum of 28 days between the check ride and pre-provisional test.

After passing the pre-provisional test, go to a Service Tasmania shop and:

- fill in a *licence application form*
- show your learner licence (or full evidence of identity)
- show your certificate of competence for the pre-provisional test (valid for three months)
- pay the licence fee
- have your photo taken.

You will then get your provisional P1 motorcycle licence.

Your provisional period

P1 licence – regardless of your age, your P1 licence will be issued for 12 months. You must hold your licence for a continuous period of 12 months before you can get a P2 licence. This means that if your licence is cancelled or suspended, or you commit a **restart offence** (see page 68), you'll have to start the 12 months again.

P2 licence – depending on your age, you'll be a P2 driver for between one and two years.

If you're:	Your P2 licence is issued for:
18 - 22	two years from the date of issue
23 or 24	one year from the date of issue or until you turn 25, whichever is longer
25 or more	one year from the date of issue

You must hold a P1 and P2 licence for both a car and a motorcycle licence.

For example, if you've already done your P1 and P2 periods and progressed to a full car licence, and then you apply for a motorcycle licence, you'll still need to hold a P1 and P2 motorcycle licence.

Extra rules for car provisional drivers

On your P1 car licence:

- carry your licence
- clearly show P-plates at the front and rear of the car
- have a zero blood alcohol content
- **don't** drive over the speed limit
- **don't** drive faster than 90 km/h in 90 km/h zone, 90 km/h in 100 km/h or 100 km/h in 110 km/h zone
- **don't** supervise a learner driver.

On your P2 car licence:

- carry your licence
- have a zero blood alcohol content
- **don't** supervise a learner driver



Provisional drivers **can** tow another vehicle, including a trailer.

- P-plates look like this (red P on a white square).
- They can be bought at any Service Tasmania shop.
- P-plates show other road users that you're a new driver gaining experience.

Extra rules for motorcycle provisional riders

On your P1 motorcycle licence:

- carry your licence
- only ride a LAMS motorcycle
- clearly display a P-plate on the rear of your motorcycle
- have a zero blood alcohol content while riding
- sit astride the seat and face forwards
- have at least one hand on the handlebars
- have your feet on the footrests (unless the motorcycle is stopped)
- wear an approved motorcycle helmet
- **don't** ride more than two abreast within one lane
- **don't** ride over the speed limit, or faster than 80 km/h at any time, even when a higher speed limit applies
- **don't** lane filter
- **don't** carry a pillion passenger.

On your P2 motorcycle licence:

- carry your licence
- have a zero blood alcohol content while riding
- you, and any pillion passenger must sit astride the seat and face forwards
- have at least one hand on the handlebars
- there must be an approved seat with adequate and secure footrests (separate from any driver's footrests) for any pillion passenger
- have your feet on the footrests (unless the motorcycle is stopped)
- any pillion passenger must have their feet on their footrest
- you, and any pillion passenger must each wear an approved motorcycle helmet
- **don't** ride more than two abreast within one lane
- **don't** lane filter
- **don't** carry a pillion passenger under eight years old (unless they are riding in a sidecar).

How to renew it

You must not drive if your P1 or P2 licence expires.

Before your P1 licence expires, you should get a renewal form in the mail, inviting you to renew and upgrade to a P2 licence. Before your P2 licence expires, you should get a renewal form in the mail, inviting you to renew and upgrade to a full licence.

If you don't, call 1300 135 513 or go to a Service Tasmania shop.

To renew your licence go to a Service Tasmania shop and:

- fill in the *renewal form*
- show your licence or evidence of identity
- pay the licence fee
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature.

You'll be given a driver licence receipt (temporary driver licence). You can drive using it until you receive your licence in the mail.

Automatic to manual licence

For car licences:

- if you passed your P1 driving assessment in an automatic car, you can only drive an automatic car
- you will be restricted to an automatic car for three years – after three years you can apply in writing to have the automatic condition removed from your licence
- if you want to drive a manual car before then, you must pass a driving assessment in a manual car
- when learning to drive a manual car, you must display L-plates and have a supervisory driver with you who holds a full (not a provisional or overseas) car licence and has held that licence for at least 12 months
- you don't need to apply for another learner licence.

For motorcycle licences:

- if you complete the pre-learner or pre-provisional motorcycle training course on an automatic motorcycle, you can only drive an automatic motorcycle
- if you have an automatic condition on your learner licence, you must complete the pre-provisional motorcycle test on a manual motorcycle to have it removed
- if you have an automatic condition on your provisional or full motorcycle licence, you must complete a check ride to have it removed
- when learning to drive a manual motorcycle, you must display L-plates
- you don't need to apply for another learner licence.

Full licence

When you can get it

You can get your full licence when your P2 period finishes.

How to get it

Your licence will expire on the same date as your P2 period finishes. You'll need to renew your licence before it expires to upgrade to a full licence.

How to renew it

You **must not** drive when your driver licence expires without it being renewed. Note: your driver licence will expire at midnight on the day of expiry.

Before your licence expires, you should get a renewal form in the mail. If you don't, call 1300 135 513 or go to a Service Tasmania shop. Your licence can be renewed from one to five years.

To renew your licence go to a Service Tasmania shop and:

- choose how long you want to renew it
- fill in the *licence renewal form* that you received in the mail
- show evidence of identity
- pay the licence fee
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature.

You'll be given a driver licence receipt (temporary driver licence, valid for 21 days). You can drive using it until you receive your new licence in the mail.

Extra rules for motorcycle riders

Motorcycles are motor vehicles. Riders must obey the same road rules as drivers of cars, trucks and other vehicles.

These rules apply to all motorcycle riders:

- you and any pillion passenger must each wear an approved motorcycle helmet when moving or stationary but not parked
- you and any pillion passenger must sit astride the seat and face forwards
- **don't** carry a pillion passenger under eight years old (unless they are riding in a sidecar)
- there must be an approved seat with adequate and secure footrests (separate from any driver's footrests) for any pillion passenger
- any pillion passenger must have their feet on their footrest
- only one pillion passenger is permitted on a motorcycle
- have at least one hand on the handlebars
- keep both feet on the footrests when moving
- **don't** ride more than two abreast within one lane.

Sidecar passengers must also wear a helmet.

Motorcycle lane filtering

Lane filtering is when a motorcyclist moves between stationary or slow-moving vehicles that are travelling in the same direction as the rider.

Only motorcyclists who hold a full motorcycle licence are allowed to lane filter. It is illegal for learner and provisional motorcyclists to lane filter, including interstate learner and provisional motorcyclists.

