

Safety tips for the road



Every 18 seconds someone is involved in an auto accident; every 11 minutes someone dies. Here are some street-smart strategies every driver should practice.

- **Be cautious at intersections.** Intersections can be risky because there are a lot of distractions: turning cars, pedestrians and red-light runners.
- **Steer clear of erratic drivers.** Let a tailgater pass you.
- **Keep your eyes on the road.** Talking on a cell phone or reading a map can distract you and lead to an accident. Keep in mind that a distracted driver might also be near you. Drive cautiously.
- **Be alert near parked cars.** Someone could open a car door or pull out in front of you.
- **Don't drive sleep-deprived.** Sleep is not a matter of willpower, but a biological need. If you become drowsy, pull off the road and get some rest.
- **Pass cautiously.** When passing another car, get past the driver's blind spot as quickly and safely as possible.
- **Know your brakes.** Most cars have antilock brakes, which require a driver to apply a firm and continuous pressure on the pedal.
- **Drive for the weather.** In stormy weather, leave extra space between you and the car ahead.
- **Don't drive through water.** A small amount of water can disable a vehicle in seconds.
- **Don't forget the basics.** Buckle your seatbelt, limit loose objects in your car and lock your doors.



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