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Safe driving in Queensland

# learner driver handbook





For the  
**earner driver**

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# Contents

▶ <b>For the learner driver</b>	<b>2</b>	▶ <b>Safe driving</b>	<b>14</b>
The learner stage	2	Common types of novice driver crashes	14
The facts	3	Reducing the risks	16
Why novice drivers are at risk	4	▶ <b>Driving conditions</b>	<b>19</b>
▶ <b>Moving from your learner to your open licence</b>	<b>4</b>	Weather conditions	19
Queensland's Graduated Licensing System	5	Country roads	20
▶ <b>What you can and can't do on your learner licence</b>	<b>6</b>	Mountain/range roads	21
▶ <b>Supervised driving</b>	<b>7</b>	Unsealed roads	21
Choosing your supervisor(s)	7	Local suburban streets	21
Your supervisor	7	Main roads	22
Why 100 hours supervised on-road driving experience?	8	Driving interstate	22
Using accredited driver trainers	8	▶ <b>Additional information</b>	<b>23</b>
Your logbook	8	Frequently asked questions	23
▶ <b>Learning to drive</b>	<b>9</b>	What happens next?	23
Before you get on the road	9	What you can and can't do on a provisional licence	24
Vehicle checklist – before you drive	10	Where to go for extra help	26
Getting comfortable behind the wheel	11	Acknowledgements	27
What do I need to practice?	12		
How do I get enough practice?	13		
RACQ learner drives	14		

## ► For the learner driver

Congratulations on getting your learner licence. Now the exciting part of actually getting behind the wheel begins.

### The learner stage

You will have a lot of questions about how to start, what you need to know and how much practice you need before you are ready to take to the road on your own. This is where the *Safe driving in Queensland – learner driver handbook* will help. It is a guide full of information, hints and tips to help you through the learning stage. Read it thoroughly and keep it safe for future reference.

The *Safe driving in Queensland kit* you received this handbook in also includes:

- *Safe driving in Queensland – supervising driver handbook*
- *Safe driving in Queensland – learner driver and supervisor DVD*
- *Logbook* (to record your supervised on-road driving experience)

Make sure that you give the supervising driver handbook to your supervisor. If you have more than one supervisor, you can download additional copies of the guide free from [www.transport.qld.gov.au/learningtodrive](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/learningtodrive).



It is also important that you and your supervisor/s watch the DVD and use the logbook.

Once you and your supervisor have looked through all the kit elements, it will be time to get behind the wheel and start learning to drive.

Some driving skills take longer to master than others. Many other things can affect the rate at which you learn such as exam pressures, your social life, work, or your home environment. So if it takes longer to master certain skills, take a break while you sort out other pressures, but don't stop for too long because it will be harder to get back into it.

To be a safe driver, there is a lot more required than knowing the road rules; you have to be able to deal with the unexpected. To best prepare yourself for the unexpected, get as much supervised on-road driving experience during the learner period as possible. This experience should be in a range of driving conditions.

Consistent practice will develop your ability to see hazards in time to avoid them. Not only will this reduce your crash risk, it will make driving more enjoyable.

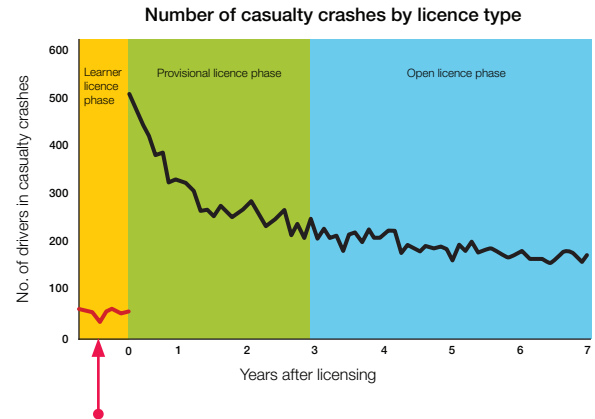
A safe driver knows how to avoid situations that can lead to a crash. It is better to come up against a difficult situation when under supervision in the learner phase than when you are in a car on your own after gaining your provisional licence.

The learner period is a vital time for novice drivers to apply and understand the road rules, practice driving skills and develop safe behaviours. You will also learn more about how other drivers behave, how to react to unexpected situations and how to remain calm and in control.

## The facts

Young and novice drivers are amongst Queensland's most at-risk road user groups and are at least two and a half times more likely to die as a result of a road crash than other motorists. Novice drivers are most at risk during the first year of their provisional licence.

Learner drivers have the lowest crash risk of all drivers, generally because they are supervised. The graph below shows that the learner period is a vital time for you to develop safe driving skills.



You are here

You can see that a far greater number of drivers are involved in casualty crashes when first issued their provisional licence.