Motorcyclists must not lane filter:

- If it's not safe
- At speeds greater than 30 km/h
- In a school zone during school zone hours
- Between the edge of the road and other vehicles
- Next to parked cars.

When lane filtering, motorcyclists must:

- Look out for vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists
- Leave enough space between the motorcycle and other vehicles to avoid a crash
- Avoid lane filtering near heavy vehicles or buses.

Rules for all licence holders

There are many rules that will apply to you no matter what type or class of licence you have.

Carrying your driver licence

You **must** have your licence with you when driving, riding or supervising a learner.

Conditions on a driver licence

You must obey any licence condition when driving. A condition may be put on your licence if you have a medical or physical condition (or for another reason). A condition may be that you must wear visual aids when driving.

Change of details

You must call 1300 135 513 or go to a Service Tasmania shop within 14 days if you change your address.

If you change your name, within 14 days you must take evidence of your identity to Service Tasmania, pay a fee and have your photograph taken.

Medical conditions

If your existing medical condition changes, or if you get a medical condition affecting your driving ability, you must call 1300 135 513 as soon as possible. You need to notify the Registrar of these things straight away – don't wait until you're renewing your licence you can complete the *self-notification form MR139* found at www.transport.tas.gov.au/fees_forms/licence_forms

A medical condition may be either physical or mental.

Surrender of your driver licence

If you no longer need your driver licence, return it by mail to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, GPO Box 1002, Hobart, 7001 or take it to a Service Tasmania shop. You may get a refund on part of your licence fee.

Visiting or moving to Tasmania from interstate or New Zealand

You can drive in Tasmania on your interstate or New Zealand driver licence for up to three months.

When driving on your interstate or New Zealand licence:

- it must be current, not expired, suspended or cancelled
- have your licence with you when driving
- only drive the type of vehicles you're licensed to drive
- obey all Tasmanian road rules and traffic law.

You must also:

- obey all conditions on your licence
- remember that if you commit a demerit point offence, the demerit points may be recorded against you in your home state or territory.

After three months you must get a Tasmanian licence. If you don't you will be driving unlicensed.

To get a Tasmanian licence, go to a Service Tasmania shop and:

- fill in a *licence application form*
- hand in your interstate licence or show your New Zealand licence
- show evidence of identity (including your Tasmanian residential address)
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature.

You'll get a free Tasmanian licence of the same class as your interstate licence. Generally, it will have the same conditions and expiry date as your interstate licence. You'll need to pay a fee to transfer your New Zealand licence.

When holding an interstate or New Zealand learner licence, to get your Tasmanian P1 licence you must:

- meet the novice driver requirements (for example, you have held your licence a minimum continuous period of 12 months and you have logged 50 hours supervised driving experience)
- transfer that learner licence to a Tasmanian one to be able to book the P1 assessment. (The licence will be issued free of charge.)

Interstate or New Zealand learner and P1/P2 drivers must also obey Tasmanian learner and P1/P2 rules such as the speed restrictions, displaying L or P-plates, zero blood alcohol content, and only riding a LAMS motorcycle.

Visiting or moving interstate

You can drive interstate on your Tasmanian driver licence. When driving interstate on your Tasmanian driver licence:

- it must be current (not expired, suspended or cancelled)
- carry your licence
- only drive the type of vehicles you're licensed to drive
- obey all road rules and traffic laws that are operational in that state or territory
- obey all conditions on your licence
- remember that if you commit a demerit point offence, demerit points may be recorded against you in Tasmania.

If you're in another state or territory for three months or more, and you want to drive you must get a licence from that state or territory. Call the authority in that state or territory to find out more information.

Visiting or moving here from overseas

You can drive in Tasmania on your overseas licence, if you:

- are a visitor
- have a temporary visa
- have a permanent visa and have been in Australia for three months or less.

You must carry your current overseas licence with you when driving.

When driving on your overseas licence:

- it must be current (not expired, suspended or cancelled)
- you must not be disqualified from driving

If your overseas licence is not in English, you must also carry:

- an official English translation of your overseas licence, or
- a current International Driving Permit.

Overseas learner and PI/P2 drivers must obey the Tasmanian learner and PI/P2 rules such as speed restrictions, displaying L or P-plates, zero blood alcohol content, and only riding a LAMS motorcycle.

You must get a Tasmanian licence within three months of becoming a permanent resident. If you don't, you will be driving unlicensed.

To get a Tasmanian licence you will need to:

- fill in a *licence application form*
- show your current licence
- provide evidence of identity
- pass a Driver Knowledge Test
- pass an on-road driving assessment
- pay the relevant fee
- have your photo taken
- provide your signature.

International students

If you have a current overseas driver licence and hold a temporary international student visa you can drive in Tasmania on your overseas licence. The conditions in the "Visiting or moving from overseas" section must be obeyed.

Once you obtain any Tasmanian driver licence (learner, provisional or full) you can no longer drive on your overseas licence and you need to obey all the rules and conditions of the Tasmanian driver licence, you obtain.

If you wish to continue driving on your overseas licence but want some evidence of identity proof you can apply for a *Personal Information Card*. **This card will provide you an official form of photo identification and can be used to access licensed premises and for general identification.**

Visit www.service.tas.gov.au/personal_information_card

Exemptions from licence tests and assessments

There is nationally agreed recognition of licences from certain countries that have similar licensing standards to Australia.

If you hold a current car and/or motorcycle licence from one of these countries, you will not have to take a knowledge test or an on-road driving assessment.

Visit www.transport.tas.gov.au or call 1300 135 513 for a current list of recognised countries.

Overseas novice learner drivers must be accompanied by a supervisory driver who holds a current full Australian driver licence without any suspensions or disqualifications in the past two years.

Vehicle registration

Vehicles **must** be registered before they can be used on the road.

Using an unregistered vehicle is against the law and you may not be covered for personal injury insurance if you have an accident.

To check the expiry date of any vehicle go to www.transport.tas.gov.au/rego or call 1300 135 513.

How to register your vehicle

To get your vehicle registered you will need to:

- have it inspected at an Approved Inspection Station (AIS)*
- present the inspection certificate and proof of ownership at Service Tasmania*
- present evidence of identity at Service Tasmania if you have never had a vehicle or driver licence in your name in Tasmania
- complete an *application for registration form*
- select a registration period of six or 12 months
- pay the registration fees.

Service Tasmania will give you registration plates (if new ones are needed) and a registration certificate.

*Only applies to interstate vehicles changing over to Tasmanian registration, or vehicles which have been unregistered in Tasmania for three months or more.

