

ROAD SAFETY REMINDERS

Rules & Driving Tips

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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- Road Transport Association
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DISCLAIMER

Information in this booklet has been obtained from the New Zealand Road Code and the NZTA website www.nzta.govt.nz.

Roadsafe Taranaki has endeavoured to ensure the material in this booklet is technically accurate and reflects legal requirements at the date of publication. Please note the information in this booklet does not override governing legislation and Roadsafe Taranaki does not accept liability for any consequences arising from the use of this booklet.

If you are unsure whether the content is correct please refer to the latest Road Code or contact the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

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THE DRIVER

The driver is responsible for his or her actions while driving on the road, in spite of the actions of other drivers.

Driving on our roads today involves facing many hazards and an increasing amount of traffic. Motorists need to be more aware, concentrate on their driving and know what is going on around them while they drive.

Be aware of the dangers of alcohol and drugs and the effect they can have on you and your driving ability.

Ensure other motorists are shown in plenty of time what you intend to do by: using indicators; driving in the correct lane, obeying traffic lights at intersections, understanding road signs, and showing patience and courtesy to other road users.

These safety requirements are necessary to ensure your driving is safe and enjoyable, not only for yourself but for all road users.

SEAT BELTS

Every person travelling in a car must wear a seatbelt or be in a correctly fitted child restraint. Any person under the age of 15 years within the vehicle is the driver's responsibility.

One unrestrained person could cause injuries or fatalities to other people in the vehicle in the event of a crash.

When not in use, why not connect the rear seat belts to give added support to the rear seat. This will stop heavy objects moving into the passenger compartment from the boot in the event of a crash.

Remember – Wearing a seatbelt is the single most important thing you can do to reduce the amount of damage to your body in a road crash.

VISION

Many people experience a decline in vision over time and affected areas may include the ability to see fine detail.

Peripheral What you see from the corner of your eyes.

Depth perception The ability to judge distance accurately.

Night vision How well your eyes adjust to low light and glare.

Neck stiffness Can make turning your head more difficult and this makes it harder to see what's around you.

Have your eyes tested regularly, especially if you experience sight problems.

HEARING

It's common to lose some hearing over time so get medical advice as many hearing problems can be corrected.

Wear a hearing aid if you have to and keep your car radio turned down. This will assist you.

CLASSES OF DRIVER LICENCE

To drive a car you need a Class 1 licence, but there are actually six classes of licence in New Zealand.

Each class covers different types and weights of vehicle. That's because the skills you need to drive a car are different from the skills you need to drive a heavy vehicle or motorcycle.

You can apply for a Class 6 (motorcycle) licence or a Class 1 (car) licence without holding any other class of licence. But if you want a class 2, 3, 4 or 5 licence, you will need to get a full Class 1 licence first.

RENEWING YOUR LICENCE FROM AGE 75

Because the effects of ageing can sometimes affect a person's ability to drive, there are special licence renewal conditions for older drivers.

- You need to renew your licence at ages 75 and 80 and then every two years after that.
- Before your driver licence expires, the NZTA will send you an **Application for Renewal of Driver Licence form**. You'll also receive a brochure that will tell you everything you need to know to get your licence renewed.
- You'll need to book an appointment with your doctor to get a **medical certificate for a driver licence**. During your appointment, your doctor will discuss your present state of health with you and test your eyesight.
- They will recommend whether you are:
 - medically fit to drive
 - medically fit to drive with conditions (such as corrective lenses, time-of-day restriction, distance restriction).
 - medically fit to drive but referred for an on-road safety test.
 - to be referred to a specialist (such as an optometrist or occupational therapist driving assessor) for further assessment – your doctor will advise you of the results.
 - not medically fit to drive.

If your doctor decides you are medically fit to drive, he or she will give you a **medical certificate for a driver licence**. You will then need to renew your licence at a driver licensing agent.

Remember – the medical and eye sight certificate issued by your doctor must be less than 60 days old when you present it to renew your driver's licence.

CELL PHONES

While you are driving, you must not create, send, or read a text message on a mobile phone or use a hand-held mobile phone to make or receive a phone call. This includes accessing online services in any way.

Great Habit

Turn your phone off while driving or utilise your provider's services, such as Vodafone's 'Drive Safe' if your phone has this capability.

LEGAL ALCOHOL LIMITS FOR DRIVING

The law says you must not drive if the amount of alcohol in your blood or breath exceeds certain age-related limits. These limits are shown below.

Under 20

There is a zero alcohol limit if you are under 20. That means if you drive after consuming even one drink you can be charged with drink driving.

20 or over

You must not drive if you have consumed more than the legal alcohol limit, which is 250 micrograms per litre of breath or 50 milligrams per 100 millilitres of blood.

It is difficult to say how many alcoholic drinks you can have before you reach these limits. Because of this, and because even small amounts of alcohol can affect your driving, the best advice is: if you drink at all, don't drive.

If you've been drinking, call a taxi, take a bus or get someone who hasn't been drinking, such as a friend or 'dial-a-driver', to drive you home.

Important – Plan how you will get home before you go out.

DRIVER FATIGUE

Driver fatigue is a killer. Each year, drivers whose concentration, judgement and reaction times are clouded by tiredness, are killed on New Zealand roads. Before starting a long trip, get plenty of sleep, avoid alcohol, don't take medications that could make you sleepy, eat a good meal, and plan your rest breaks. Avoid late night parties and tiring activities.

When you feel tired, even if it's not a long trip, pull over and take a break. You are the best judge of your limits and you have a responsibility for your life and for the lives of others on the road.