## Why novice drivers are at risk

The biggest factor that causes novice drivers to die on Queensland roads is inexperience. Reasons novice drivers are at such high risk include:

- less developed visual scanning and perception skills
- inability to identify and respond to risks or hazards when driving
- overconfidence
- inattention due to distractions while driving (caused by inexperience in coping with distractions)
- driving at high risk times (for example at night and with a number of other young people in the car)
- alcohol or drug use
- deliberate risk-taking (for example high speed driving and tailgating).

**Please note** – From 1 July 2010, a zero blood alcohol concentration (0.00 BAC) applies to the following (regardless of age):

- all learner licence holders
- all licence holders learning to drive the next higher class of licence under the authority of their provisional, probationary or open licence
- all provisional, probationary and restricted licence holders
- all class RE motorbike licence holders for the first 12 months of holding their class RE motorbike provisional, probationary or open licence
- all class RE motorbike licence holders learning to ride a class R motorbike under the authority of their class RE provisional, probationary and open licence
- all licence holders driving tractors and specially constructed vehicles.

For the learner driver

## ▶ Moving from your learner to your open licence

Research has found that enhancing the driving experiences and supervision of new drivers through graduated licensing systems can lead to significant reductions in crashes. The Queensland Graduated Licensing System is the process of obtaining an open drivers licence, which involves:

- 100 hours supervised on-road driving experience during the learner stage
- a two-stage provisional licence (P1 and P2)
- a compulsory hazard perception test to graduate from a P1 licence
- penalties for drivers who don't do the right thing.

N.B. Certain requirements and restrictions apply to each licence type.

## Queensland's Graduated Licensing System

	Learner Licence for minimum 12 months	Minimum 100 hours experience and Q-Safe Practical Driving Test	P1 Licence	Hazard Perception Test (HPT)	P2 Licence	Open Licence
16 years of age and over Written Road Rules Test	<p><b>Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L plates</li> <li>• Logbook supervised 100 hours</li> <li>• Must carry licence</li> </ul> <p><b>Restrictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile phone</li> <li>• Zero blood alcohol concentration (0.00 BAC)</li> </ul> <p><b>Penalties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accumulation of 4 or more demerit points in a 12 month period results in a 3 month suspension or Good Driving Behaviour (GDB) for 1 year</li> </ul>		<p><b>Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red P plates</li> <li>• Must hold for a minimum of 1 year (cumulative)</li> <li>• Must carry licence</li> </ul> <p><b>Restrictions (Age based)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer passengers 11pm - 5am</li> <li>• Mobile phone</li> <li>• High powered vehicles</li> <li>• 0.00 BAC</li> </ul> <p><b>Penalties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accumulation of 4 or more demerit points in a 12 month period results in a 3 month suspension or GDB for 1 year</li> <li>• A late night driving restriction as a penalty for accumulating 4 or more demerit points</li> </ul>		<p><b>Requirements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green P plates</li> <li>• Must hold for a minimum of 2 years (cumulative)</li> <li>• Must carry licence</li> </ul> <p><b>Restrictions (Age based)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High powered vehicles</li> <li>• 0.00 BAC</li> </ul> <p><b>Penalties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accumulation of 4 or more demerit points in a 12 month period results in a 3 month suspension or GDB for 1 year</li> <li>• A late night driving restriction as a penalty for accumulating 4 or more demerit points</li> </ul>	<p><b>Restrictions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAC below 0.05</li> </ul> <p><b>Penalties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accumulation of 12 or more demerit points in a 3 year period results in a 3 month suspension or GDB for 1 year</li> <li>• A late night driving restriction as a penalty for either accumulating 12 or more demerit points or receiving a disqualification</li> </ul>
23 years	As above		As above		As above except P2 for 1 year	As above
24 years	As above		As above		No P2 licence. HPT to progress to open	As above
25 years and over Written Road Rules Test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L plates</li> <li>• Logbook (voluntary)</li> <li>• Must carry licence</li> <li>• 0.00 BAC</li> <li>• Accumulation of 4 or more demerit points in a 12 month period results in a 3 month suspension or GDB for 1 year</li> </ul>	Q-Safe Practical Driving Test	→		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green P plates</li> <li>• P2 licence hold for 1 year</li> <li>• Must carry licence</li> <li>• 0.00 BAC</li> <li>• Accumulation of 4 or more demerit points in a 12 month period results in a 3 month suspension or GDB for 1 year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BAC below 0.05</li> <li>• Accumulation of 12 or more demerit points in a 3 year period results in a 3 month suspension or GDB for 1 year</li> </ul>

\*refer to note on page four

## ▶ What you can and can't do on your learner licence

### Did you know?

- you must carry your licence when driving
- your blood alcohol concentration must be zero (0.00 BAC)
- your supervisor must sit next to you in the vehicle
- you must display L plates at the front and back of the vehicle you are driving
- you **cannot use a mobile phone** of any type **under any circumstances**, including the use of hands-free and 'speaker phone' functions, while driving. You must safely park the vehicle before making or receiving mobile phone calls or text messages
- your supervisor and any additional passenger(s) are **not allowed to use any mobile phone on loudspeaker**. Although it is **not recommended**, your supervisor and any passengers may use a hand held or hands-free mobile phone.