To find out more about registering your vehicle call 1300 135 513.

How to renew your registration

About six weeks before your registration expires, you will receive a renewal form in the mail. If you don't receive this, call 1300 135 513. Alternatively, you can sign up for BPAY View to receive your renewal notices electronically.

To renew your registration you can:

- pay online www.service.tas.gov.au
- pay over the phone with your credit card 1300 366 775
- pay at any Service Tasmania shop by presenting your renewal form
- pay through your bank or credit union using BPAY
- have the payment deducted automatically from your bank account using Direct Debit.

Note: The registration expires at midnight on the expiry date. If you do not renew it within three months of expiry, you will need to have the vehicle inspected.

To check the expiry date go to www.transport.tas.gov.au/rego or call 1300 135 513.

You can renew your registration for six or 12 months.

Surrendering your registration

If your vehicle is stolen, written off or no longer safe to be driven, you may surrender its registration. To do this take the registration plates (if you have them) to any Service Tasmania shop. You may get a part refund of your registration fees.

When moving here from interstate, you must surrender your interstate registration within three months, and register your vehicle in Tasmania.

For more information call 1300 135 513.

Transferring your registration

If you sell your vehicle you must let us know that you are no longer the registered operator of the vehicle. To do this you must lodge a notice of disposal, within seven days.

You can do this:

- online at www.transport.tas.gov.au/rego
- complete the *Notice of disposal form* on the back of your registration papers. This can be lodged at Service Tasmania or posted to GPO Box 1002, Hobart 7001.

If you buy a vehicle, make sure the person you're buying it from is the registered operator.

Within 14 days you must transfer the vehicle into your name and pay duty and transfer fees.

You can do this:

- online at www.transport.tas.gov.au/rego
- complete the *Transfer of registration form* on the back of the registration certificate and lodge it at Service Tasmania.

To calculate how much you need to pay visit www.transport.tas.gov.au/rego

Registration plates

Registration plates must be clean, easily read and not hidden (for example, by towbars).

If the plates get damaged so the lettering can't be read, you must return the plates and get new ones from Service Tasmania.

Compulsory insurance

The Motor Accidents Insurance Board (MAIB) runs a combined common law/no fault accident insurance scheme for people who are injured or killed in a crash where a Tasmanian registered vehicle is involved. This insurance is part of the registration payment.

You must pay compulsory third-party personal injury insurance when you register your vehicle or renew the registration. Owners of uninsured vehicles can be liable for injury claims in the event of a crash.

This insurance only covers personal injuries arising out of a crash. If you want to insure your vehicle for property damage, you will have to arrange your own property insurance.

MAIB contacts:

- Website: www.maib.tas.gov.au
- Telephone: 03 6336 4800
- E-mail: info@maib.tas.gov.au
- Toll free: 1800 006 224.

Roadworthiness

Before you drive, you should always ensure that your vehicle is registered **and** roadworthy.

A Police officer or Transport Inspector can inspect your vehicle. If it is unroadworthy, a defect notice will be issued. The defects must be fixed within a specified time. Sometimes it can't be driven until it is fixed.

Modifications to vehicles

Modifications to vehicles can be dangerous and illegal and can affect the terms of your insurance. Before making a modification, get advice from your vehicle manufacturer or call 1300 135 513. Some modifications require special approval by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

Offences

If you do something, or allow another person to do something, contrary to a road rule or traffic law you're committing an offence.

If you commit an offence and you're caught, you may get:

- a traffic infringement notice **or**
- a summons to go to court.

If you believe that you didn't commit an offence, seek legal advice.

Traffic infringement notices

A traffic infringement notice is:

- fine issued for some traffic offences (sometimes you may get demerit points and/or be disqualified).

The infringement notice tells you where to pay the fine.

Within 28 days of getting the infringement notice, you must either:

- pay the fine **or**
- apply to the issuing authority for the withdrawal of the notice **or**
- apply for a variation of payment conditions **or**
- lodge a notice to elect a court hearing.

You will be automatically convicted of the offence when you:

- make payment **or**
- apply for a variation of payment conditions **or**
- do nothing.

If you are automatically convicted, then any demerit points for the offence will be recorded against you. If the offence was a drink driving or excessive speed infringement, the Registrar will write to tell you the starting date of your disqualification.

If you don't pay the infringement notice within the 28 days, you will be given an Enforcement Order. If you still don't pay, then the Director, Monetary Penalties Enforcement Service may take action against you which may include suspending your licence or your vehicle's registration.

If a vehicle registered in your name was caught:

- speeding (by a speed camera) **or**
- going through a red light (by a red light camera)

An infringement notice will be sent in the mail.

If you were **not** the driver, you must fill out a statutory declaration stating who was driving and give it to Service Tasmania or send it to Traffic Liaison at Tasmania Police.

If you need more time to pay the fine, call the Monetary Penalties Enforcement Service on 1300 366 766.

Fines

A fine must be paid. Fines vary for different offences. Some offences such as speeding and drink driving have larger fines.

Going to court

A summons means that a court will find you guilty or not guilty.

If a court finds you guilty it may order one or more of the following:

- you pay a fine
- you pay court costs
- you're disqualified from driving
- your licence is suspended or cancelled
- demerit points be recorded against you
- you're sentenced to jail.

Penalties

Different offences have different penalties. Visit www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/offences for a list of offences.

Demerit points

Some traffic offences are demerit point offences.

If you drive interstate and commit a demerit point offence in that state, demerit points may be recorded against you in Tasmania.

Licence suspension

This table shows the length of licence suspension depending on the number of demerit points recorded.

Driver	Number of demerit points	Period of suspension
Learner/provisional licence holder Unlicensed driver*	four in 12 months and/or 12 in three years	three months
	12 - 14 in three years	three months
	15 - 19 in three years	four months
	20 or more in three years	five months
Full licence holder	12 - 14 in three years	three months
	15 - 19 in three years	four months
	20 or more in three years	five months

*An unlicensed driver has a period of ineligibility to hold a licence, instead of a suspension period.

If your licence is suspended:

- return it to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles (GPO Box 1002, Hobart 7001) or a Service Tasmania shop
- **don't** drive until the suspension is finished.

Period of good behaviour

If your full (not a learner or provisional) licence is about to be suspended because of demerit points, you can enter into a period of good behaviour for 12 months.

During your period of good behaviour if you get more than one demerit point recorded against you, your licence will be suspended for twice the original length of the licence suspension.

Learner licences

If your L1, L2 or learner motorcycle licence is suspended or cancelled you will have to restart the minimum continuous period for which you must hold that licence.

