

Teen Driving Tips to Remember

According to “The Unofficial DMV Guide” at www.dmv.org, take these tips into consideration when you’re a teen practicing to become a responsible, safe driver:

- Pay attention to safety belt laws. Most often you can't have more passengers than your vehicle has safety belts. Make sure you and your passengers always wear safety belts.
- Inspect your vehicle before you get into the car, and adjust your seat and mirror before you take off. Always remember to check your gas gauge, too.
- Follow the rules. This includes speed limits, traffic lights, traffic signs, and signaling to the vehicle behind you when you plan to make a turn. This also includes **never** drinking and driving, and **never** riding with anyone who has been drinking or using any kind of drugs.
- Expect the unexpected. Always have some way to contact your parents in the event of an emergency, i.e., carry a cell phone, calling card, or extra money for payphones. Keep extra money for gas, and make sure you have directions to your destination.
- Pay attention to others. This includes the vehicles behind, beside, and in front of you, as well as motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.
- Pay attention to weather and road conditions. Don't be ashamed to pull over if it's raining too hard for you to properly see the road.
- Keep your vehicle up-to-date with regular maintenance. If you can't do this by yourself, enlist the help of your dad, your older brother, your sister, your neighbor, or the local garage.
- Remember, when the car is in motion it's time to concentrate. It's not time to put on makeup, fix your hair, talk on the phone, eat, or pretend you're in the middle of an American Idol audition. Put everything away and turn the music down.