**STOP**

*Using a hand-held mobile phone while driving increases the risk of a fatal crash by four to nine times*



## ▶ Supervised driving

### Choosing your supervisor(s)

A supervisor can be a family member, friend or an accredited driver trainer.

Your supervising driver must hold an open licence for the class of vehicle that you are learning to drive in. If you are learning in a manual vehicle, your supervisor must hold a manual car licence. If you are learning in an automatic vehicle, your supervisor can have either a manual or automatic car licence. The person must have held the class of open licence for at least 1 year.

Your supervisor can be anyone who meets the requirements of a supervising driver. Over the period that you are learning to drive you may have as many driving supervisors as you wish.

### Your supervisor:

- should be a safe, experienced and competent driver
- should have a good driving record
- should have the ability to provide guidance and advice
- should have a good understanding of the Queensland road rules

- must sit next to you at all times when you drive
- should be given the *Safe driving in Queensland - supervising driver handbook* contained within this kit
- must sign the driving experience entry in your *Logbook*
- must have held an open licence for at least one year for the class of vehicle you are learning to drive in (for example, manual or automatic).



## Why 100 hours supervised on-road driving experience?

Inexperience is one of the main causes of novice driver fatalities. The compulsory 100 hours supervised on-road driving experience more than doubles the amount of experience most learner drivers received in the past. While the extra hours may seem inconvenient at first, the result is safer and more experienced drivers on our roads.

It is important to note that:

- a minimum of ten hours supervised night driving is required as a component of the 100 hours
- each entry in your logbook must be signed by your supervisor.

More information about the 100 hours supervised on-road driving experience requirement is set out in the *Logbook* contained within this kit.

## Using accredited driver trainers

If you are taking lessons with an accredited driver trainer it is recommended that you are aware of their lesson plan. You should also discuss your specific needs and driving experience with them.

Accredited driver trainers can be found in most parts of Queensland and are listed in the Yellow Pages.

For the learner driver

Keep in mind that:

- lessons with an accredited driver trainer will reduce the 100 hour requirement. A 1 hour lesson will count towards 3 hours in your logbook (up to a maximum of 10 x 1 hour lessons or 30 logbook hours). Any additional hours undertaken with an accredited driver trainer can be recorded in the logbook as the actual amount of time spent driving (not triple time).

For more information refer to the *Logbook*.

## Your logbook

The logbook must be completed accurately and honestly. Penalties apply for recording false or misleading information. Complete the entries as shown in the samples provided within the logbook.

You should spread your practice and driving lessons over the entire learner period rather than cramming your lessons in just prior to the driving test.



Your learner licence is valid for three years. You may legally take your Q-SAFE practical driving test after one year but the more you practice and the more experience you gain the better driver you will be.

Upon completing the 100 hours supervised on-road driving experience you will be required to sign a driving experience declaration stating that you have completed the necessary hours. This declaration is in your logbook.



## ► Learning to drive

### Before you get on the road

#### Check

- Do you have your current learner licence with you?
- Have you studied *Your keys to driving in Queensland*?
- Do you have an appropriately licensed supervising driver?
- Have you discussed professional lessons and a driving plan with your supervisor?
- Do you have a Department of Transport and Main Roads *Logbook* and know how to complete it?
- Is your blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at or below the legal limit for you age? Is your supervisor aware that they must not exceed the legal BAC level for the vehicle type you are driving? A class C open licence BAC is less than 0.05
- Has your supervisor read through the *Safe driving in Queensland – supervising driver handbook*?

## Vehicle checklist – before you drive

### Check

- L plates are clearly displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle
- The vehicle is registered, has a current registration label and number plates
- The headlights, tail lights, number plate light, stop lights and indicators are in working order
- The tyres are correctly inflated and have at least 1.5mm of tread
- The windscreen is not cracked and the windscreen wipers and demisters work
- The horn works
- The handbrake works properly
- The brakes are effective
- The battery terminals are connected properly and the battery has the correct amount of fluid
- The engine oil, power steering fluid, brake and clutch/automatic transmission fluid and engine coolant levels are adequate
- The vehicle has enough fuel

## Getting comfortable behind the wheel

It is recommended you wear comfortable, flat, thin-soled shoes while driving. You should always make any necessary adjustments to the seat, mirrors, seatbelt and steering wheel before you start driving.