Reduce fatigue on long trips by not fixating or staring at one area for long periods of time. Frequent head and eye movement will help and give you a better overview of the driving environment.

STOP if your driving is being affected by any of these danger signs:

- Feeling tired
- Lack of alertness
- Fuzzy or dim vision
- Inability to keep your eyes open
- Unintentional changes in speed
- Fumbling whilst changing gears
- Aches and pains
- Stiffness and cramps
- Daydreaming
- Droning or humming in ears
- Delayed reactions
- Seeing things
- Wandering steering.

Safety hint – How well you feel shows in how safely you drive.
Your body is the best judge. Don't stretch yourself to the limit.

YOUR VEHICLE

Look after your vehicle by having it regularly serviced.

- When you wash your vehicle, spend a little time checking all the lights. Don't forget to clean behind the plastic headlight covers.
- Keep all your windows clean and windscreen washer bottle full.
- Keep your tyres at the correct pressure. Don't forget your spare tyre.
- Have your tyre tread checked by a garage. They will tell you how worn they are and when you need to replace them.
- Check your windscreen wiper rubbers for damage or wear.
 - Leaving your vehicle outside frequently can result in the sun hardening the rubber blades. This can cause scratches and streaks on your windscreen.
 - It is a good idea to replace them every 12 months.
 - Stone chips on windscreens can also damage the rubber blades. Have stone chips repaired as soon as possible.

Make sure your warrant of fitness is up to date.

Have a trusted friend drive your vehicle occasionally to make sure it drives and feels alright. Because you drive it all the time you may be compensating for a fault that has developed over time.

SPACE-SAVER WHEELS

Some cars have a space-saver spare wheel. Space-saver wheels are much smaller than the vehicle's other wheels so they take up less storage room.

- Space-saver wheels are for emergency use only and are not designed to be used over long distances.
- If you get a flat tyre and replace a wheel with a space-saver wheel, you should only use it to get directly home or to a place where the flat tyre can be repaired or replaced.
- Don't drive faster than 80km/h. If the space-saver wheel has a sticker showing a lower speed, then that speed applies.

LOADING YOUR TRAILER SAFELY

To ensure the stability of the vehicle and trailer combination when towing, the trailer should exert a downwards force on the towing vehicle's towbar equal to about 10 percent of the weight of the trailer plus its load.

The load on the trailer must not:

- extend more than 4 metres behind the rear axle
- extend more than 1.25 metres on either side from the centre of the trailer.

If the load extends more than 1 metre behind the trailer, you must tie on a white flag, or a red, orange or yellow fluorescent flag. The flag must be at least 40 centimetres by 30 centimetres in size. The load must be tied on firmly and must not touch the ground.

DRIVING

CAR STOP LIGHTS

When you operate the brake pedal, the stop lights tell other road users behind you "I am going to slow down, or stop".



Important – If possible pump your brakes gently before stopping. This will give an early warning to other drivers. Keep your foot on the brake pedal when stopped so your stop lights warn other drivers.



This hand signal can be used if your stop lights cannot be seen.

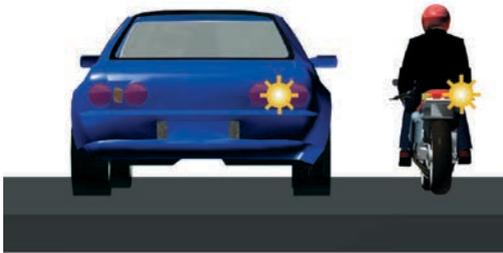
CAR INDICATORS OR BLINKERS

They must be used (or hand signals) for at least 3 seconds before you-

- Turn right or left, or move towards the right or left.
- Stop or slow down.
- Move out from a parking place.
- Move out to pass, or move to change lanes.

Signals should be made in time to tell other road users what you are going to do
Get into the habit of indicating every time you change direction.

Right turn



This signal means

- I am going to turn right.
- I am going to move out from a parking place.
- I am going to move over to the right.
- I am going to move right to overtake.



This hand signal can be used if your indicator light cannot be seen.

Turning left

This signal means

- I am going to turn left, or move towards the left.
- I am going to move out of a parking place on a one-way street.
- I am moving back to the left lane after overtaking.



KEEPING LEFT

Keep close to the left, particularly on bends, you never know what is around the corner.



Don't pass any vehicle when you are coming to a blind corner or curve (A blind corner or curve is where you can't see what's around the corner).



TRAFFIC SIGNS

Traffic signs are an important part of the roading system because they aid the safe and orderly movement of traffic. New Zealand has adopted the international symbolic road sign system, making them easier for road users to understand.

The signs on our roads can be divided into three types;

- Compulsory signs

Regulatory instructions which road users are required to obey (you must or must not do). Usually either red or blue.



- Warning signs

Warnings of temporary or permanent hazards;

- Information signs

Information that is of general interest to road users such as directions, distances, services or tourist features.

ROAD MARKINGS

The solid white line on the left is a weather line that can assist the driver to see the edge of the roadway in adverse weather.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS



Red Light

Means: Stop.



Red arrow

Means: Stop. Do not turn in the direction of the arrow.



Yellow Light

Means: Do not continue unless you cannot stop safely.



Yellow Arrow

Means: Do not turn in the direction of the arrow unless you cannot stop safely.



Green Light

Means: You may proceed if it is safe.



Green Arrow

Means: You may proceed in the direction of the arrow provided you are in the correct lane and the road is clear. You must give way to pedestrians crossing on a crossing light.



