



THE NEW JERSEY Driver MANUAL







Table of Contents

The New Jersey Driver License System	5
New Jersey Driver Tests	29
Driver Safety & the Rules of the Road	37
Safe Driving Rules & Regulations	57
Defensive Driving	81
Drinking, Drugs & Health	103
Driver Privileges & Penalties	111
Sharing the Road with Others	131
Vehicle Information	145
Essential Driver Information	159
Appendices:	
Driver Safety	167
MVC Locations & Hours	179



Chapter 1

- 6 Laws Governing Driver Licenses
- 8 Digital Driver License
- 8 Types of New Jersey Licenses
- 11 6 Point ID Verification
- 16 Graduated Driver License (GDL)
- 21 Special Learner Permits for New Jersey Residents

The New Jersey Driver License System

- 22 Examination Permits for New Jersey Residents
- 22 Examination Permits for Out-of-State Drivers
- 23 Examination Permits for Out-of-Country Drivers
- 23 International Driving Permit (IDP)
- 24 Non-Driver ID
- 24 Hearing-Impaired Designation
- 24 Commercial Driver License (CDL)

LAWS GOVERNING DRIVER LICENSES

- A motorist who operates a motor vehicle in the State of New Jersey must carry a valid driver license, a valid provisional license or a validated New Jersey permit. The motorist must also carry valid insurance and vehicle registration cards. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-29)
- A motorist with a validated New Jersey driver permit must be accompanied by an appropriately licensed driver. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-13, 39:3-13.2a)
- A motorist who is a legal resident of New Jersey must be licensed in this state. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-10, 39:3-17.1)
- A motorist who changes addresses must report this change to the MVC within one week after moving. This includes individuals who are moving out of New Jersey. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-36)
- A motorist who legally changes his/her name (marriage, divorce, adoption) must report the change to the MVC within two weeks. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-9b)
- A motorist with a valid out-of-state license who moves to New Jersey must apply for a New Jersey license within 60 days (commercial driver license – CDL - within 30 days) or before the current license expires, whichever is sooner. The out-of state license must be surrendered prior to receiving a New Jersey license. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-17.1, 39:3-10.17, 39:5D-5)
- A motorist who is a foreign national with a valid license from another country may be eligible for a New Jersey driver license. If the motorist receives a New Jersey license, he/she will not have to surrender the out-of-country license.
- Operators of commercial vehicles, such as large trucks, buses and vehicles that transport hazardous materials, must satisfy more stringent testing standards than the drivers of automobiles or motorcycles. These operators must still possess a valid, basic New Jersey driver license prior to applying for a CDL

- Individuals who have never had a driver license must complete the MVC's Graduated Driver License (GDL) Program, which introduces driving privileges in phases with a period of supervised driving before getting a basic driver license. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-10, 39:3-13 through 39:3-13.8)
- All applicants for a New Jersey driver license who are under 18 years of age must present a completed consent form signed by a parent or guardian. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-13 and 39:3-13.3)
- GDL, special learner and examination permits are valid until all qualifications for a provisional license are met, or for two years, whichever occurs first. All others are valid for 90 days.
- All applicants for a New Jersey driver license must provide a full name, current address, Social Security number, 6 Points of ID Verification and other documentation that verifies that their legal presence in the United States is authorized under federal law. Documents must be in English or have an approved translation. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-9a, 39:3-9b, 39:3-10 and N.J.A.C. 13:21-1.1, 13:21-1.2, 13:21-1.3, 13:21-8.2)

DIGITAL DRIVER LICENSE

In 2004, New Jersey ceased the issuance of laminated paper licenses and implemented the use of the digital driver license (DDL). The DDL, along with the MVC's 6 Point ID Verification requirement (see page 11), helps to eliminate the prevalence of fraud and abuse. The DDL includes nearly two dozen security features, including digital photographs and signature. The DDL is issued at all MVC agencies. Motorists under 21 years of age are issued a distinctive vertical-format DDL. Most DDLs issued are valid for four years.

Altering a driver license or showing an altered driver license may result in loss of a motorist's driving privilege, a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or up to six months imprisonment. In addition, getting a driver license illegally may result in a fine of up to \$200 to \$500 and/or imprisonment of 30 to 90 days.



RESTRICTIONS

If a motorist has a restriction on his/her license (such as the need to wear corrective lenses while driving), it will appear on the license in a coded form.

Restrictions are as follows:

- 1- Corrective lenses required
- 2- Prosthetic device
- 3- Mechanical device
- 4- Hearing impaired
- 5- Attached restrictions¹

¹ This category applies to special modifications to an applicant's vehicle or limited driver privileges for a medical condition. The card detailing the attached restrictions must remain with the driver license.

