



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Transport**

 **Got Your  
Plates,  
Now What?**



# Rules for P platers



## Display P plates

You must display red P plates for the first six months of your provisional licence and green P plates for the remaining 18 months or until you turn 19 years of age, whichever period is longer.

## Zero Blood Alcohol Content (BAC)

A zero BAC applies to novice drivers. If you're convicted of a drink driving offence, you may have to use an approved alcohol interlock to drive a car.



## Night time driving restrictions

You cannot drive between midnight and five am for the first six months of your provisional licence. Exemptions may apply.

## Mobile phones

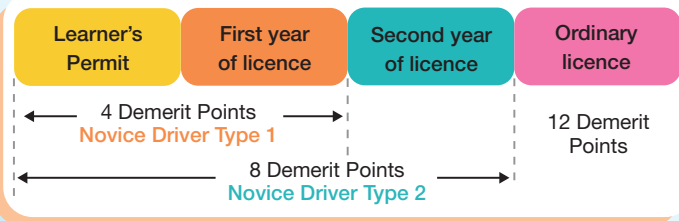
You can only answer or call someone if the phone is in a mount or can be used without touching it when driving.



## Passenger restrictions

Passenger limits permit only one passenger in a car or on a motorbike at all times for the first six months of your provisional licence. Exemptions may apply.

# Demerit Points



There are penalties for traffic offences, including demerit points, fines and loss of licence. You will be disqualified from driving for three months and your licence may be cancelled or learner's permit suspended if:

- **Novice Driver Type 1:** 4 demerit points are recorded against you when learning to drive on a learner's permit or until the end of the first year of holding a provisional licence.
- **Novice Driver Type 2:** 8 demerit points recorded against you until the end of the second year of holding a provisional licence.

If you accrue 4 demerit points when learning to drive your learner's permit will be suspended for three months. You will be disqualified for three months and your licence may be cancelled if you accrue too many demerit points in the first two years of driving. If cancelled you will have to reapply for your licence when the disqualification period has ended before driving.

If you accrue too many points, a demerit points notice must be served to you before your disqualification can start.

You can check your demerit points by visiting the DoT website [www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au)

# Risks while driving

Young drivers are over-represented in serious and fatal crashes with some studies suggesting young drivers are 60% more likely to be involved in a serious crash than any other age group.

## Seatbelts

Not wearing a seatbelt is an offence and can result in infringements and demerit points. You are 10 times more likely to be killed in a crash if you're not wearing a seatbelt.

## Driving tired

Driving fatigued can slow your reactions. If you start yawning, blinking more than usual, drift from your lane or zone out, you need to pull over. Take a break or switch drivers. Having a 20 minute power nap can refresh you and prevent fatigue related accidents.

## Careless Driving Offences

Provisional licence holders who are issued with an infringement notice by a Police Officer for careless driving (driving with undue care) may have their driver's licence cancelled on payment of the fine. They will be required to serve a mandatory three month period of disqualification.



## Drink and drug driving

Drinking alcohol or using illicit/prescription drugs puts yourself and other road users at risk. A zero Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) applies to novice drivers. You are a novice driver until you've held a licence for two years (or periods adding up to two years).

## Pay attention

Distraction puts everyone on the road at risk.

To be safe on the road you should:

- Not eat or drink while driving and instead take a rest break.
- Set up everything before taking off including mirrors, GPS, music etc.
- Ask passengers to be quiet if you can't concentrate on driving.
- Make sure pets are safe and properly restrained.
- Clean windscreens and mirrors.
- Set your phone to silent.

Always keep your eyes on the road. A two second distraction at 60 km/h means you're driving 33 metres blind.

## Driving with friends

The more friends you have in the car, the higher your risk of having a crash. Ask passengers to be quiet if you are having difficulty concentrating.

# Your first car

Your car can be the difference between survival or being killed or seriously injured in a crash. When buying a car you should:

- Review independent safety ratings at [www.ancap.com.au](http://www.ancap.com.au)
- Look for a car which has the maximum 5 star Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP) safety rating.

A Used Car Safety Ratings Guide can also be found online at: [www.wa.gov.au](http://www.wa.gov.au)

## What is an ANCAP safety rating?

ANCAP tests cars and awards them a safety rating between one and five. The test puts cars through crash scenarios to find it's level of safety for drivers, passengers, and pedestrians as well as testing technology in cars that can minimise the effects of a crash.

The higher the ANCAP rating, the safer the car.



## When you're off your P's

### Want a years driver's licence for free?

All you need to do is make sure you don't commit a traffic offence during your Provisional period and you'll get a free driver's licence under the safe driver reward scheme.

Drivers who remain demerit point free for a further year (i.e., a total of three consecutive years of demerit free driving), will be rewarded with up to a \$100 discount off their next driver's licence renewal either as:

- a \$100 discount off a five-year licence; or
- a one-year licence free.