Flashing Yellow Light

Means: The traffic signals are not working. In this case you must apply the give way rules for uncontrolled intersections.

Remember – no traffic signal controls a car; only a driver can do that. Give yourself time to react to the signals – slow down.

RAILWAY LEVEL CROSSINGS



Because not all level crossings are controlled by lights, bells or barrier arms, special care is needed when approaching and proceeding across railway lines.



You must stop your vehicle clear of the railway tracks if

- You can see a train coming and there is a danger of collision.
- The twin flashing lights or the warning bells are operating.
- The barrier arm is down or being closed.
- There is a stop sign at the crossing.
- A railway employee or police officer asks you to stop.

You may proceed across the crossing when

- The way is clear and no railway traffic is approaching.
- The flashing lights and bells have stopped.
- The barrier arm is completely open and up.
- Directed by a railway employee or police officer.

Remember – Do not attempt to cross a level crossing if the road beyond is blocked with traffic and you cannot stop clear of the railway tracks.

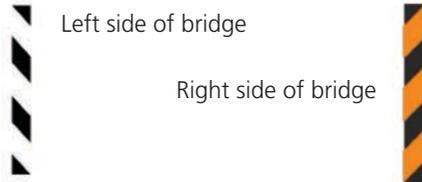
Special care is needed when crossing railway tracks that have no safety signs or bells. Make sure the way is clear before crossing the tracks and remember trains run at all hours.

Some vehicles (such as buses and vehicles carrying dangerous goods) are legally required to come to a stop before crossing, even when there are no lights flashing or bells ringing.

If you stall a manual car on a railway crossing (and you can not push the car off the tracks), leave the vehicle in gear while attempting to start and the car may jump forward off the tracks. If a train is approaching, GET OUT, and move clear of the car and crossing.

REFLECTORS AND MARKER POSTS

Many roads have reflectors (cat's eyes) and guide posts to help you follow the road, to show you which way the road turns, and how wide the road is.



ONE WAY BRIDGES

Some roads in New Zealand have one-lane bridges on them. At these bridges, vehicles travelling in one direction have to give way to vehicles going in the other direction.



First warning sign
You must give way to other vehicles.

Second warning sign
You must give way to other vehicles.

This sign indicates others should give way to you.

Important – slow down and check the way is clear before driving onto the bridge, even if you have right of way.

SAFE FOLLOWING DISTANCES

It is very important to make sure you have a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front, so you will have enough time to stop if you need to stop suddenly. A good way to make sure you always keep a safe following distance is to use the two-second rule or the four-second rule, which are explained below.

The '2 second rule' in ideal conditions

Watch the vehicle in front of you pass a point beside the road, for example, a signpost or power pole.

Then count normally - "one thousand and one, one thousand and two". This takes about 2 seconds.

If you pass the same point before you finish saying those eight words, you are following too close. Try again.



Remember – only a fool breaks the '2 second rule'.

The '4 second rule' in poor conditions

In bad weather, when the road is wet or slippery or when you are towing a trailer, you need to increase your following distance to four seconds, because you'll take longer to stop if you need to. You should also increase your following distance if the vehicle behind you is very close. This will reduce the chances of your having to stop suddenly and the risk of a rear end collision.

Important - When you're following another vehicle and you don't intend to overtake them, you must leave enough space in front of your vehicle for vehicles behind to pass you.

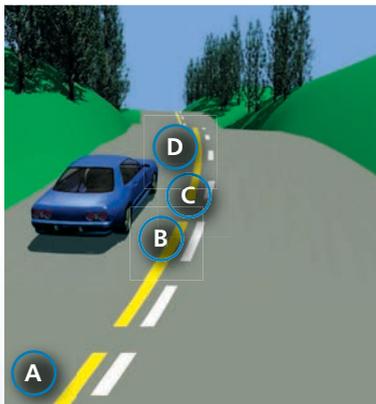
OVERTAKING OR PASSING

No-passing lines

No-passing lines are used when it is not safe to overtake another vehicle. This applies to the lane the solid yellow line is located in.

Motorists are warned of no-passing lines ahead by broken yellow lines before the solid yellow line in the centre of the road.

- Rural highways have five broken yellow lines before the solid yellow line.
- Urban roads have three broken yellow lines before the solid yellow line.
- As shown in the picture;
 - You may come back over the dashed yellow line between A and B to finish passing.
 - You must not cross the solid yellow line between C and D.



Remember – even when there are no yellow lines it may not be safe to overtake. The driver must ensure there is sufficient distance and visibility, and that the road ahead is clear.

SPEED

Vehicle speed is an important factor in road safety. You must obey all speed regulations and be ready to adjust your speed quickly if necessary. You can drive at any speed you like under the limit but you must be careful that:

- Your vehicle is in a safe condition
- You can drive safely
- You do not slow down other traffic.
- Your speed is safe for the traffic conditions – e.g., a busy road, pedestrians, joggers, etc.
- Your speed is safe for the road conditions – e.g., bumpy, narrow, wet or icy roads.
- Your speed is safe for the weather conditions – e.g., rain, wind or fog.

SPEED AROUND SCHOOLS

- Always slow down and watch for pedestrians around schools.
- You must obey any special speed limit signs around schools.
- When passing or coming towards a marked school bus that has stopped to pick up or drop off children the speed limit is **20km per hour**.

Remember – Small children cannot be seen behind or between parked vehicles – be prepared to stop quickly.

