Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I know if a driver education course is approved by the Oregon Department of Transportation?

A. The department has a list of approved courses offered through public schools and private companies. You can check with TSD to see if their program is ODOT-approved, at: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/de.shtml.

Q. I had a permit from another state for three months. Do I only need one for three months in Oregon?

A. No,you need a permit from Oregon for six months or you need a permit from another state for six months.

Q. How do I certify my hours of supervised driving practice?

A. You will need to keep a driving log to track your hours. You and your parent or legal guardian must certify driving hours at DMV when getting your license.

Q. Can my parent take my license away?

A. Yes. If you are under age 18, the parent who signed your original driver license application can send a written request for cancellation to the DMV.

Q. I am 15 years old. My dad had his driver license revoked and there are no other relatives who can supervise my driving. What can I do?

A. Try asking a school counselor, a church pastor or a friend's mom or dad to help. The supervising driver must be at least 21 years old and have had a valid license for at least three years.

Q. What happens if I'm caught driving outside the night driving restrictions and/or the passenger restrictions?

A. Law enforcement can cite you and your license can be suspended. Further violations can mean your license will still be suspended even after you turn 18.

Q. Does the law mean that I can't ever drive after midnight?

A. For the first year after receiving your license you can't be driving after midnight unless you're driving between home and work, driving home after a school event for which no other transportation is available, driving for employment purposes or driving accompanied by a licensed driver who's at least 25 years old.

The Road To Getting Your License

What You Need To Know About Oregon's Teen Driving Law

The Road To Getting Your License

If you're under 18 and getting your license for the first time, here's what you need to do.

Starting Off in the Right Direction

Learning to drive? Cool. Oregon's teen driving law is designed to keep you safe in the process. The fact is, as a young driver, you're more likely to be involved in a fatal crash within the first six months of getting your license than at any other time.

And nobody wants to see that happen. The new law lets you ease into driving, with plenty of time for practice so you can learn how to do it right — without wrapping yourself around a tree.

To get started down the road to your license, just follow these directions. And learn how to drive safely — for life.

1 The First Leg of the Trip

GET YOUR OREGON INSTRUCTION PERMIT.
You have to have your permit for at least six months before you can get a license. (To get your permit — if you haven't already — you need to be at least 15 years old and pass a written test.)

2 Practice, Practice, Practice

Seriously. You have to certify that you've had at least 50 HOURS of supervised driving practice*.

3 And Practice Some More

You have to:

Complete a driver education course that's approved by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

Wow! Do you realize that 100 hours of driving is 2 hours a week for almost 2 years!

unless you

Complete an additional 50 HOURS of supervised driving practice*. Both you and a parent or legal guardian will need to certify your hours of supervised driving and/or your driver education course completion.

*Your supervising driver needs to be someone who's at least 21 years old and who's had a valid license for at least three years.(Hint: Like Mom or Dad. Believe it or not, they actually know more about driving than you think. Besides, it's a chance to do that whole bonding thing. Humor them — you may need to borrow money someday.)

4 The halfway stretch

So, now you get to strut your stuff and show us what you know about driving safely by taking the Safe Driving Practices written exam.

ONE WAY

REST AREA 1 MILE

5 The Big Test

PASS THE DRIVING TEST AND GET YOUR PROVISIONAL LICENSE. (This is where all that practice starts to pay off.)

STOP

6 Entering the Restricted Zone

YOU'RE OFF AND ROLLING. But there are still some restrictions after you get your provisional license. These are designed to keep you safe (and alive) during that crucial first year of licensed driving.

7 Covering New Territory — the First Six Months After You Get Your License

For the first six months you can't drive with a passenger under the age of 20 who isn't a member of your immediate family and you can't drive between midnight and 5am.

Why? You still need time to get used to driving solo, without a lot of distractions. It's hard to focus on the road if your friends are bugging you to change the radio station or stop and get nachos. For right now, concentrate on getting into safe driving habits.

8 Getting Comfortable — The Second Six Months After You Get Your License

For the second six months you can't drive with more than three passengers who are under the age of 20 who are not members of your immediate family and you still can't drive between midnight and 5am.