The minimum continuous periods are:

- L1 car learner licence – three months
- L2 car learner licence – nine months
- motorcycle learner licence (novice and non-novice) – six months.

P1 and P2 licences

If your P1 licence is suspended or cancelled, or you commit a “restart offence” you’ll have to start your 12 month P1 period again. You must hold your P1 licence for a continuous period of 12 months before you can get a P2 licence.

If your P2 licence is suspended or cancelled, the time of the suspension or cancellation will be added onto your P2 period. For example, if you are suspended for three months, your P2 period will be extended by three months.

Novice Case Management

The Novice Case Management program applies to car L1, car L2, novice motorcycle learners and P1 and P2 drivers/riders.

Every client who has a period of licence loss (disqualification or suspension) will be assessed for Novice Case Management. This involves a review of your past driving history, periods of licence loss and traffic infringements and where there is a repeated pattern of unsafe driving behaviour, you may be placed on Novice Case Management.

Visit www.transport.tas.gov.au for more information.

P1 restart offences

If you commit one of the offences below during your P1 period, you’ll have to restart your P1 period again and you must hold your P1 licence for a continuous period of 12 months before you can get a P2 licence.

- Exceeding the speed limit by 10 km/h or more.
- Using a mobile phone when driving.
- Driving with alcohol in the body.
- Failure to wear a seatbelt.
- Failure to display P-plates.
- Failure to wear an approved motorcycle helmet.
- Failure to comply with the LAMS condition.

If you progress to P2 before the Registrar is notified that you committed one of these offences during your P1 period, your P2 licence will be extended for the amount of time your P1 licence was to be restarted.

If you hold a P1 licence of one class (e.g. motorcycle), and a P2 or full licence of another class (e.g. car) and you commit a P1 restart offence, your P1 period will restart regardless of which vehicle you were driving at the time of the offence.

Offence-free driving reward

If you don't offend during your P1 and P2 periods (for example, you're not issued with any speeding or drink driving fines), you can apply for the offence-free driving reward. If your application is successful, you'll be sent a cheque for the value of your provisional licence.

You can only apply for the reward once. So if you receive the reward when you complete your P1 and P2 period on your car licence you are unable to receive it again when you complete your P1 and P2 period on your motorcycle licence.

To see if you are eligible for the reward visit www.transport.tas.gov.au

Learners driving without a supervisor

If you're convicted of driving without a supervisory driver you will be disqualified from driving and your learner licence will be cancelled for three months. If you also hold another class of licence, that licence will also be cancelled for three months. You'll have to apply to the Registrar to get your licence back.

Disqualification

Disqualification means that you can't drive anywhere in Australia.

You may be disqualified because you committed an offence and:

- paid a fine for an offence that had a period of disqualification for it (eg. drink driving or excessive speed)
- were disqualified by a court order.

When you're disqualified your licence will be suspended or cancelled. You won't be able to drive until the disqualification ends.

At the end of the disqualification period:

- if your licence was cancelled you'll need to apply to get it back
- if your licence was suspended it will be given back as long as it's still current and no conditions apply
- if your P1 licence was suspended or cancelled, then you start your P1 period again (when the disqualification finishes)
- if your P2 licence was suspended or cancelled, then the period of suspension or cancellation is added to your P2 period (there's extra time on your P2 licence).

Notes

Alcohol and drugs

What is drink driving?

Drink driving means:

- you're driving while under the effects of drinking alcohol
- when you're driving or supervising a learner, your blood alcohol content (BAC) is more than the legal limit.

How does it affect your driving?

The effects on you may be:

- you're overconfident, so you take risks
- you have slower reflexes and coordination, making it harder to react
- it's difficult to think logically and your vision and hearing may be affected
- it's hard to cope with more than one thing at a time (like staying within a traffic lane and responding to signs and signals)

The effects on your driving may be:

- reduced steering control
- poor judgement (like distances and your car's speed)
- less awareness of dangers on and around the road.

The risk of causing a crash increases as your blood alcohol content rises.

Blood alcohol content (BAC)

Alcohol affects different people in different ways. It can even affect the same person at different times in different ways. You can drink the same amount of alcohol on different days and have different BAC readings each time.

Some things that lead to a higher BAC:

Factor	What will affect your BAC?
Gender	If you're male or female
Body size	If you have a large or small build
Food	If you've had nothing to eat, or a large meal
Rate of drinking	How fast you drink
Type of alcohol	Whether your drink has a high or low alcohol content
Health	Whether you're sick or healthy
Genetics	Some genetic factors (your body 'make-up') can affect your BAC
Use of drugs	Some drugs (both legal and recreational) may react with alcohol to increase your BAC

A standard drink has 10 grams of alcohol. Most bottles and cans have standard drink details on them.

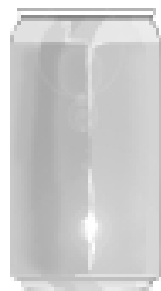
Different drinks have different amounts of alcohol. If you drink, keep track of the number of **standard** drinks you have.

- Men should have no more than two standard drinks in the first hour and one standard drink per hour after that.
- Women should have no more than one standard drink per hour.

Here are some examples of standard drinks:



10 oz glass of
full strength beer
(4.9% Alc./Vol)



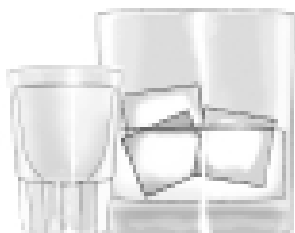
stubby/can 375 ml of
light strength beer
(2.7% Alc./Vol)



10 oz glass of
full strength cider
(5% Alc./Vol)



one small glass 100 ml of
wine/sparkling wine/champagne
(12% Alc./Vol)



one nip 30 ml of
spirits
(40% Alc./Vol)



one small glass 60 ml of
fortified wine/port
(20% Alc./Vol)

Your body takes time to get rid of alcohol. No amount of coffee, exercise, cold showers, fresh air or vomiting will help. These things may make you feel better, but they don't change your BAC.

If you have a lot to drink the night before, you're likely to still have alcohol in your blood the next morning.

Only time reduces your blood alcohol content.

How to avoid drink driving

- If you've had anything to drink, it's better not to drive.
- Plan ahead. If you're going to drink, plan how to get home before you start drinking.
- Share a taxi with friends.
- Take public transport.
- Organise with a friend to take turns driving (and not drinking).
- Stay the night at a friend's house.
- Arrange to be picked up by a relative or friend who hasn't been drinking.