The following procedure is recommended:

### Seat

- adjust your seat so that you have good visibility and control
- your feet should be able to comfortably reach the pedals
- when you stretch out your arms in front of you, your wrists should reach the steering wheel.

### Head restraints

- adjust the head restraint so that the top is at least as high as your eye level. Head restraints help to reduce whiplash in crashes.

### Seatbelt

- position the lap part of your seatbelt as low as possible on your hips, not on your waist. Make sure that the sash

part of your seatbelt sits across your shoulder and not on your neck

- adjust the seatbelt to a snug fit by pulling the shoulder section upward through the latch.

### Steering wheel

- adjust the steering wheel height so that you are comfortable and have a good view of the vehicle's instrument panel (for example, speedometer, temperature gauge) and the road ahead.

### Mirrors

- adjust your mirrors so that you have a full view around the vehicle
- while the vehicle is parked and you are sitting in the driver's seat, ask that your supervisor takes a walk around the vehicle to help you check your mirrors and identify the vehicle's 'blind spots'.



## What do I need to practice?

Start your driving practice on quiet streets and as your driving gets better, begin to experience a wider range of conditions. You can record your driving experience in different driving conditions in the notes section of your logbook. By the time you sit for your driving test you should have gained a lot of experience in a range of driving conditions.

You could try driving in different:

- **light** (day, night, dawn, dusk), you must accumulate 10 hours of night driving experience in your logbook prior to sitting the Q-SAFE practical driving test
- **weather conditions** (clear, overcast, rain, fog and ice in areas that experience these)
- **road conditions** (sealed and unsealed roads, urban and rural roads, local streets and highways or freeways including multi-lane roads)
- **traffic conditions** (light and peak-hour).

It is also important for you to gain experience with different driving skills that you will use when driving on your own, including:



- obeying traffic signals
- negotiating roundabouts and intersections
- sharing the road with pedestrians, cyclists, and motorbike riders
- maintaining your road position and speed in traffic
- performing hill starts and u-turns
- recognising hazards and responding in time
- changing lanes, merging, overtaking
- reversing and reverse parking.

Make sure you take time to plan each practice lesson with your supervisor. Think about the possible route you may take and the types of road conditions you may come across. It is essential that if you don't feel comfortable with any situation

that you don't enter into it too soon. For example, you might need to take some more time before you gain experience on high speed roads or in heavy traffic conditions. Try one new condition at a time. You will then have time to familiarise yourself with each new situation.

It might also be helpful to start with short, frequent practice lessons where you only practise one or two new skills. If you do plan to do longer driving lessons, make sure you take regular rest breaks – a 15 minute break every two hours is a good start.

Remember that you can brush up on the road rules before your practice lessons by revising *Your keys to driving in Queensland*. This is the guide to Queensland road rules.

It's available for purchase from Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centres, most newsagencies, or download free from [www.tmr.qld.gov.au](http://www.tmr.qld.gov.au).

## How do I get enough practice?

Here are a few things to think about:

- if you want to get your licence in one year, you will need to do approximately 2 hours of practice every week to reach the minimum requirement of 100 hours behind the wheel

- if your parent/carer can't make the time available, think about other experienced drivers perhaps a relation, family friend, or an accredited driver trainer
- get real life driving experience by suggesting you become the family driver – driving whenever they have to go somewhere
- offer to do the regular drives – to school, sport, shops – it all adds up.



## RACQ Learner Drives

RACQ has developed a Learner Drives program designed to help learner drivers and their supervisors plan driving lessons. Learner Drives offers pre-determined routes designed to expose learners to different driving situations. Visit [www.learn2go.com.au](http://www.learn2go.com.au) to access the Learner Drives program.

## ▶ Safe driving

**STOP**

### *Safe driving tips:*

*Whenever you drive it is important to remember that a safe driver:*

- *keeps a safe following distance from the vehicle in front*
- *is alert, regularly scanning between mirrors, the vehicle's instrument panel, and the road and roadside environment near and well ahead of their vehicle*
- *drives to the road, traffic and weather conditions.*

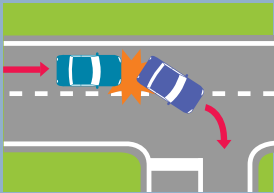
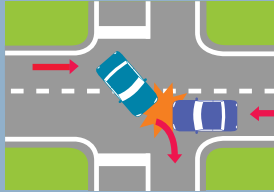
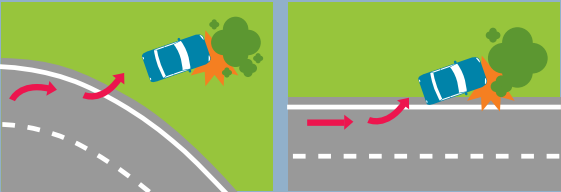
## Common types of novice driver crashes

Newly licensed drivers tend to have more crashes than other drivers. Common types of crashes for provisional drivers are:

- running into the back of another vehicle
- turning across the path of another vehicle, for example at intersections
- single vehicle crashes, for example running off the road.