Makes sense. At this point, you're still getting comfortable handling the car safely and following traffic rules. Besides — how big is your car anyway?

9 The Home Stretch

All of the restrictions listed are only for the first year. Then you're off driving in the real world. But remember to play it smart. There are a lot of cars out there. So drive safely — for life. Remember to be extra cautious at night since your greater risk of being involved in a fatal or injury crash is at night.

For the first year, you can't drive between midnight and 5:00 a.m. unless you are:

a) driving between home and work.

b) driving between home and a school event for which there is no other transportation available.

c) driving for employment purposes.

d) accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 25 years old.

The reason for this is simple. As a young driver,your greatest risk of being involved in a fatal or injury crash is at night.

Passenger restrictions do not apply while driving with an instructor as part of a certified driver education course or with a parent or stepparent who has valid driving privileges(per ORS 807.122(3) a & b).

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For more information about graduated driver licensing requirements and getting your license, you can call the DMV at 503-945-5000. Or, visit the Oregon DMV Web site at www.oregondmv.com

Drive Safely.
The Way to Go

Transportation Safety – ODOT

737-9143(09-11) #330060

More Tips On Steering Clear of Trouble

- **DRIVE SOBER.** It saves lives. And if you get caught in possession of alcohol or drugs, don't expect to see your license again until you're 21.
- **RIDE WITH SOBER DRIVERS**. 48 percent of people who die in car crashes are passengers. Don't be one of them. If the driver has been drinking or doing drugs, find another way to get where you're going.
- **ALWAYS WEAR YOUR SAFETY BELT– IT'S THE LAW IN OREGON.** And failing to wear your safety belt while you have a provisional license could cause your license to be suspended. Not pretty.
- **GET TO KNOW YOUR CAR.** There's a reason it has a sun visor, door locks and parking brakes – to make driving easier and safer for you. Also, make sure your car is in good working order.
- **STAY OFF THE PHONE.** Under Oregon law, it is illegal for drivers under 18 years of age to use mobile communication devices, including talking or texting on the cell phones, while driving.
- **FOCUS ON DRIVING,** not on eating, putting on make-up or messing with the radio. Remember if you are caught messaging you can be cited for distracted driving!

- **BE A DEFENSIVE DRIVER AND STAY ALERT.** Tailgating is a lame reason to get in a crash. Keep at least four seconds of following distance between your car and the vehicle in front of you.
- **SLOW DOWN.** Speeding isn't impressive, just stupid. Stay within the speed limit. It's there for a reason.
- **DON'T LOAD UP YOUR CAR WITH TOO MANY FRIENDS.** It's distracting and there are restrictions, especially while you're still getting the hang of driving. Make sure you can have friends in the car and know how many you can have. Remember, you're responsible for the lives of your passengers as well as your own.
- **DON'T GET MAD AT THE OTHER DRIVERS**. Nobody wins with road rage.
- **CHECK YOUR REAR VIEW MIRROR** before and after you brake, every time.
- **FOLLOW TRAFFIC RULES** and pay attention to what's going on around you.
- **NEVER LET FRIENDS DRIVE YOUR CAR.** If they crash, you could lose money, car privileges and a friendship. Worse yet, your parent could even lose their house.
- **REMAIN AWAKE,** even as a passenger to help keep the driver alert.

Did You Know?

- When you are driving, you have approximately 1,000 skills constantly demanded of you.
- The safest place for your hands on the steering wheel is in the clock positions of 9:00 and 3:00 – or –8:00 and 4:00.
- With air bags in newer cars, you shouldn't drive with your arms across the steering wheel.
- ABS brakes should not be pumped. Instead, use constant pressure.
- The top three contributing causes of crashes involving young drivers are driving under the influence of intoxicants, speeding and failure to maintain lane position.
- Windows rolled down halfway may become guillotines in a crash.
- An emergency safety kit should have, at a minimum, jumper cables, flares, reflectors, a first aid kit and a flashlight. You never know when you might need them.
- Practice is the best way to turn safe driving skills into habits.

Did You Know?