Laws about drink driving

You must have a zero BAC if you're a:

- learner or provisional driver
- driver of taxis, buses, ride-share vehicles or driving instructor
- driver of heavy vehicle
- full licence holder who had an alcohol related driving conviction (in some cases)
- Mandatory Alcohol Interlock Program participant or have been granted an exemption to the program.

High-level and repeat drink-driving offenders are required to participate in the Mandatory Alcohol Interlock Program.

Visit www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/offences/interlocks for more information.

You must have a BAC below .05 if you're a:

- full licence holder
- supervisory driver.

If you're caught drink driving you'll be fined up to \$3 000 and you can be disqualified for up to three years.

Random breath tests

Police can ask you to undergo a breath test at any time. Random breath tests are conducted all the time.

You'll be asked to blow into a small device. It will tell the Police officer if there is any alcohol in your breath. If there is, you'll be asked to do another test.

Drivers admitted to hospital after a crash must allow a blood sample to be taken.

REFUSING A BREATH TEST IS AN OFFENCE.

Your licence will be cancelled and you'll be disqualified from driving for up to two years.

Illegal drugs

You can't drive when you're affected by a drug. Police have tests to find out if you're affected by drugs. If Police believe you're impaired by a drug, you'll have to take a test at a police station.

Illegal drugs such as ecstasy, marijuana (cannabis) and heroin can affect your ability to safely control your car.

Effects of drugs like speed or ecstasy include:

- you're overconfident, so you take risks
- your driving skills go down, but you feel like you're a better driver.

Effects of marijuana include:

- you're unable to respond quickly enough to what other drivers are doing
- you're not able to stop suddenly or respond to the actions of other road users
- your ability to concentrate, make decisions and to react to unexpected events is reduced.

Small amounts of cannabis and alcohol together are more harmful than either one on its own.

In an emergency situation, the risk of a crash is increased, and your ability to avoid the crash is reduced.

It is very dangerous when a drug wears off, as you're likely to experience sudden, uncontrollable sleep.

Medicines

Many prescription medicines and some medicines bought over the counter from a chemist can increase the risk of crashes because they affect your:

- mood
- concentration
- coordination
- reaction time.

Drugs don't affect everyone the same way. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you advice about how medicines can affect your driving.

Some medications affecting your driving are:

- sleeping tablets
- muscle relaxants
- sedatives
- antihistamines (such as in hay fever or cold and flu medicines)
- some painkillers.

Reducing the risk of a crash when on medication

- Check the label to see if it is a non-drowsy medicine and only drive if it is a non-drowsy formula.
- Keep to the prescribed doses.
- **Don't** use alcohol with your medicines.
- **Don't** treat yourself with additional medicines or other remedies. Always check with your doctor or chemist.
- **Don't** use other people's medicines.
- **Don't** mix medications.

Stop driving and ring your doctor or chemist if your medicine:

- affects your reflexes
- affects your ability to concentrate
- makes you sleepy or drowsy
- gives you blurred or double vision.

If you're taking medicine that affects your driving:

- plan ahead before you drive
- use alternative transport such as taxis or public transport
- ask a friend to drive you.

If you're worried about the effect of your medicine on your driving, stop your driving – not your medicine!

Seatbelts and car seats

Seatbelts

Wearing your seatbelt is the best way to reduce serious injury in a crash.

- Drivers must wear a seatbelt when moving and when stationary in traffic, unless they are reversing.
- Passengers must wear a seatbelt when moving and when stationary in traffic.

Seatbelts must be securely fastened for them to work properly. Never put more than one person in a seatbelt.

Seatbelts should be worn:

- with the buckle low on the hip
- with the sash running from the shoulder across the chest and above the stomach
- with the lap part sitting across the pelvis and hips
- fastened so that it is as firm as possible, comfortable and not twisted.

A seatbelt that was used in a severe crash must be replaced.

Child car seats

Child car seats must suit your child's age and size.



Birth, up to six months

Rear facing car seat

Children from birth to six months old must be in a rear facing car seat with an inbuilt harness. Keep your child in the rear facing car seat as long as they fit comfortably.



Six months, up to seven years

Forward facing car seat

Once your child outgrows the rear facing car seat they can move to a forward facing car seat with an inbuilt harness.

When your child is four years or older, or is too big to fit comfortably in a forward facing car seat, they can move to a booster seat with a properly fitted seatbelt or harness.



Four years, up to 12 years

Booster seat

Once your child is too big to fit comfortably in the forward facing car seat they can move to a booster seat with a properly fitted seatbelt or harness.

Booster seats with a high back and side support provide the best protection in a crash.



From seven years

Seat belt

Children over seven years should continue to use a booster seat as long as they fit comfortably before moving into a seat belt.

For more information and the "5 Step Test" to check if your child is ready to move from a booster to a seat belt visit www.transport.tas.gov.au/roadsafety/people/carseats

Fatigue

Driver fatigue, or tiredness, contributes to many deaths and injuries on our roads each year. Fatigue can affect anyone – it doesn't matter how old you are.

Driver fatigue can be just as deadly as drink driving or speeding.

Causes of fatigue

The main cause of driver fatigue is lack of quality sleep. Other causes include:

- working long hours
- driving for long periods without a break
- heavy study, work and late night socialising
- physically or mentally exerting yourself
- tedious driving conditions, such as long journeys that are familiar to you
- drinking alcohol and/or using other drugs
- driving when you would normally be asleep
- taking some medications.

Sleep-wake cycles

You have a built-in sleep-wake cycle. During a 24-hour period there are two times when your level of sleepiness is high:

- during the night and early morning
- in the afternoon.

At these times your alertness, performance and mood may be affected.

When you don't get enough sleep you get a "sleep debt". This is the difference between the normal amount of sleep you need, and the actual amount of sleep you've had.

Even two hours' sleep loss in one night can affect your:

- reaction times
- cognitive thinking process
- memory
- mood
- alertness.

Signs of fatigue

Fatigue develops slowly and often you don't realise that you're too tired to drive safely. Signs that you may have fatigue can be:

- loss of concentration
- drowsiness
- yawning
- slow reactions
- sore, heavy or tired eyes
- boredom
- feeling irritable and restless
- not noticing road signs
- making fewer and larger steering corrections

- having difficulty staying in the lane
- making poor gear changes
- your driving speed creeps up or down
- hearing droning or humming in your ears
- not remembering the last few kilometres
- small periods when your eyes shut without you knowing it.

How does it affect your driving?

Fatigue affects your driving by:

- **slowing down your reaction times** – you can't scan the road or process information properly, which reduces your ability to react if something unexpected happens
- **reducing your alertness** – you can't safely perform driving tasks or respond to your driving environment
- **decreasing your concentration** – processing information takes longer, your short-term memory decreases and you may miss road signs.