BRAKING

Braking capacity depends on the type and condition of the road surface, the tyres, the brakes and other factors. The average reaction time to brake under normal conditions is 0.75 of a second.

Stopping distance combines driver reaction distance plus braking distance. This distance increases when the road surface has loose metal on it, when you are travelling downhill, or when it is wet, muddy or slippery.

Stopping distance at 50 kph			
Road surface	Driver reaction	Braking	Total distance
Dry	10m	15m	25m
Wet	10m	30m	45m
Stopping distance at 80 kph			
Road surface	Driver reaction	Braking	Total distance
Dry	20m	40m	60m
Wet	20m	80m	100m

ANTILOCK BRAKES (ABS)

Antilock brake systems are designed to prevent a vehicle's wheels from locking to give drivers better control and to reduce stopping distances during emergency braking on slippery roads.

When the antilock brakes engage, the brake pedal vibrates as the system works by pumping the brakes faster than humanly possible.

Owners of vehicles fitted with antilock brakes should never pump the brakes in an emergency as this action works against the antilock braking system.

If you don't have ABS brakes, don't brake too hard when it is wet as you may go into a dangerous skid. Instead, pump the brakes gently.

ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL (ESC) AND TRACTION CONTROL (TCS)

Electronic Stability Control and Traction Control are computerised technology that improves the safety of a vehicle by detecting and minimising skids. When ESC or TCS systems detect loss of steering control, they automatically apply the brakes or reduce power to help steer the vehicle where the driver intends to go.

DRIVING TIPS FOR ADVERSE CONDITIONS

VISIBILITY

When driving in fog or rain, poor visibility through vehicle windows is a big danger.

- It is very important to ensure that the windscreen demister and rear window heater (if fitted) are working correctly and that all windows are kept clean.
- Good ventilation will help stop windows misting up and also help prevent driver fatigue.
- Driving at night in rain is one of the most difficult conditions motorists can encounter.
 - Rain on the headlights scatters the beams and reduces their efficiency.
 - When driving at night, slow down and make sure that you can stop safely within the range of your headlights.

FOG

When driving in fog, slow down and turn your headlights on and set them on dip – high beams reflect off the fog, reducing visibility. Turn your wipers on, and be alert for vehicles ahead.

ICE

Bridges and shaded areas ice up first and retain ice longer than the rest of the roadway so, during the winter months when ice forms on the road, take special care and adjust your speed accordingly. Obey the road warning signs – they have been placed in the area because of a history of previous crashes due to icy conditions.

WET WEATHER

- Road surfaces become very slippery when they are wet. It is important to adjust your speed and drive to the conditions.
- The early phase of rain is a dangerous time because it creates a slick film on the road surface which is very slippery. Continuous hard rain is needed to wash it away, so it is important to slow down during the first showers.
- Statistics of crashes during rain show they are about four times the dry weather rate. The main types of crashes due to wet road conditions are: head on; rear end; cornering; and loss of control on straight roads.
- Most of these crashes are linked to slippery road surfaces or bald tyres.
- A wet road can be slippery and tyres can hydroplane if there is a lot of surface water on the road.

NIGHT DRIVING

You must turn your headlights on 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise and any other time when you cannot clearly see a vehicle or person 100 metres away.

Dip Your Lights When

- Traffic is coming towards you
- You are following traffic
- You stop
- There is plenty of street lighting.

When Driving at Night

- Switch on your headlights. Don't drive with your side lights (park lights) on
- Keep your lights and windscreen clean
- Stop and rest if you are sleepy.

If you are blinded by the lights of oncoming traffic

- Slow down and stop if necessary
- Watch the left side of the road (the solid white line)
- Watch for people walking or on bikes – they are hard to see.

INTERSECTIONS

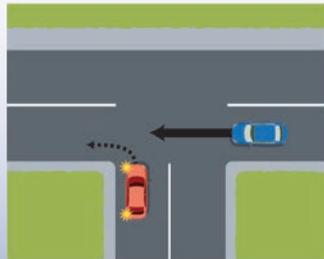
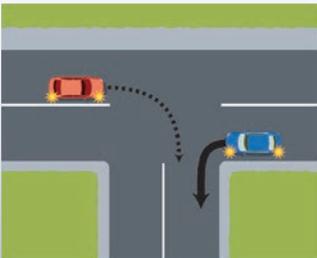
An intersection is where two or more streets or roads join or cross, and may be either controlled or uncontrolled. Give way and Stop signs are placed at intersections where extra care is needed.



UNCONTROLLED INTERSECTIONS

This rule applies at intersections where two vehicles are facing no signs or signals or the same signs or signals.

- You must give way to left turning vehicles coming from the opposite direction if you are turning right.
- All traffic from a terminating road (bottom of the T) must give way to all traffic on a continuing road (top of the T).





If you are turning, give way to all vehicles not turning. Note: If the road is marked with a centre line, you are deemed to be turning if you leave the path of the centre line.

If all other give way rules (or signs or signals) do not determine who gives way, give way to vehicles coming from your right. (An example of this is at cross roads controlled

by traffic signals when the signals have failed and all approaches have a flashing yellow light).

Important – Be prepared to stop even if you have the right of way.

STOP AND GIVE WAY SIGNS

If you are at an intersection controlled by a Stop sign (and yours is the only vehicle controlled by a stop sign), you must stop and give way to all other vehicles (even if they are turning across in front of you and you are going straight).