TYPES OF NEW JERSEY LICENSES

The following chart shows age requirements, license fees and required tests for each type of license that the MVC offers. Testing for commercial, motorcycle and moped licenses will require the use of topic-specific manuals in addition to using this Driver Manual. Copies of the commercial, motorcycle or moped manuals may be obtained at any MVC agency or requested online at www.njmvc.gov.

Manuals may also be obtained by calling **(888) 486-3339** toll-free in New Jersey or **(609) 292-6500** from out of state.

An endorsement added to a license will expire with the license. When an endorsement is added to an existing license, the charge for the endorsement is prorated to cover the period remaining until expiration.

Basic Automobile License For all types of Class D motor vehicles registered by the MVC, except motorcycles.	Expiration:	4 Years
	Minimum Age:	18 (Permit: 16)
	Permit Fee:	\$10
	Photo License Fee:	\$24
	Test(s) Required:	KVR¹
Provisional Automobile License For all types of Class D motor vehicles registered by the MVC, except motorcycles.	Expiration:	4 Years
	Minimum Age:	17
	Permit Fee:	\$10
	Photo License Fee:	\$6
	Test(s) Required:	KVR¹
Commercial Driver License For large trucks, buses and vehicles (Classes A, B and C).	Expiration:	4 Years
	Minimum Age:	18/21⁴
	Permit Fee:	\$35⁵
	Photo License Fee:	\$32
	Test(s) Required:	CKVR
Motorcycle License For most vehicles with fewer than four wheels (Class E). Issued as a separate license or as an endorsement (M) if the individual already holds a basic New Jersey driver license.	Expiration:	4 Years
	Minimum Age:	17
	Permit Fee:	\$5
	Photo License Fee:	\$24 or \$18⁶
	Test(s) Required:	KVR¹
Provisional Motorcycle License For most vehicles with fewer than four wheels (Class E). Issued as a separate license or as an endorsement (M) if the individual already holds a basic New Jersey driver license.	Expiration:	4 Years
	Minimum Age:	17
	Permit Fee:	\$10
	Photo License Fee:	\$6³
	Tests Required:	KVR¹

Moped License

For unlicensed motorists 15 years of age and older. Not needed if operator has a Class A, B, C, D or E license.

Expiration:	4 Years ²
Minimum Age:	15
Permit Fee:	\$5
Photo License Fee:	\$6
Test(s) Required:	KVR ¹

Agricultural License

For farming purposes only. May be granted to persons between 16 and 17 years old.

Expiration:	4 Years ²
Minimum Age:	16
Permit Fee:	\$10
Photo License Fee:	\$6
Test(s) Required:	KVR ¹

Boat License

For individuals 16 years of age and older, who operate a motorboat on fresh, non-tidal waters, such as lakes, creeks or rivers, that are not affected by tidal conditions. As of June 1, 2007, persons born in 1959 or later must possess a Boating Safety Certificate. Persons born in 1949 or later must possess a Boating Safety Certificate by June 1, 2008. By June 1, 2009, all persons who wish to operate a power vessel must possess a Boating Safety Certificate. For more information about New Jersey boating requirements, visit the State Police Marine Services Web site at www.state.nj.us/njsp/maritime/index.html. (N.J.S.A. 12:7-61.1)

Expiration:	4 Years
Minimum Age:	16
Permit Fee:	n/a
Photo License Fee:	\$18
Test(s) Required:	n/a non-tidal waters only

¹K-Knowledge, V-Vision, R-Road, C-Commercial

²Or until a basic license is obtained at 18 years of age.

³Motorist must return to agency in one year to have license upgraded. Fee is \$19.50.

⁴CDL applicants must be at least 18 years old. Applicants under 21 may travel only in New Jersey (intrastate, not interstate) and may not receive HAZMAT or passenger endorsements.

⁵Out-of-state CDL transfer fees are \$10.

⁶Class E endorsements are \$24; Class M endorsements are \$18.

Note: Fees in this manual are subject to change. Current fees are available online at www.njmvc.gov or by calling (888) 486-3339 toll-free in New Jersey or (609) 292-6500 from out of state.

6 POINT ID VERIFICATION

Per N.J.A.C. 13:21-8.2, all New Jersey driver license applicants must complete 6 Point ID Verification by presenting documents that prove their age, identity, and legal presence in the U.S. All applicants must prove identity through a prescribed combination of documents that includes:

- At least one primary document
- At least one secondary document
- At least six points of ID
- Proof of address

Use the chart on the following pages to select your documents, or use the online Document Selector at **www.njmvc.gov/6point**.