If you haven't slept for 24 hours, you have the same crash risk as a driver with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .10 (twice the legal limit).

Avoiding fatigue

To avoid fatigue

Do:

- get enough sleep, especially before a long journey
- take regular 10 minute breaks on a long trip
- take a powernap of at least 10 minutes if you get tired
- share the driving over long distances
- plan to stay overnight
- check medications to make sure they don't make you drowsy.



Don't:

- drive when you're more likely to feel sleepy, especially the early morning (1:00 am to 6:00 am) and afternoon (3:00 pm to 4:00 pm)
- start a long trip after a long period of work
- drink and drive
- eat a large meal before starting a long trip (it can lead to drowsiness).



Rest Stops

Operate over Christmas, Easter and on most public holidays throughout Tasmania. They provide a safe place where drivers can stop for a rest break and enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Things that won't help fatigue:

- winding down the window
- playing loud music
- singing loudly
- drinking coffee or taking drugs.

Once fatigue has set in nothing can improve your concentration. The only thing you can do is stop and take a complete break from driving. **Sleep is the only answer.**

Speed and stopping distance

Speeding means:

- going faster than the speed limit
- going too fast for the road, weather or traffic conditions.

People sometimes think that driving just a bit over the speed limit isn't dangerous, but there is no such thing as "safe" speeding. Going even a few kilometres over the speed limit increases your risk of a crash – and if you do crash, the injuries are more serious.

Speeding is dangerous because:

- the faster you drive, the more time and space you need to stop
- increasing speed also increases the severity of crashes
- driving too fast around a corner can affect a car's stability.

Safe speeds for different needs

Speed limit signs tell you the **maximum** speed. It's not always safe to do the speed limit.

When you need to slow down	
Amount of traffic	If there's lots of traffic, go slower so you can look out and react if other vehicles stop or slow down suddenly.
Hazards	If you're in a busy shopping area or near a school, go slower so you can look out for hazards on and around the road (like pedestrians or cars pulling out suddenly).
Weather conditions	If there's poor visibility because of heavy rain, fog or sleet, go slower as you can't see as far ahead.
Road conditions	If the road is wet, icy, slippery, gravel or there are pot holes, go slower so that your stopping distance will be less.
Time of day	At night, twilight or dawn, go slower. Also go slower if it's bright or glary.
Traffic infrastructure	If you're going towards an intersection, traffic lights or a pedestrian crossing, go slower so that you can stop if necessary.
Animals	Animals on or near the road can wander on to the road or suddenly change direction. At night, animals can be blinded by your headlights. Don't swerve violently, but do try to slow down and avoid the animal.

Stopping distances

When you double your speed, you take almost four times the distance to stop.

It takes longer to stop when:

- you're feeling tired, upset, worried, not alert or not well
- the road is wet, unsealed or in bad condition
- you're travelling downhill and your brakes or tyres aren't in good condition
- driving a car with a heavy load, a heavy vehicle or towing a caravan.

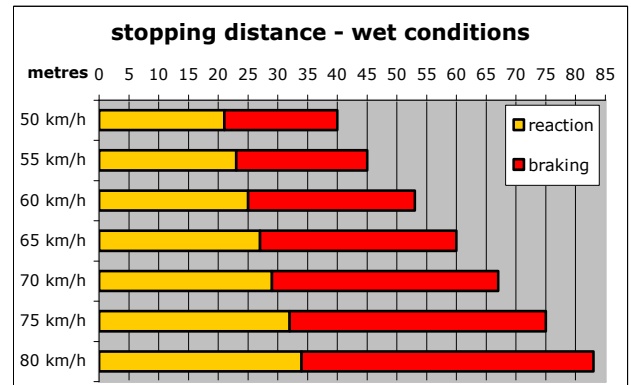
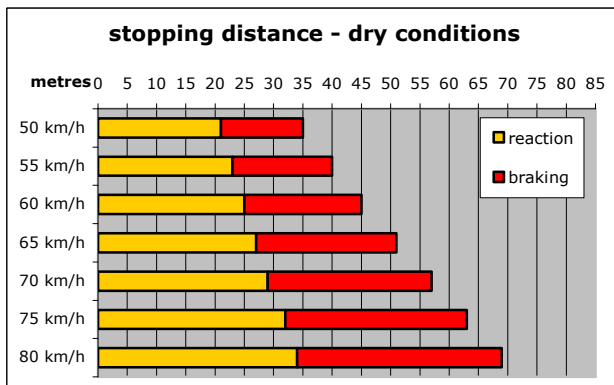
Learners need to get lots of driving experience in different road and weather conditions.

How quickly can you stop?

The faster you go:

- the higher your risk of being involved in a crash
- the less response time you have
- the longer it takes to stop.

These tables show approximately how many metres a car takes to make an emergency stop.



Try to prevent speeding by:

- planning your journey so that you leave time for traffic delays
- planning your journey so that you leave time for breaks
- not feeling pressured to arrive on time
- remaining calm when being caught behind slow moving vehicles, and waiting until an overtaking lane or "slow vehicle" lane is available.

Following distance

To safely respond to hazards in good weather conditions, leave a two-second gap between your vehicle and the vehicle in front when travelling at lower speeds (for example, 60 km/h).

In higher speeds (for example, 80 km/h or more), bad road or weather conditions, leave a three to four-second gap.

To work out the two-second gap:

Step 1

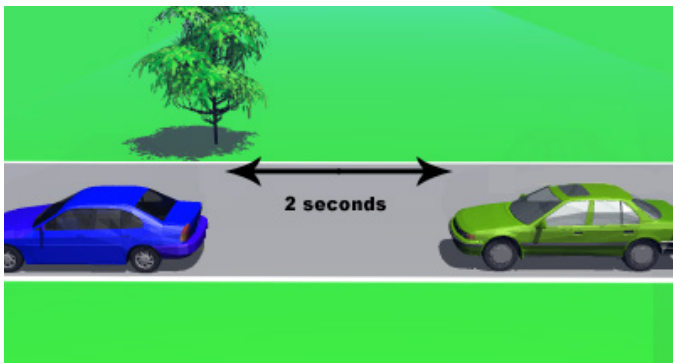
- As the vehicle in front passes an object on the side of the road start counting “one thousand and one, one thousand and two”.

Step 2

- If you reach the object before you finish counting, you're following too close. Gently slow down until your gap is increased.

Step 3

- If another driver cuts in front of you, slow down to keep a safe following distance.