Practice the tips below to help you avoid these crashes:

Type of crash	Tips
<p data-bbox="108 255 225 281"><b>Rear end</b></p> 	<ul data-bbox="708 250 1374 456" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• increase your following distance</li><li>• reduce your speed</li><li>• travel at speeds suitable for traffic conditions</li><li>• beware of distractions both inside and outside the vehicle</li><li>• scan well ahead, not just the immediate area in front of the vehicle</li></ul>
<p data-bbox="108 516 277 542"><b>Intersections</b></p> 	<ul data-bbox="708 505 1437 669" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• slow down before entering intersections and look out for turning vehicles</li><li>• don't change lanes near intersections</li><li>• don't assume another driver will give way</li><li>• select a safe gap when turning across the path of oncoming traffic</li></ul>
<p data-bbox="108 764 288 790"><b>Single vehicle</b></p> 	<ul data-bbox="708 770 1465 1012" style="list-style-type: none"><li>• travel at speeds suitable for traffic conditions and within the speed limit</li><li>• beware of distractions both inside and outside the vehicle</li><li>• observe advisory signs (usually black symbols on a yellow background) that alert drivers to dangers or hazards</li><li>• do not drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol</li><li>• avoid driving tired or while distracted.</li></ul>

## Avoiding crashes

When you are driving it is important to be able to identify driving situations which are potentially dangerous for you. Research shows that one of the most important driving skills is hazard perception. That is why, in 2008, the Department of Transport and Main Roads introduced the hazard perception test for first stage provisional drivers.

### What is a hazard?

A hazard is a potentially dangerous situation that may lead to a crash or injury. Learning to scan the road environment for hazards, as well as observing other vital information such as speed and traffic signs, is important. Other vehicles or road users such as pedestrians and cyclists can make unexpected



moves. Adverse weather, night driving or animals near the road can also pose a risk to you as a driver.

Once you have learned to recognise hazards, experience will enable you to respond appropriately and reduce your level of risk.

## Reducing the risks

For novice drivers, it is the lack of experience that contributes to crashes and makes you most at risk. As drivers generally develop basic vehicle handling skills very quickly, their perceived success early in the learning stage can also lead to overconfidence – a novice driver's worst enemy.

### The two second gap

If your vehicle is travelling too closely behind a vehicle that brakes suddenly, a collision will be difficult to avoid. The two second gap will assist you in judging whether you are following at a safe distance.

The two second gap is calculated by using a stationary item on the side of the road ahead (for example, a tree or sign), as a marker. When the rear of the vehicle in front passes the marker begin counting, 'one thousand and one, one thousand and two' at a normal rate of speech. If your vehicle passes the marker before you finish saying these words, your vehicle is too close.

By keeping at least a minimum two second gap, under ideal conditions you will have a greater visual field to observe traffic situations, signs and road markings ahead. This will enhance your ability to plan for and deal with any hidden surprises.

Under poor conditions, such as rain or fog, stopping distance increases. Therefore it is recommended that the safe driving gap be at least doubled to a minimum of four seconds.

### **Night driving**

The distance you can see ahead and to the side of your vehicle is severely reduced after dark. This means you need to take extra care as it will be more difficult to identify hazards.

Drive with your headlights on between the hours of sunset and sunrise or when conditions require it. Always keep in mind that while you need good visibility to drive safely, it is equally



*Young people (17-24) are twice as likely to be involved in a fatal crash between the hours of 11pm and 5am than at any other time.*

important for other drivers to be able to see you.

If a vehicle comes towards you with its lights on high beam, slow down and look to the left of the road.

### **Driving under the influence – alcohol and drugs**

In Queensland, learner and provisional drivers are required to have zero blood alcohol concentration (0.00 BAC) while driving.

Learner and provisional drivers over 25 years of age and any supervisors must have a BAC of less than 0.05 while driving.

You should be careful when considering driving the day after drinking alcohol, as you could still be over the limit. No matter how much food, coffee, or fresh air you take in you will not be able to sober up any faster.

Prescription and non-prescription drugs can affect your vision, mood, decision-making skills, muscles and coordination. When starting a new course of medication, ask your doctor or pharmacist about the affects that it may have on your driving. Driving while affected by medication is not an excuse for careless driving, and can result in the same

penalties as for drivers who are caught driving under the influence of illicit drugs.

