

THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT DRIVING

- * Adjust seat, steering wheel, and mirrors to where they are comfortable. Use a cushion, if needed, to sit up higher.
- * Make sure to wear your seat belt.
- * Keep your concentration level high while driving. Be sure you are relaxed, but still somewhat "anxious" about your driving.
- * Signal coming away from and also going to the curb.
- * Always check the "blindspot" by looking over the shoulder when pulling away from the curb or changing lanes.
- * Constantly monitor your lane position, speed control, and mirrors as you drive. Residential speeds should probably be 15-20 mph. Business speeds should probably be 20-25 mph. Speeds of 10-15 mph in a school zone is advised.
- * Constantly "scan" with the eyes while driving. Look ahead to intersections to determine what is there even before you get there. Use the 12 second rule.
- * Decide ahead of time, when possible, what your response at an intersection is going to be. Look for signs, cars, pedestrians, bikes, etc.
- * Be "defensive" with your driving. Never assume the other person will always do the right thing. Make sure you are not the "other person" by paying attention to your driving as well.
- * Be "smooth" while braking or accelerating. "Squeeze" down on the pedals while keeping your heel on the floor. Be smooth with your steering inputs as well.
- * Stop at or behind the stop sign. Hold it for a three count, then proceed. If you can't see, pull out a little farther and come to a second stop. Proceed when clear.
- * Pay particular attention to yield, stop, and speed control signs.
- * Signal approximately ½ block from the intersection. Check the mirrors, begin scanning the intersection, and begin to slow down at this time.
- * Keep speeds fluid through the turn. The left turn is a wide, sweeping turn at a fairly regular speed. The right turn is a tighter, slower turn than the left turn.
- * Remember to "Cross check" as you enter the turn. Continue to "scan" as you go through an intersection.

- * Choose an appropriate "gap" when entering or turning onto another street.
- * "Aim" the car through the turn to help judge position.
- * Watch right of way situations, especially downtown at the light. Most "collisions" at intersections involve drivers who "fail to yield", "improperly execute left turns", or "stop suddenly" in traffic.
- * Be aware of the differences in lane and speed control as you travel from residential to business areas and vice versa.
- * When parallel parking, make sure to properly align your car with the other car. Check your mirror to make sure it is safe to stop. Back the car to the right, then straighten and "aim" the car back, then turn to the left to bring the car parallel to the curb. Finally, shift to drive and pull slightly forward to straighten the wheels. Make sure you "look" while backing as well as pulling out. Try to make this whole procedure a "fluid" process.
- * When driving on the highway or freeway, get up to the appropriate speeds while maintaining lane position. Use the on/off ramps to help build or decrease speed. Likely safe speeds on the highway are 50-60 mph, while on the freeway speeds of 60-70 are probably appropriate. "Flow" is very important when dealing with higher speeds.
- * When driving on gravel, keep speeds at a safe level. Gravel reacts much the same way snow and ice will. Speeds of 25-35 miles per hour are general guidelines.
- * When driving under low light or dark conditions, reduce speeds and move the eyes more than you normally would. The same is true while driving under wet or icy conditions.
- * There is no substitute for **PRACTICE!**