Inattention and distraction

The consequences of distraction when driving can be very serious. The risk is greatly increased when travelling at higher speeds.

The major sources of distraction include:

- using a mobile phone to call, text, browse internet or check social media
- adjusting radio / CD / DVD / music player
- adjusting climate controls
- eating or drinking
- personal grooming
- passenger / children distraction.

Driver distraction can cause a driver to:

- exceed lanes
- vary speed
- impair judgement of safe gaps in traffic
- slow reaction times
- impair traffic awareness.

Remember:

- be ready to drive before starting the journey by turning off your mobile phone and limiting other distractions by spending a few minutes getting organised before travelling
- concentrate when you're driving
- don't take risks. Stop and take care of something that will distract you from the major task of driving
- pull off the road to take calls if it is safe to do so
- we are all busy and often try to do many things at once. Combining driving with any other activity can be fatal.

Sharing the road

Sharing the road means recognising that there are other road users on and around the road. You must be aware of other road users and their rights and obligations.

Ways to help share the road

Pedestrians

(People walking, in wheelchairs, on skateboards, rollerblades, scooters or other wheeled toys)

- Give way to them when turning into a road or an area like a carpark or driveway.
- Give way to them when they're crossing the road - don't drive past them until they're on the footpath.
- Don't drive too close to them or too fast past them if they're near the road.

Motorcycles

- Keep in mind that:
 - they can increase speed quickly
 - they can be difficult to see (being about one third the size of a car)
 - the rider has to use two sets of brakes (front and back) to stop
 - they can be difficult to keep upright in motion.
- Increase your following distance when behind a motorcycle.
- When you're turning left, take care not to cut motorcycles off.
- When you're turning right, look out for oncoming motorcycles.
- Most crashes between cars and motorcycles occur at intersections – so look carefully.
- Take care when overtaking motorcycles, make sure there is enough time and space to overtake them without cutting them off.
- When a motorcycle is behind you, use your car mirrors often and avoid stopping suddenly.
- Be aware that it is legal for a motorcycle rider to pass between you and another vehicle when traffic has become stationary or is slow-moving - this is known as lane filtering.
- It is important to not make sudden changes in direction or speed when motorcyclists are lane filtering around you.
- If a motorcyclist lane filters in front of you at an intersection, proceed through the intersection as normal behind the motorcycle. Don't attempt to overtake the motorcycle as this could cause a hazard, especially in heavy traffic.

Bicycles

- If you're at an intersection you must give way to a bicycle in the same way you would for a car.
- Be aware that cyclists can legally ride across pedestrian crossings - drivers must give way to cyclists and pedestrians on or entering a pedestrian crossing, marked foot crossing or children's crossing.
- When overtaking a cyclist allow at least 1 metre between your vehicle and the cyclist when in a speed zone that is 60 km/h or less; and allow 1.5 metres in speed zones higher than 60 km/h.

- To make overtaking a cyclist safer, driver can:
 - straddle centre lines
 - cross centre lines
 - driving on a dividing strip that is the same level as the road
 - drive in or over continuous lines around a painted island, but only when they have a clear view of oncoming traffic and can pass safely.
- Don't turn in front of cyclists travelling on the shoulder of the road.
- Don't use your car horn as this can startle cyclists.

Trucks

- Don't overtake a turning truck.
- Remember that a truck driver's rear and side views can be poor, with large blind spots.
- Increase your following distance when behind a large truck so that you can see the truck's side mirrors (if you can't see the mirrors, the truck driver can't see you).
- Before overtaking a truck, make sure there is enough time and space so you can overtake them without cutting them off.

Over-width vehicles

(for example, road construction vehicles and some farm machinery)

- They will try to pull over where possible to let traffic pass, so be patient.
- These vehicles travel slowly, so be patient when overtaking.
- If overtaking a vehicle with one or more escort vehicles (like a patrol vehicle), obey the escort driver's instructions.
- Sometimes these vehicles may be very wide, so use caution before overtaking them.
- If one of these vehicles is coming towards you, obey the instructions of escort vehicle drivers (you may have to slow down, move to the left side of the road or stop).

Trains

- Remember that trains can take up to 2 kms to stop.
- When at a level crossing:
 - before the crossing - stop, look and listen, don't just rely on lights or warning bells
 - obey any lights, signs or signals
 - never assume that no train is coming
 - never stop on the railway lines.

Tips for motorcycle riders

- Look out for drivers who aren't looking.
- Be prepared to take evasive action at intersections.
- Ride to be seen, not in blind spots.
- Use your headlights at all times.
- Wear bright coloured clothing.

Tips for pedestrians

When crossing at a pedestrian crossing with lights:

- the red person means don't walk, pedestrians must not cross and must wait
- the green person means pedestrians can cross with care
- the flashing red person means pedestrians must not start to cross, but may finish crossing the road.

Handling emergencies

Crash responsibilities

If you're in a crash causing property damage, injury or death, you must:

- stop immediately and stay at the scene of the crash (unless you need to get medical help)
- give assistance to any injured person.

You should also:

- switch off the ignition of crashed vehicles to help prevent the risk of fire
- turn on hazard lights
- use hazard warning triangles, if available, to warn other traffic.

If you're in any crash as a driver, you must give details within 24 hours to:

- any other driver involved in the crash
- anyone else involved in the crash who is injured
- the owner of any property damaged in the crash.

You must also give details to a Police officer within 24 hours if:

- anyone is injured or killed in the crash
- a vehicle involved in the crash has to be towed away.

Details are:

- the driver's name and address (or the owner of the vehicle if different from the driver)
- the vehicle's registration number
- any other information to identify the vehicle.

Breakdowns

When driving, approach a broken down vehicle with caution. Don't let the crash or breakdown distract you, and look out for pedestrians. If your vehicle breaks down, move as far left as possible away from traffic.

If you break down in the way of traffic:

- turn on your hazard lights
- move all passengers out of the vehicle and to the side of the road
- don't stand on the traffic side of your vehicle
- you can place a hazard warning triangle to alert traffic (if one is available):
- in built-up areas place the triangle 50 metres away
- outside built-up areas place the triangle up to 150 metres away.



Breakdown warning triangle

Emergency situations

Here are some emergency situations that you might find yourself in. It's important to be as prepared as possible for anything that can happen on the road.