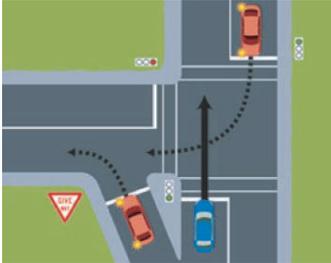


If you are at an intersection controlled by a Give Way sign, you must give way to all other vehicles except those controlled by a Stop sign.

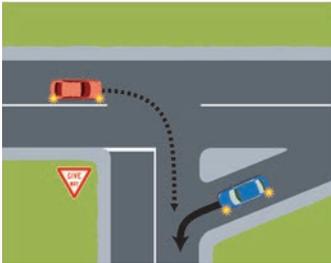
- Slow down and look ahead, to both sides and rear.
- Be ready to stop if you have to.
- Obey the give way or stop signs, indicate what you intend to do.

LEFT TURN SLIP LANE

As shown in the image below, vehicles turning left on the left turn slip lane are controlled by a give way sign. The slip lane is outside the area controlled by traffic signals and drivers must continue to give way at the give way sign to other traffic.



The left turn vs right turn rule does not change the priorities for the car controlled by a give way sign on the left turn slip lane.



If the left turn slip lane is not controlled by signs or signals, then right turning traffic from the opposite direction must give way to the left turning vehicle in the slip lane.

Road controlling authorities will monitor situations like this and if necessary, install traffic controls to make it clear who should give way.

ONE WAY OR DOUBLE LANE STREETS



Turning into a one way or double lane street

You must enter the correct lane. When turning left enter the left lane; when turning right enter the right lane.



Right turn from a one-way street

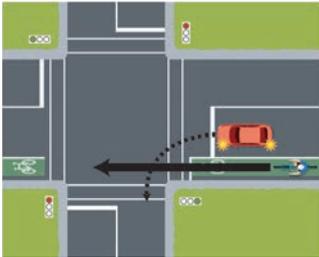
Follow your lane from the one-way street into the same lane on the two-way street.

BLOCKING AN INTERSECTION

You must not enter or cross an intersection unless there is space for your vehicle on the other side of the intersection when all vehicles stop.



INTERSECTIONS & CYCLISTS



If you are at an intersection and wanting to turn left, you must give way to cyclists in the cycle lane going straight, even if they are beside or behind your vehicle.

Some controlled intersections have painted areas where cyclists may wait ahead of other vehicles. The cyclists are entitled to be there, so please be courteous and allow them to move off first.

Make sure when passing cyclists you give a minimum of 1 metre clearance in town and 1.5 metres on rural roads.

Remember – Motorcyclists and cyclists can be difficult to see so take a second look before turning or changing lanes.

ROUNDBABOUTS

Plan ahead before you reach a roundabout, so you know where you are going. Slow down as you approach the roundabout. If the approach and roundabout are marked with multi-lanes, approach the roundabout in the correct lane (the correct lane approach does not apply to single lane roads).

Indicate your intentions: Use your left indicator when turning left; right indicator when turning right; and when going straight through only indicate on exit.

Give way to all vehicles approaching from your right.

Remember:

- Cyclists and motorcyclists also use roundabouts.
- Large long vehicles take more space to turn and may need both lanes.
- If you are exiting the roundabout from a right lane into a left lane, check traffic on your left.

Turning left

- Approach the roundabout with your left-hand indicator operating.
- If multi-lanes are marked, approach the roundabout in the correct lane for a left turn (normally the left lane).
- When the way is clear proceed onto the roundabout and exit left.



Turning right

- Approach the roundabout with your right-hand indicator operating.
- If multi-lanes are marked, approach the roundabout in the correct lane for a right turn (normally the right lane).
- When the way is clear proceed onto the roundabout until just after you pass the exit prior to the one you intend to take, then indicate a left turn, check for traffic on your left and exit the roundabout.



Going straight through

- Approach the roundabout with no indicators operating.
- If multi-lanes are marked, approached the roundabout in the correct lane for travelling straight through (normally the left lane).
- When the way is clear proceed onto the roundabout until just after you pass the exit prior to the one you intend to take, then indicate a left turn and exit the roundabout.



FLUSH MEDIANS



White diagonal lines separate vehicles and provide a safe place for vehicles that are turning, or have turned right.

You can only drive on the white flush median lines to

- Speed up to reach a gap in the traffic flow; or
- Slow down before turning right.

Important – Watch for pedestrians who may wait on the flush median when crossing the road.

TURNING ONTO A HIGHWAY

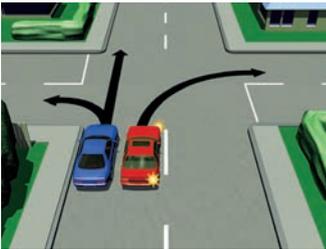
When entering a highway, ensure the way is clear before you complete your turn. Move onto the highway and accelerate quickly but steadily to the same speed as the traffic flow or the speed limit.

Remember it is not easy to assess the speed of fast moving traffic. Only proceed when the way is clear.

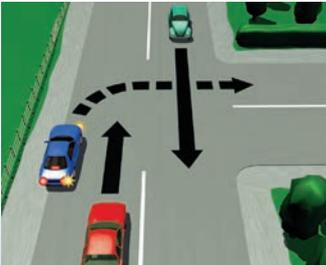
TURNING OFF A HIGHWAY

Right turn from the centre line

- Slow down, signal and move as close as possible to the centre line.
- When the way is clear complete your turn.



By moving to the centre line you allow vehicles following you to pass on your left.