Mixing drugs or combining drugs with alcohol can seriously affect a driver's ability to drive safely.

**Never drive if you have consumed illicit or recreational drugs.**

### Fitness to drive



*At 0.05 BAC, a driver has double the risk of a serious crash than at 0.00 BAC.*

*At 0.08 BAC, the risk is double that at 0.05.*

You must immediately report to the Department of Transport and Main Roads any long-term or permanent medical condition/s affecting your ability to drive safely as soon as you become aware of the condition/s, or any adverse change to existing condition/s.

Transport and Main Roads can amend, suspend or cancel licences after seeking advice from an individual's doctor, or may require drivers to carry a medical certificate.

As your first step, it is recommended that you consult your health professional(s).

For the learner driver



*Drivers who use cannabis have 3 to 6 times the crash risk of drivers who are drug and alcohol free.*

### Speeding

Speeding behaviour cannot only be described as exceeding the speed limit, but also as driving too fast for the road, traffic or weather conditions.

Travelling at inappropriate speeds increases the likelihood and severity of a crash occurring.

Remember that speed limits are maximum speeds – you don't have to go that fast. You should adjust the speed you drive to match the conditions.

### Fatigue/driving tired

Driver fatigue or driving tired adversely affects your level of concentration, alertness and your ability to process information and make decisions. Slower reactions and impaired visual scanning can happen well before you fall asleep.

High risk times for fatigue crashes are 2pm – 4pm and 10pm – 6am. The risk of dying in a fatigue related crash is higher in rural areas compared with urban areas.

Driving on less than five hours' sleep in the previous 24 hours triples the risk of having a crash.

Young people (particularly those under 30 years) are a high risk group for driving tired because:

- they have insufficient sleep due to lifestyle (including work, study and social activities)
- their bodies are still maturing
- a higher proportion of their driving occurs between midnight and 6am compared to other age groups.

The only cure for fatigue or tiredness is good quality sleep – so make sure you get enough regular, uninterrupted sleep before you drive.

When getting your driving experience, the best way to avoid fatigue crashes is to:

- plan your trips well in advance - RACQ maps, the online Trip Planner ([www.racq.com](http://www.racq.com)) and the Road Reporting Hotline (1300 130 595) can help
- if you're planning a long trip, build in 15 minute rest stops every 2 hours

- get plenty of sleep before setting out and
- eat well-balanced meals along the way.

## ▶ Driving conditions

### Weather conditions

It is recommended that in the early stages of learning to drive, you predominantly gain experience in dry weather conditions to help you become familiar with the vehicle, traffic, roads and the driving task in general.

Every driver will most likely be caught in the rain, and it is therefore important that while on your learner licence you gain some experience driving on wet roads and in the rain.



Driving in the rain, fog or through smoke calls for extra care and can be much more stressful than driving in normal fine

conditions. These conditions reduce visibility, can increase the risk of skidding and losing control, and can make overtaking and other manoeuvres extremely dangerous. When driving in adverse conditions, you should:

- reduce speed to compensate for poor visibility
- increase your following distance behind other vehicles to suit the conditions
- avoid sudden braking, accelerating or sudden turning manoeuvres to reduce chances of skidding
- use headlights to improve your own visibility of the road ahead and make it easier for others to see you
- use the air-conditioning or demister to prevent any fogging of the windows
- make best use of road line markings and post mounted road side signs to help position your vehicle correctly on the road.

## Country roads

Sealed country roads can feature high speed limits, limited overtaking opportunities, sharp bends/corners and other hazardous situations such as narrow bridges or crests. Also, some of these roads may only provide a single lane of sealed road surface. This means that it is not always safe to travel at the speed limit for that section of road. It is very important that you take note of any yellow warning

signs and speed limit advisory signs, and adjust your speed appropriately, well before reaching the turn or hazard.

When driving in the country:

- watch out for wildlife and livestock on roads, roadsides and near water crossings - particularly at sunrise and after sunset
- watch out for tractors towing farm machinery, especially during seeding and harvest times
- don't stop on or near bridges, floodways or on narrow sections of roadway
- reduce your speed when forced onto soft shoulders on narrow roads
- don't pull out on to the roadway when you see another vehicle approaching - wait until the other vehicle has passed
- be wary of long or heavy vehicles such as trucks and buses while on narrow roads that may encroach onto your side of the road
- to avoid windscreen chips, if you encounter an oncoming road train or long vehicle, pull over to the left, completely off the road and stop
- overtaking road trains requires a relatively long time and a clear view ahead. It should not be attempted on a curve, crest or bridge

- be wary of narrow country roads where visibility is limited. Head-on collisions can occur on such roads.