To check the rules for eligibility, visit [www.transport.wa.gov.au](http://www.transport.wa.gov.au)

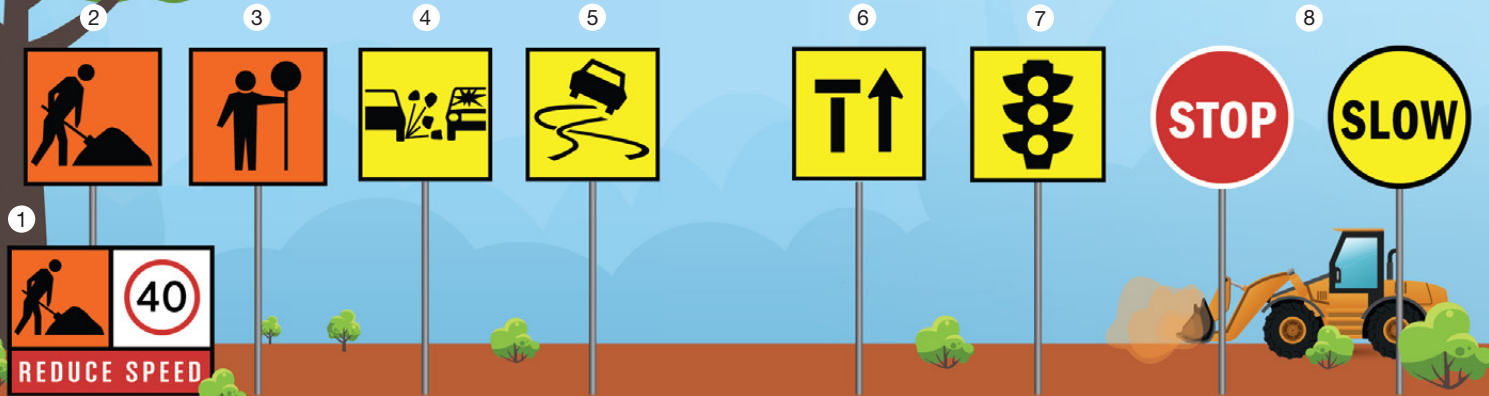


# What if I crash?

- Stop your car immediately and turn on your hazard lights.
- Check it's safe to exit your car and then carefully approach other cars that might be involved to see if anyone is hurt.
- Call 000 if help is needed. Stay at the scene of the crash and wait until emergency services arrive.  
Check if you need to report a crash to WA Police Force online at [www.police.wa.gov.au](http://www.police.wa.gov.au)
- Collect as many details as you can from the other parties involved and take down the details of any witnesses in case they need to be contacted by the Police or for insurance.
- Call Main Roads on 138 138 if you find yourself obstructing traffic on a Freeway or major metropolitan road. Main Roads may help relocate you to a safer location at no cost.
- Call the Wildcare Helpline on 9474 9055 if you have hit and injured a native animal.



# Road work signs



1. Multi-message sign. Road workers are on or next to the road and a speed limit applies until the next speed limit sign. You must reduce speed to on or below the speed limit shown on the sign.
2. Worker symbolic sign. Workers may be on or near the road. Drive with care for your own and roadworkers' safety.
3. Traffic controller symbolic sign. A traffic controller may direct you to stop, you must follow their directions.
4. Loose Stones sign. Hazardous road surface conditions ahead. Be careful and drive safely to the conditions.
5. Slippery road sign. Hazardous road surface conditions ahead. Be careful and drive safely to the conditions.
6. Left lane closed ahead. The T symbol shows the closed lane and the arrow shows the lane/s which remain open.
7. Temporary traffic signals. You must comply with these the same as you would for other traffic signals.
8. Hand-held stop/slow sign. These are used by traffic controllers. You must stop at a safe distance and wait when facing a STOP sign. You can continue with caution when faced with a SLOW sign.

# Driving on regional roads

## Gravel and sand roads

You'll find many of the roads in regional areas of WA are gravel or sand roads. These road surfaces can be uneven and slippery, so make sure you slow down around bends, and don't brake suddenly as it can cause your car to lose control.

## Overtaking

Overtaking lanes are about every 5 to 20 km on busy regional roads. Only overtake when it is safe to do so and don't exceed the speed limit. Road trains in WA are some of the largest trucks in the world. You must be careful if overtaking. They can take a while to overtake and can pull your car in towards them when passing. Do not overtake a road train if you are towing a caravan or trailer, instead wait until you reach an overtaking lane.

## Be aware of animals on the road

In regional areas of WA it is not uncommon for animals such as cattle, camels, emus and kangaroos to cross or rest on the roads. They can be unpredictable, often approaching your car rather than moving out of the way. Kangaroos are most active during sunrise and sunset especially during winter. Look as far in front and to the side as you can while driving to make sure there aren't any animals approaching the road. Always slow down, only sound your horn if it is safe to do so, and go around them slowly. Do not try and avoid them by swerving at speed, as this can cause you to lose control of the car, or collide with another.

## Low visibility

Avoid driving during low visibility conditions such as smoke, fog or direct sunlight. Wait until the conditions clear, such as waiting until after sunrise and sunset. If you have to continue driving, slow down and drive to the conditions. Driving on sand and gravel roads can also cause low visibility by dust and rocks being kicked up in the air.

## Driving long distances pre-travel checklist

When going on a long trip it's important to make sure you are prepared. Towns and service stations in regional WA can be up to 200 km apart. Here are some of the essential tips you will need:

- ☐ Plan your journey around the distance you are travelling.
- ☐ General maintenance check on your car (e.g. oil, water and tyres).
- ☐ In case of emergency have at least five litres of water per person per day on hand.
- ☐ Rest the night before a long trip.
- ☐ Use a recent detailed map.
- ☐ Be aware of road conditions.
- ☐ Be aware of the weather (heavy rainfall in certain areas can cause flash flooding).
- ☐ Keep track of how far you have travelled.
- ☐ Staying hydrated helps prevent fatigue.
- ☐ Take regular driving breaks.
- ☐ Do not drive if you feel tired.
- ☐ Take turns driving if travelling with others.
- ☐ Refuel at every service station during your journey and bring extra fuel with you on the trip.