Right turn from the left side of the road (When traffic is heavy or following too close and prevents your right turn)

- Signal and move to the left side of the road.
- When the way is clear signal right and complete your turn.

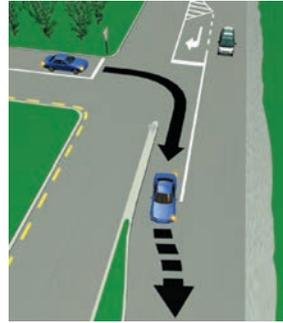
By moving as far as possible to the left you allow vehicles following you to pass safely and you avoid stopping in the middle of a busy highway.

If a vehicle in front of you has also stopped to turn right, it's best to wait behind them and use the same position to turn from.

MERGING LANES

Leaving a merge lane after turning right at an intersection

- Show you want to merge with the vehicles by using your indicator.
- Speed up to move into a gap in the traffic.
- Adjust your following distance.

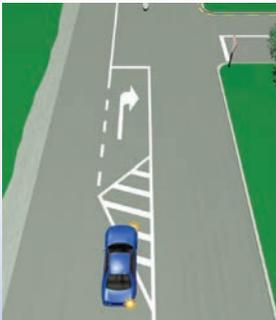


Merging into the traffic flow

- You must signal that you want to merge into the right lane from the left lane.
- The red car in the right lane must allow the blue truck to enter the single lane because the blue truck is ahead of the right lane traffic.
- If the blue truck is behind or beside the red car, the blue truck must give way.



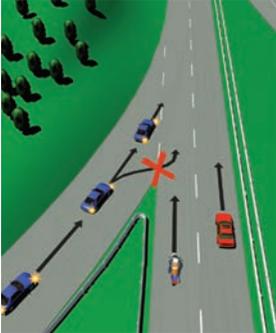
RIGHT TURNING BAY



Indicate and then drive straight over the white diagonal lines and wait in the turning bay to turn right. Then you won't hold up vehicles behind you going straight through.

MOTORWAYS

Motorways are designed to keep traffic moving.



Entering a Motorway

Before going onto the motorway adjust your speed to the same as the vehicles on the motorway.

Indicate early and move carefully into a gap in the traffic.



Leaving a Motorway

Move into the left lane 1 km or more before your exit. Watch the signs. Indicate early and move carefully from the motorway.

Keep up with the traffic flow until you are on the off-ramp.

Remember – to check blind spots and lanes beside you before changing lanes.

MOTORISTS AND PEDESTRIANS

PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Slow down and be ready to stop for any pedestrians stepping onto, or on the crossing. This includes people obviously waiting to use the crossing.

If there is no raised traffic island in the middle of the crossing, stop and give way to pedestrians on any part of the crossing.



If there is a raised traffic island in the middle of the crossing, stop and give way to pedestrians on your half of the road.



GENERAL SAFETY RULES

- Do not overtake any vehicle that is slowing down or has stopped at a pedestrian crossing to let someone cross.
- Where any school patrol sign is out, traffic from both ways must stop and stay stopped until all signs have been put down. Look out for school patrol warning cones.
- A white diamond is painted on the road before the crossing to warn you that a pedestrian crossing is ahead.

SAFETY HINTS

- Always be ready to stop near schools, bus stops and pedestrian crossings day or night.
- Be careful when driving past parked vehicles. Pedestrians may suddenly walk out in front of you.
- Be careful when driving near children, they can be unpredictable.
- Watch out for elderly or disabled people, they may be moving slower than you expect.
- Pedestrian crossings are marked with black and white poles. Some have yellow flashing lights on the tops of the poles or orange circles.
- Watch for children getting on or off a school bus. You must slow down to 20 km/h when passing or coming towards a marked school bus stopped to let children on or off.

TRAFFIC LIGHT CONTROLLED CROSSING

- When you are turning at an intersection you must give way to pedestrians crossing with the traffic lights.

PEDESTRIANS

- Footpaths provide a safe place for you to walk. Where a footpath is provided, use it.
- Where there is no footpath:
 - walk on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic except on curves, where it is best to walk on the outside edge of the curve.
 - walk off the road, or as close as possible to the edge of the road.
- At night or in poor visibility, wear light-coloured or reflective clothing, or carry a torch to help you be seen.
- Cross the road only when it is safe to do so and quickly walk straight across the road.
- Remember, it takes time for a vehicle to stop. Be sensible and wait for a gap in the traffic before crossing the road.
- When crossing the road at or near an intersection, remember to check all nearby roads for vehicles.
- When crossing the road at night, cross near a street light if you can.
- If you need to cross the road when you get off a bus, wait until the bus has moved well away.
- If you have to cross the road between parked vehicles, move out as far as the headlight of a parked car nearest the traffic, then check for moving vehicles and wait for a gap before crossing the road.
- Be careful when crossing driveways, particularly when your visibility is restricted by buildings or fences. Remember, if a driver is coming out of a driveway, their vision will be restricted and they may not see you.
- Young children should hold an older person's hand.
- If you are within 20 metres of a pedestrian crossing, footbridge, underpass or traffic signals, you must use them to cross the road.

Safety hint – You can see the lights of on-coming vehicles but the drivers often cannot see you. They only see the road where their headlights shine.

SHARED PATHS

When using a shared path be careful and considerate. A shared path may be a cycle path, a footpath, or some other kind of path used by pedestrians, cyclists, riders of mobility devices and riders of wheeled recreational vehicles at the same time. There will be a sign telling you it is a shared path. Keep to the left and be considerate to other users travelling faster or slower than you.