## Mountain/range roads



When driving on mountain/range roads:

- take care, they are generally very steep and have many corners/bends, which are sometimes very sharp. Adjust your speed taking note of yellow warning signs. Proper gear selection will reduce over-reliance on your vehicle's brakes while driving down steep roads
- you will need to be aware that some vehicles may struggle to maintain speed on very steep sections. Due to this you may need to allow them extra following distance
- you need to take special care when following large and heavy vehicles, such as trucks on up-hill and down-hill sections of road, and around corners as they will need to travel more slowly than other vehicles.

## Unsealed roads

When driving on unsealed roads, you should be wary of:

- varying surfaces such as gravel, sand or dirt roads have different grip characteristics to sealed roads. The vehicle's tyres are easily able to lose traction on loose stones, in ruts or on corrugations, and on bends. Decrease your speed and increase your following distance behind the vehicle in front
- dust clouds, which can affect your ability to see clearly. Patches of dry bulldust can conceal ruts and potholes
- wet conditions, which can cause the road to become very muddy, slippery and/or boggy.

## Local suburban streets

Due to the high number of intersections that you are likely to encounter on local suburban streets, your knowledge of the road rules is crucial.

Take special care when driving near parked cars. Children or other pedestrians may be hard to see if they are crossing the road from behind parked vehicles. Be prepared to stop.

Similarly, in areas where children are likely to be playing you need to take special care, e.g., school zones where lower speed limits apply.

## Main roads

With increased speed, your vehicle's stopping distance also increases. Make sure that you allow adequate distance between your vehicle and the vehicle that you are following, and that you drive to the conditions and speed limit. When driving on main roads:

- approach main intersections with caution – even if you have a green light to proceed
- pay attention to what other road users are doing
- try to look for hazards on the road ahead of the vehicle that you are following to allow more time for you to appropriately react
- plan your moves in advance and give other road users plenty of warning of your intended movements by indicating appropriately when performing manoeuvres such as changing lanes, joining or leaving a line of traffic, or turning.



*At 50km/h an average sized vehicle's total stopping distance is about 42 metres, whereas at 70km/h this distance almost doubles to about 71 metres.*

For the learner driver

## Driving interstate

If you are driving interstate, you still have to adhere to the conditions of your Queensland licence.

You will also have to obey the other state's road rules. For example, in New South Wales the 80km/h maximum driving speed for learner drivers is a road rule that you would have to obey.

To find out which special road rules will apply to you when travelling interstate, it is best to contact the transport authority for the state that you will be driving in.

RTA (NSW) – 13 22 13  
[www.rta.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rta.nsw.gov.au)

DIER (TAS) – 1300 135 513  
[www.transport.tas.gov.au](http://www.transport.tas.gov.au)

VicRoads (VIC) – 13 11 71  
[www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

DPI (NT) – 1300 654 628  
[www.dpi.nt.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nt.gov.au)

DPI (WA) – 13 11 56  
[www.dpi.wa.gov.au](http://www.dpi.wa.gov.au)

Transport SA (SA) – 1300 360 067  
[www.transport.sa.gov.au](http://www.transport.sa.gov.au)

Road Transport (ACT) – (02) 6207 7000  
[www.tams.act.gov.au](http://www.tams.act.gov.au)

## ▶ Additional information

### Frequently asked questions

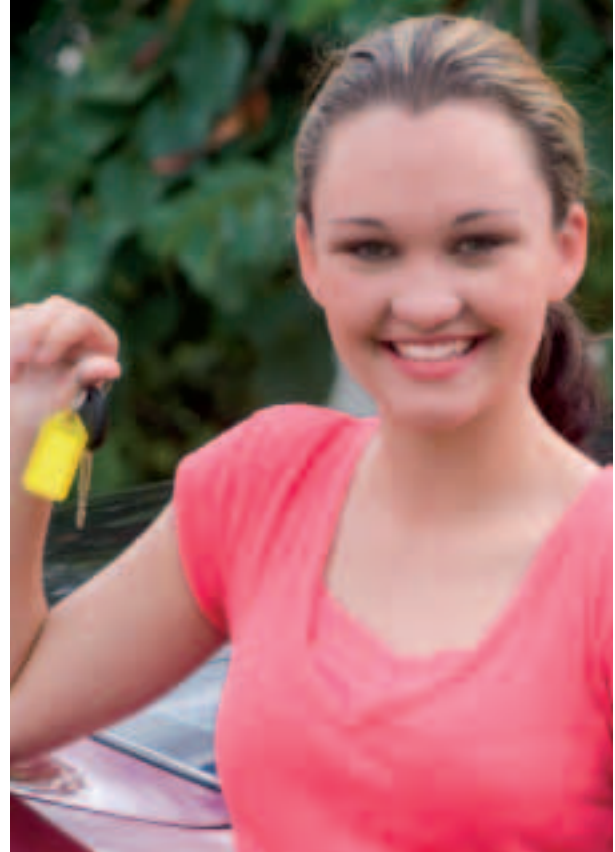
For answers to frequently asked questions visit [www.transport.qld.gov.au/learningtodrive](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/learningtodrive).

