

Quick tips

- ✓ Drive the speed limit.
- ✓ Stop at all stop signs.
- ✓ Share the road with people walking and riding bicycles.
- ✓ Never smoke when driving with children in the vehicle – **it's the law!**
- ✓ Never leave children alone in a vehicle.
- ✓ Trucks need extra space – stay well back.
- ✓ Leave plenty of space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.
- ✓ Check municipal by-laws for parking information in your area.

If you are in a collision

Ontario law requires you to report any collision when there are injuries or damage to vehicles or property that is \$1,000 or more. Call 911.

Stay calm when involved in a collision. Do not leave the scene.

Pedestrian safety

- Cross the street at crosswalks or traffic lights – not mid-block or in between parked cars. Cross at the start of a green light or “Walk” sign. Never cross on a yellow or a red light.
- Make sure drivers see you even if you have the right of way. Check for turning cars.
- Use sidewalks when possible. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far from the road as possible.
- Wear reflective, bright or light-coloured clothing. Clip on a light at night or during bad weather.
- Children under age 9 need an adult or older friend to walk with them.
- Avoid using your phone or listening to music - pay attention.



Railway crossings

- Follow signals. Cross tracks at marked pedestrian or railway crossings.
- It is against the law to drive or go around railway barriers when they are down or being lowered.
- Always expect a train. Trains do not follow set schedules.



What to do

If stopped by police:

- When you see the flashing lights and/or hear sirens, remain calm and safely pull over to the side of the road.
- Do not exit your vehicle unless asked to do so by the police officer.
- Ontario law requires you to show a driver's licence and a copy of the vehicle registration and insurance documents to the police officer if asked.
- If you receive a ticket, accept it calmly. Avoid getting into argument.
- Accepting the ticket does not mean you are guilty. You will have a chance to argue your side in court.

If your vehicle breaks down:

- Turn on the emergency flashers.
- Pull off the road if possible.
- Phone for a tow truck or the police for help.
- If you break down in traffic, phone 911.

For your safety:

- Stay in your vehicle while you wait for help.
- If you must leave your vehicle, exit from the side away from traffic and find a safe place to wait.
- Never stand in front or behind the vehicle.

**Welcome to
Ontario**



**Important road safety
information to keep you and
your family safe.**



www.safetydrivesus.org

Licence and registration

All drivers must have:

- A valid and proper class driver's licence. For info visit: ontario.ca/transportation.
- Vehicle registration. Keep copy in vehicle.
- Vehicle insurance. Keep a copy in vehicle.

Seatbelts and child car seats

Using seatbelts and child car seats is the law. You must buckle up in both the front and the back seat of a vehicle.

It is the driver's responsibility to make sure that all children under 16 years of age wear a seatbelt or are in the correct child car seat or booster seat.

It is dangerous and against the law to share a seatbelt. One person – one seatbelt.

Child car seats:

- Use the correct car seat or booster seat for your child's age, weight and height.
- Always install the car seat in the back seat of the vehicle.
- Visit www.safetydrivesus.org for car seat information and videos in other languages.



Impaired driving

If you are impaired by alcohol, drugs or medication, **do not** drive.

- It reduces your judgement and ability to concentrate and react.
- It is a criminal offence in Canada and if convicted, you can lose your driver's licence, pay a fine or spend time in jail.



Distracted driving

- Anything that takes a driver's attention away from the road can result in distracted driving including: eating, passengers, adjusting vehicle controls, construction and road sign advertising.
- It is illegal in Ontario to drive while using hand-held communication and electronic entertainment devices (e.g. cell phones, blackberries, GPS, ipods, etc.).
- It is also against the law to have certain display screens visible to the driver (e.g. DVD players, laptops, etc.).



Winter driving

- Consider using winter tires for safer driving in cold weather.
- Check weather reports and call 511 or visit www.ontario.ca/511 for road conditions.
- Before you drive, clear your vehicle of snow and ice. Make sure the roof and all windows, mirrors and lights are clear.
- Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you during conditions such as snow, ice, rain, fog and bright sunshine.
- Have an emergency travel kit in your vehicle which includes a flashlight, extra clothing, shovel, blanket, winter boots, snacks, candles and matches.

Emergency vehicles

- If you see or hear an ambulance, police car or fire truck approaching from any direction, it is the law to move your vehicle out of the way.
- Signal and quickly move as close as you can to the right side of the roadway and stop when it is safe to do so.
- If approaching an emergency vehicle stopped with its lights flashing, slow down and pass with caution. Move over into another lane if it can be done safely.



School buses

- Drivers must stop when approaching a stopped school bus with its upper red lights flashing.
- You can start to drive again once the red lights have stopped flashing, the STOP arm closes and the bus begins to move.



Transit buses

- If you approach a city transit bus that begins to flash its left turn signal, you must allow the bus to re-enter traffic.