JOGGERS

- Obey the road rules for pedestrians.
- It is hard for drivers to see you when you are running.
- Wear bright clothes or belts, bands and shoes that have reflectors.
- Be very careful at intersections.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Teach your children to be safe on the roads, show them where it is safe to walk and how to stop and cross.
- Show them the safest way to school, the shops, and the playground.
- If your children are 5 years old or younger, walk with them to school or pre-school.
- Show them how to be careful on the footpath.
- Watch for children when backing into or out of driveways and garages.

Remember – Small children can't see over vehicles, and they don't understand that it takes time for a vehicle to stop.

VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEDESTRIANS

Remember that our roads are not just for motorists, but are for all people to use in a partnership of courtesy, patience and road safety.

People with a visual impairment are a significant group and although they can be of any age, over 75% of those visually impaired are over the age of 65 years. For some, visual impairment is just one of several disabilities caused by the aging process, and can compound the problems created by poor hearing, arthritis, and poor balance.

Not all people who are visually impaired use a white cane. A white cane symbolises blindness or at the very least, impaired vision.

Some motorists will attempt to assist a person with a cane as they deal with traffic on our busy roads. However these good intentions may not be the correct way to assist and could in fact increase the danger to this group.

The Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind is aware of these good intentions and has produced some excellent advice to help you assist people with a visual impairment.

CROSSING A ROAD

- **People with a visual impairment are taught to find the kerb and then listen for a gap in the traffic.** Their white cane may be resting against the kerb, or they may have a guide dog with them. People who are blind or partially sighted will hear you coming and are unlikely to step out in front of you. They rely on their hearing and wait for the vehicles to pass before attempting to cross the road.
- If you stop or brake suddenly to let someone with a visual impairment cross the road it can make the situation dangerous for them. The sound of your engine may mask the sounds made by other vehicles which may not be prepared to stop. A pedestrian who is blind will not know why you have stopped, and there is no guarantee that you will not suddenly move off again.
- It is unlikely that a blind person would attempt to cross in these circumstances and they may even wave you on.

CROSSING AT A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

- As a motorist, you are required by law to give way to people on pedestrian crossings, so there is no need to treat people with a visual impairment any differently. However, these people may take longer to start crossing the road as they will be listening to make sure all traffic has stopped in both directions; or in the case of a one way road, all traffic has stopped.
- Please be patient.

TRAFFIC LIGHT CONTROLLED CROSSINGS

- People with visual impairment are taught to cross when the traffic parallel to their intended direction of travel is just beginning to move. Because they have to listen for traffic, it takes a little longer than usual so they may not step onto the road the instant the light changes.
- If you, as the motorist are going straight through, do not delay moving off when the lights change to green; however if you are turning across their path, give them time to make their move.

BUZZER CONTROLLED CROSSINGS

- Do not be confused or impatient with people with a visual impairment who hesitate at a buzzer crossing as they may be waiting for the next light/buzzer sequence to prepare themselves to cross.
- Remember, always stop clear of the crossing.

HELPING PEOPLE WITH A VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

- If you think help is needed, drive past the person before stopping so that other traffic behind you is not prevented from seeing them.
- Often the best and safest thing is to drive on and leave the person either to cross the road by themselves or to receive help from another pedestrian.
- If you stop, remember when helping someone with a visual impairment, there are some general principles you should observe:
 - Ask if assistance is needed. Too often people with visual impairment waiting for a friend have been forced to cross the road, and then had to ask to be returned to the other side. Don't force your good intentions.
 - If information is required, answer the questions you are asked. Most people with visual impairment will be travelling in familiar territory but can occasionally lose their bearings. Be precise if you are asked for directions.
 - Do not take hold of the white cane or guide dog - breaking their, or their guide dog's, concentration can be very dangerous.
 - Be precise when giving directions – “go straight ahead about 100 steps” is much clearer for a blind or partially sighted person than “over there”.
 - Ask them which side they'd like to be guided on (or stand on the opposite side of their cane or guide dog).
 - Let them take your arm above the elbow (your arm can be straight or bent). They will then walk about half a pace behind you following your movements up or down steps or around obstacles.
 - Keep your arm close to your body so that the person you are guiding can follow your movements.
 - Before stepping off or onto a kerb or stairs, pause and tell the person you are guiding what is about to happen - “two steps down” or “a flight of stairs up”. Let the blind or partially sighted person know that you are leaving them. It can be embarrassing to be left talking to thin air!

ROAD CRASHES

If you have a crash the first thing you must do is stop and check if anyone has been injured. Get medical aid if anyone is injured and give as much assistance as possible to the injured. Remain at the scene until the police advise you can leave.

TIPS FOR DEALING WITH CRASHES

If you are first on the scene of a crash, your actions could help save the lives of the people involved in the crash and make it safer for other drivers coming upon the crash scene.

Here are some things you can do to help make the crash scene safer:

- Park your car in a safe spot, away from the crash area. Leave plenty of space for emergency vehicles to come and go, and for emergency workers to work in.
- Switch on your car's hazard warning lights.
- If possible, post other people or warning triangles on all approaches to the crash site to warn oncoming drivers. The people or triangles should be about 200 metres from the crash site to give approaching drivers time to slow down.
- If people are injured, call an ambulance as soon as possible.
- Following a crash, some airbags may not be deployed. If you need to enter a crashed vehicle, don't place yourself between any un-deployed airbag and the vehicle's occupants. Un-deployed airbags can deploy with force some minutes after a crash and could injure both the rescuer and occupants.
- If it is safe to do so, turn off the ignition of all vehicles involved in the crash.