### What happens next?

Once you turn 17, have held your learner licence for 12 months (not including licence suspensions or cancellation), and recorded at least 100 hours supervised on-road driving experience in your logbook, you can apply for your provisional licence by taking your Q-SAFE practical driving test.

Once you get your provisional licence you will be subject to a number of conditions, all in the interests of keeping you safe.

N.B. If you are 25 years or over when you apply for your provisional licence, you will not need to have recorded 100 hours supervised on-road experience.



## What you can and can't do on a provisional licence

Once you have held your learner licence for at least 12 months (not including suspensions or cancellations) and have successfully passed the Q-SAFE practical driving test you will graduate to the next licence type depending upon your age (P1 or P2), with the following requirements and restrictions.

P1 Under 25		
When	17+ age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must be at least 17 years of age to undertake a Q-SAFE practical driving test</li> <li>You must hold your P1 licence for a minimum of 12 months (not including licence suspensions or cancellations)</li> </ul>
Requirements	Red P plates Carry licence Hazard perception test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must display red P plates at the front and rear of your vehicle</li> <li>You must carry your licence with you when driving</li> <li>You must pass a hazard perception test to graduate from your P1 licence This is a test that measures your ability to recognise and appropriately respond to potentially dangerous situations on the road</li> </ul>
Restrictions	Mobile phone Passengers High powered vehicles Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must not use your mobile phone when driving, including the hands-free functions and Bluetooth accessories</li> <li>Your passengers are banned from using mobile phones on the loudspeaker function</li> <li>Only one passenger aged under 21 (excluding immediate family members) may travel with you between 11pm and 5am</li> <li>You are not allowed to drive high-powered vehicles including vehicles with any of the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ an engine that has a power output of more than 200kW or</li> <li>▶ eight or more cylinders or</li> <li>▶ a turbocharged or supercharged engine (except diesel powered engines) or</li> <li>▶ a modified engine requiring approval under the Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 1999, section 30 or</li> <li>▶ a rotary engine that has an engine capacity in excess of 1146cc</li> </ul> </li> <li>Check your vehicle's power specifications on the vehicle manufacturer's website or a car guide website</li> <li>Your blood alcohol concentration level must be 0.00</li> </ul>



P1 Under 25		
Penalties	Late night driving restriction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The late night driving restriction will prohibit you from driving between the hours of 11pm and 5am for 1 year. This restriction will be applied to you when you return from a disqualification or suspension period or from the commencement of your GDB period</li> </ul>
	Suspension or good driving behaviour (GDB) option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you accumulate 4 or more demerit points over a 1 year period, you will have the option of choosing either a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 month driving suspension with a 1 year late night driving restriction after the suspension or</li> <li>1 year GDB with a late night driving restriction applied</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
P2 25 years and over		
	25+ age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bypass the P1 stage of the provisional licence and go straight to a P2 licence</li> </ul>
Requirements	Green P plates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must display green P plates at the front and rear of your vehicle</li> </ul>
	Carry licence Licence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must carry your licence with you when driving</li> <li>Hold a P2 licence for at least 1 year</li> </ul>
Restrictions	Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your blood alcohol concentration level must be zero (0.00 BAC)</li> </ul>
Penalties	Suspension or good driving behaviour (GDB) option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you accumulate 4 or more demerit points over a 1 year period, you will have the option of choosing either a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 month driving suspension or</li> <li>1 year GDB</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



## Where to go for extra help

- Your nearest Department of Transport and Main Roads customer service centre
- Your local RACQ branch
- Your local accredited driver trainer

## Department of Transport and Main Roads publications for learner drivers include:

- *Your keys to driving in Queensland*
- *Safe driving in Queensland – learner driver handbook*
- *Safe driving in Queensland – supervising driver handbook*
- *Logbook*

## Telephone:

Department of Transport and Main Roads 13 23 80 \*

RACQ Learner Licence Help Line (24 hours) 1800 680 015

*\* Operates Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm EST (GMT +10) excluding public holidays. Local call charge in Australia. Higher rates apply from mobile phones and payphones.*

## Getting help on-line:

[www.transport.qld.gov.au/learningtodrive](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/learningtodrive)

[www.racq.com](http://www.racq.com)

[www.learn2go.com.au](http://www.learn2go.com.au)

[www.adta.com.au](http://www.adta.com.au)



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For more information visit  
[www.transport.qld.gov.au/learningtodrive](http://www.transport.qld.gov.au/learningtodrive)

