

Safety tips for avoiding crashes



Driving allows young people freedom and independence. It also requires the driver to take on many responsibilities, including having a positive attitude towards safe driving and complying with the road rules.

Most young drivers stay safe, however, statistically they have more crashes than other drivers and make more errors, which can be the result of:

- being overconfident
- speeding or travelling too fast, for the road conditions and level of experience
- not scanning the road environment well
- misjudging the speed of other vehicles, particularly oncoming cars
- travelling too close to other vehicles
- inattentiveness and distractions
- the effects of alcohol, other drugs and fatigue.

Find time to talk with your pre-driver or learner driver about avoiding crashes and the safety tips listed below.

Safety tips for avoiding a single vehicle crash (or veering off the road to the left)

- Take note of and comply with danger signs and hazard signs.
- Stay on the road; don't drive off the main part of the road, unless slowing down to stop.
- Stay alert; don't drive when tired or becoming tired; and be aware of the early signs of fatigue.
- Travel at speeds suitable for traffic conditions and slow down on unfamiliar roads, in bad weather and at night.

Safety tips for avoiding impact with a pedestrian

- Where possible, make eye contact with pedestrians crossing the road.
- Remember pedestrians have no protection and are vulnerable on the road.
- Be aware of pedestrian crossings even when the road and roadsides are quiet.
- Slow down and check before driving through a pedestrian crossing even if you have right of way.
- Slow down near shopping centres, schools and busy pedestrian areas.
- Slow down and look for pedestrians across driveways and between parked cars.

Safety tips for avoiding rear end crashes

- Never travel too closely to the car in front even when driving slowly.
- Stay alert and do not lose concentration even when traffic is not moving or moving slowly.
- Concentrate and be fully attentive at all times.
- Avoid being distracted and ignore, or be assertive with, distracting passengers.

Safety tips for avoiding a crash by turning across another driver's path, or driving straight ahead at an intersection

- Make eye contact with other drivers.
- Slow down before entering intersections and look out for turning vehicles.
- Avoid changing lanes near intersections and never assume that another driver will give way.
- Always stop at a red light.

Safety tips for avoiding a crash when another driver does something unexpected

- Drive defensively and be tolerant of all road users.
- Do not assume other drivers will always follow the law.
- Do not assume other drivers will give way when they should.