REPORTING A CRASH

- When anyone is injured, you must notify the police as soon as possible, but within 24 hours.
- When no one is injured, you must give your name and address and the name and address of the owner of the vehicle you are driving to the owner or driver

of the other vehicle which has been damaged, and to the owner of any property that has been damaged.

- If you can't find the property owner, you must notify the police as soon as possible and not more than 48 hours after the crash.
- If you have a current insurance policy, tell your insurance company as soon as possible after the crash.

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING ANIMALS

- If you injure an animal (e.g., a dog), you must tell the owner of the animal if possible.
- If you can't find the owner, you must contact the local SPCA inspector or the police as soon as possible but not later than 48 hours after the accident.

CRASH PREVENTION TIPS

- Communicate. Tell drivers and pedestrians what you intend to do by using your indicators.
- To change lanes, check traffic in your mirrors, glance over your shoulder, indicate, check your mirrors again, then if clear change lanes.
- Always obey railway crossing signals/barrier arms. Never stop on railway lines or crossings. Be extremely careful when crossing railway lines that do not have signals. Expect a train at any time.
- Always look backwards before you reverse your vehicle. Preferably walk around your car to ensure children or toys are not behind you before you reverse.
- Watch for pedestrians, especially children as they are unpredictable and hard to see.
- Watch for flashing lights or emergency vehicles and be prepared to stop or give way.
- Check your mirrors frequently and scan well ahead while driving as this will allow you time to avoid any potential problems that may occur. Always be prepared for someone else's mistake.
- Keep headlights, tail-lights and turn signal lights clean. A dirty headlight can cut output by 70%. Properly adjusted headlights reduce glare for other drivers and provide you with as much light as possible.

AIRBAGS

Front airbags - protect you in head-on or frontal crashes, stored in the steering wheel hub or dashboard, for front seat occupant safety only.

Side impact airbags - work best in a side-on crash to protect people on the crashed side. Side torso (chest protecting) airbags protect the torso area only and are usually stored in the seat by the door. Side torso and head airbags also provide head protection.

Side curtain airbags - are stored behind the roof trim, above the doors. They usually cover front and rear side windows when they inflate, protecting people in both seats.

Head side airbags - protect your head from coming into contact with the object you've hit such as trees and poles. They can prevent fatalities that would otherwise be inevitable in this type of crash.

- Airbags are designed to inflate in a collision.
- An airbag inflates and deflates in twelve-hundredths of a second. It inflates with considerable force.
- An airbag is made of nylon material.
- An airbag makes a loud noise when it inflates.
- An inflated airbag smells bad but don't be alarmed by the smell.
- An airbag might cause some facial or other abrasions, like a rug burn, as it inflates.
- An airbag can only be used once and then it must be replaced. Normally your insurance will cover replacement.

Force of Impact

- Striking something at 30 kph is like driving off the top of a one storey building.
- Striking something at 60 kph is like driving off the top of a four storey building.

Striking something at 100 kph is like driving off the top of a nine storey building.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO

www.safeteedriver.co.nz

This site provides a toolkit for parents of teen drivers. It includes guidelines to plan your driver training and useful tips to help your teenager manage the risks of driving alone.

www.aa.co.nz

This is the Automobile Association Website. Go to the Motoring Section and test your knowledge by completing the free Road Code quiz questions. A great way for new drivers to learn the road code or for older drivers to test their knowledge.

www.nzta.govt.nz

This is the official NZ Transport Agency Website. Go to the index at the bottom of the home page, select Resources and Manuals, and you can download a free copy of the latest Road Code.

www.practice.co.nz

This site has been set up by ACC and NZTA and provides an on line training programme to help you pass your restricted driving test. To register for the programme you must hold a learners licence and have the support of a licensed driver.

www.reducetherisk.co.nz

The Waikato Regional Education Group Website, set up to raise public awareness of critical road safety issues in the Waikato but is relevant to all drivers and highlights some key facts that all road users should know to help keep them safe on the roads.

www.sadd.org.nz

Students Against Dangerous Driving (SADD) is a student-led organisation aiming to educate and empower young people to make healthier, safer and better choices. Their mission is to reduce the youth road toll. The SADD website offers ideas on activities and events that can help educate young people.

www.letsgo.org.nz

Let's Go is a New Plymouth District Council initiative to encourage people in the district to choose walking, riding or taking the bus over using cars for short trips. This website provides details about the projects they are undertaking to create safer pathways, and information about related training and transport options.

www.saferjourneys.govt.nz

The Safer Journeys website provides statistics and information on areas of concern and government initiatives to help reduce the number of serious injury and fatal crashes on New Zealand roads.

www.police.govt.nz/advice/driving-and-road-safety

On the Police website you will find the answers to frequently asked driving questions, how to report a bad driver and information about driving legislation, including speed limits and road safety cameras. Read advice on how to stay safe in your vehicle.

Tourism Industry Drive Safe site for tourists

www.drivesafe.org.nz

DriveSafe.org.nz has been developed to help visitors to New Zealand safely enjoy their self-drive holiday. This site provides basic information about New Zealand road rules and etiquette, along with links to more details about everything that those unfamiliar with our roads need to know.

**Contact: Road Safety Co-ordinator
South Taranaki District Council
Private Bag 902
Hawera 4640
New Zealand
Freephone 0800 111 323
Email: contact@stdc.govt.nz**