Situation	What to do
Wet and slippery roads	Tasmania experiences many extremes in weather, such as heavy rain, snow, ice and frost. When roads are wet and slippery, it takes longer to bring your car to a complete stop. Also remember that your car will skid more easily in the wet, and be more difficult to control. • Drive at a speed that allows you to control the car properly on the wet roads. • At least double your following distance, to allow enough room to stop if necessary.
Footbrake failure	If your footbrake fails, gently apply the handbrake. Select a lower gear (if possible) and use your horn and headlights to warn other drivers.
Tyre blowout	Modern wheel rims are designed to hold the tyre. If you have a blowout, brake gently and bring the vehicle to a stop.

People in road safety

Transport Inspectors

Transport Inspectors make our roads safer by enforcing the road rules and traffic law. They do this by:

- ensuring that all road users (including drivers) obey the rules and law
- inspecting any vehicles that are on the road to make sure they are registered and safe to be driven

When driving you may come across Transport Inspectors at work.

They may be:

- doing random vehicle inspections
- escorting large vehicles (like vehicles carrying mobile homes)
- weighing and measuring heavy vehicles.

When driving, Transport Inspectors in their vehicle may tell you to stop by flashing their red and blue lights. When this happens you must slow down and pull over when it's safe to do so.

If a Transport Inspector stops you, if asked you must:

- give your name and address
- produce any documents that you must carry
- help them to inspect your vehicle.

How safe is your car?

Safety is the most important feature a car can have. Buying the safest car you can afford could save your life.

Not all cars are equal when it comes to safety. The Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) tests cars in crash situations and gives them star ratings from one to five. The more stars, the higher the safety rating and the lower the chance of you or your passengers being seriously injured or killed in a crash.

Five stars is absolutely tops in terms of safety but if you can't achieve that, aim to buy a car with a minimum four star safety rating.

Side curtain airbags and Electronic Stability Control (ESC) are the most important optional safety features a car can have.

You don't have to buy a new car to have a safe car. There are safe cars available in the used car market.

The Used Car Safety Rating (UCSR) program provides used cars with safety ratings from one to five based on crash data from around Australia and New Zealand.

Knowing that there are safe, cheap cars available in the used car market is most important for young drivers where the need to balance price and safety is critical. Young drivers are significantly over-represented in crashes, yet they tend to drive the least safe cars.

Research shows that if all young drivers in Australia drove the safest car they could afford, more than 500 young people would avoid being killed or seriously injured every year.

Once you have your car, maintain it regularly to keep it safe. Check that all features such as tyres, headlights and tail lights are working and in good condition and replace them when needed.

For more information visit:

- www.transport.tas.gov.au/roadsafety/vehicles/crashworthiness
- To find out the safety rating of your car go to www.ancap.com.au or www.howsafeisyourcar.com.au

How to buy a safe car

The checklist below will help you to choose a safe car.

Safety check list:

- What is the safety rating of the car?

To help avoid a crash:

- Anti-lock brakes (ABS)
- Electronic Stability Control (ESC)
- Active Cruise Control
- automatic daytime running lights
- the car is white or another bright colour.

To help protect you:

- lap/sash seatbelts that automatically adjust
- front airbags
- curtain airbags
- side airbags
- adjustable head rests
- crumple zones
- cargo barrier
- room to safely fit child restraints if needed. For more information visit www.transport.tas.gov.au/safety/child_restraints

To help the driver:

- driver's seat adjusts for height and position
- easy to reach and easy to use controls
- a clear view outside from the driver's seat
- electric adjustable mirrors
- power steering.

Maintaining your car

All car owners should:

- regularly check your car's roadworthiness
- ensure all features are in good working condition and that the car is safe to drive on the road
- have an experienced motor mechanic service your car. Regular checks do not replace scheduled professional car services.
- get a mechanic to check your car immediately if you experience any mechanical problems. Do not wait until your next scheduled service.

Here's a list of 10 things you should regularly check:

Tyres

- Check inflation.
- Not worn or damaged.
- Minimum tread 1.5mm deep across entire tyre surface.

Oil

- Oil is at recommended level.
- Use correct oil grade.

Windscreen and glazing

- Windscreen is clear, clean and undamaged.
- Windscreen wipers are in good order.
- Windscreen washer bottle is full.

Seatbelts and child car seats

- Seatbelts are in good order and properly attached.
- Children under seven have an approved child car seat fitted.

Lights and electrical components

- Check head lights, tail lights, brake lights and warning lights are working and are correctly aligned.
- Check other electrical components such as the horn and window demisters.

Brakes

- Check brakes performance and condition, squealing brakes or unusual vibrations may be signs your brakes need replacing.

Mirrors

- Position all mirrors so the driver can see clearly.
- Make sure mirrors are undamaged and secured properly.

Suspension

- Check for any abnormalities which may include steering wheel vibration and nose diving when stopping.

Power steering

- Check the fluid level.

Know the vehicle and emergency equipment

- Make sure you are familiar with the vehicle features so you don't get distracted.
- Keep up to date emergency equipment.

Eco-driving

Buying a more fuel efficient car can save you thousands of dollars in petrol and many tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over the car's life.

A green car is one that produces low greenhouse gas emissions (carbon dioxide) and low air pollution.

The Green Vehicle Guide provides information that will help you compare the level of emissions of different vehicles and consequently their impact on the environment. For more information on what cars are environmentally friendly, please visit www.greenvehicleguide.gov.au

Your driving habits and the conditions under which you drive will also affect your car's environmental performance.

Follow these tips for greener driving:

- don't speed – fuel consumption increases significantly over about 90 km/h
- at 110 km/h your car uses up to 25% more fuel than it would cruising at 90 km/h
- try to minimise your trips – cars are least fuel efficient and most polluting at the start of trips and on short trips
- drive using higher gears whenever possible
- minimise fuel wasted in idling by stopping the engine whenever your car is stopped or held up for an extended period of time
- drive smoothly and avoid unnecessary acceleration and braking
- minimise aerodynamic drag – avoid connecting additional parts exterior to the car such as roof racks, bike racks or spoilers
- use air-conditioning sparingly, however, at speeds of over 80 km/h, use of air conditioning is better for fuel consumption than an open window due to drag
- look after your tyres
- try to travel lightly, as the more weight a vehicle carries the more fuel it uses
- keep your vehicle well-tuned and regularly maintained.

Contact details

Government Contact Centre

1300 135 513 or www.service.tas.gov.au

External service providers

www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/getting-a-licence/motorcycle_courses/external_service_providers

Authorised Driving Instructors

www.transport.tas.gov.au/licensing/getting-a-licence/assessments/authorised_driving_instructors

Notes



Department of State Growth

GPO Box 1002

Hobart TAS 7001 Australia

Phone: 1300 135 513

Email: info@stategrowth.tas.gov.au

Web: www.stategrowth.tas.gov.au

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