



Fact Sheet

The Six Steps to Getting your Licence

The Graduated Driver Training and Licensing (GDT&L) system has been designed to ensure novice drivers get a wider range of supervised driving experience over a longer period of time before going solo. You will acquire the practical driving skills, good driving habits and the responsible and courteous attitudes that are essential to safety on our roads.

The GDT&L system will make you better prepared for the road ahead.

Inexperience and risk taking behaviour (particularly among young males) are the major reasons why young drivers are at a greater risk of crashing. The most dangerous time for young drivers is the first six months after getting their licence.

For all young drivers, the single most important protective factor is the hours of supervised driving experience they gain in real-world traffic situations before going solo. *Young drivers who have at least 100-120 hours of supervised driving experience are better prepared for a lifetime of safe driving and are less likely to be involved in serious crashes.

*Senserrick, T & Whelan, M 2003, Graduated driver licensing: effectiveness of systems and individual components, Report no. 209, Monash University Accident Research Centre, Clayton Victoria.

Here are the steps to obtaining your provisional licence under the GDT&L system. It applies to anyone getting their first driver's licence (except an R-N Moped licence).

Step One - Learner's Permit

You can apply for a learner's permit at any Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) centre or regional DVS agent any time after you turn 16. Before you are issued with a learner's permit you will have to pay a fee and pass a theory test. The theory test consists of multiple choice questions on the road rules and safe driving practice.

You should read the Drive Safe / Ride Safe book beforehand and practice the learner's test online at www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs to help you pass the test. If you pass, you will need to pay for your learner's permit. The cost of your learner's permit includes one practical driving assessment. To start recording your supervised driving hours you will need to pay for and be issued a Learner Guide and Log Book. You can then access the official the electronic Log Book App 'Learn&Log'.

Step Two - Learning to Drive

Now you have your learner's permit, you can commence lessons with an approved instructor/supervisor. This can be a licensed driving instructor or a person who currently holds, and has held the class of licence stated on your permit for more than four years.

You can now begin to record your minimum 50 hours of supervised driving (including five hours of night time driving) in an approved Log Book if required and you must display 'L' plates whenever you are driving. You may drive on all roads, except within the boundaries of Kings Park. You may drive up to a maximum speed of 100km/h (where permissible).



Step Three - Hazard Perception Test

You cannot undertake a Hazard Perception Test (HPT) until a mandatory 6 month period has lapsed since the issue date of your learner's permit.

The test will be used to determine your ability to assess traffic situations and to make safe driving decisions. The test consists of a computer screen that displays a series of moving traffic scenes. You have to respond to each scene by clicking a mouse to indicate when it is safe to commence a manoeuvre or when it is necessary to take the appropriate action to reduce the risk of a crash for the traffic situation. The recorded response time, or lack of response from you, will then be compared to the recommended response (or no response) times required to pass the test.

A fee is payable to sit a HPT and only one may be attempted per day.

More information and practice examples of the HPT are available online at www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs.



Step Four - Gain Experience

During this stage you still have to drive under supervision and continue to record a minimum of 50 hours supervised driving experience (including five hours of night time driving) across a range of conditions if required.

You are encouraged to do as many hours of supervised driving experience as possible. You must continue to display 'L' plates when driving. You may drive up to a maximum speed of 100km/h (where permissible).

Step Five - Practical Driving Assessment

When you have developed the ability to control your vehicle safely you can attempt the practical driving assessment. You must be at least 17 years of age, completed a minimum of 50 hours of supervised driving experience (including five hours of night time driving) in the class of vehicle you wish to sit the assessment in and have passed the relevant class specific Hazard Perception Test to undertake the assessment.

To help you pass the assessment you should read the How to Pass Your Practical Driving Assessment handbook, which is available from all DVS centres and regional DVS agents or online at www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs.

You may be eligible to book your practical driving assessment online by visiting www.transport.wa.gov.au, alternatively you can phone 13 11 56 or visit your nearest centre or regional DVS agent to make an appointment.

Step Six - Provisional Licence

Congratulations, you now have your 'P' plates and you can drive without a supervisor!

Before you are issued with your provisional licence you are required to have your photo taken and pay for your driver's licence.

You will be on 'P' plates for two years, you will need to display the red 'P' plates for the first six months and swap to the green 'P' plates for the remaining time on your provisional licence. It is illegal not to display your 'P' plates whenever you drive. Remember, while on 'P' plates it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol level above 0.00%.

For the first six months of your provisional licence period you will be subject to night time driving restrictions. You will also be subject to demerit point restrictions until you have held a driver's licence for two years or periods adding up to two years.

For more information

For further information regarding obtaining your driver's licence or other DVS information visit our website at www.transport.wa.gov.au/dvs

You may be concerned about sitting a computer based test or have difficulties with the English language, if so contact DVS on 13 11 56 to discuss these concerns.