If discrepancies exist within or between documents presented to the MVC, the applicant may be required to provide additional documentation. Any permit or license application may be refused if a document appears altered, false or otherwise invalid.

A non-citizen must submit proof of continued legal presence in the United States. The MVC may accept other documents proving identity, date of birth and continued legal presence. Documents must be provided in English.

A motorist referred to an MVC Regional Service Center due to identification issues will be required to provide an original or certified copy of his/her civil birth certificate if a U.S. citizen. Passports will not be accepted. Non-U.S. citizens may be asked for additional identification documents.

For assistance with 6 Point ID Verification, visit **www.njmvc.gov** or call **(888) 486-3339** toll-free in New Jersey or **(609) 292-6500** from out of state.



REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ AT LEAST ONE PRIMARY DOCUMENT
- ✓ AT LEAST ONE SECONDARY DOCUMENT
- ✓ DOCUMENTS MUST BE WORTH 6 POINTS OR MORE
- ✓ PROOF OF ADDRESS
- ✓ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If your current legal name is different from the name on your civil birth certificate (e.g., your maiden name), then you must show legal proof of the name change. Legal proof = Certified marriage or civil union certificate, divorce decree or court order linking the new name with a previous name. U.S. passport is not proof of legal name change. A divorce decree may be used as authority to resume using a previous name only if it contains the new name and the previous name and permits a return to use of the previous name.

Certain documents may require proof of legal U.S. presence.

Visit www.njmvc.gov for a list or call (888) 486-3339.

All documents must be ORIGINAL or CERTIFIED COPIES in English and have the required state and/or municipal seals. Certified copies of New Jersey records are available from the municipality that originally issued them and from the State Bureau of Vital Statistics at www.nj.gov/health/vital or (609) 292-4087. For information about Jersey City/Hudson County birth certificates, visit www.nj.gov/health/vital/jerseycity.

CHOOSE PRIMARY DOCUMENTS

You must show at least one of these

US Citizens

4-Point Documents:

- Civil birth certificate or certified copy from one of the 50 states, District of Columbia or a US territory. Photocopies or certificates from hospitals or religious entities are not accepted. Please read Important Information on previous page.
- US Department of State birth certificate (Form FS-545, FS 240 or DS-1350)
- US passport, current or expired less than 3 years (may not be used for proof of legal name change)
- Current NJ digital driver license
- Current NJ digital non-driver ID card
- Current NJ digital boat license
- Valid active duty US military photo ID card
- US adoption papers
- Certificate of naturalization (Form N-550, N-570 or N-578)
- Certificate of citizenship (Form N-560, N-561 or N-645)

Non-Citizens

4-Point Documents:

- Foreign passport with INS or USCIS verification and valid record of arrival/departure (Form I-94)
- Foreign passport with INS or USCIS verification and valid Form I-551 stamp
- Current alien registration card (new Form I-551) with expiration date and verification from INS or USCIS
- Refugee travel document (Form I-571)
- US re-entry permit (Form I-327)
- Valid I-94 stamped "Refugee," "Parolee," "Asylee" or "Notice of Action" (Form I-797 approved petition) by INS or USCIS
- Valid I-94 with attached photo stamped "Processed for I-551..." by INS or USCIS

3-Point Document:

- Current photo employment authorization card (Form I-688B or I-766). Must be presented with valid Social Security card.

2-Point Documents:

- Current alien registration card (old Form I-551) without expiration date and with INS or USCIS verification
- Photo temporary resident card (Form I-688)

2

CHOOSE SECONDARY DOCUMENTS

You must show at least one of these

3-Point Documents:

- Civil marriage, domestic partnership or civil union certificate issued by the municipality in which the ceremony occurred. Please note: Photocopies or certificates issued by religious entities are not acceptable
- Order or decree of divorce, dissolution or termination (see "Important Information" p.12)
- Court order for a legal name change, signed by a judge or court clerk
- Current US military dependent card
- US military photo retiree card
- Valid NJ firearm purchaser card

2-Point Documents:

- US school photo ID card with transcript or school records
- US college photo ID card with transcript
- Valid federal, state or local government employee driver license
- Valid federal, state or local government employee photo ID card
- US military discharge papers (DD214)
- FAA pilot license

1-Point Documents: You cannot use more than TWO of these

- Current NJ PHOTO driver license (non-digital)
- Current PHOTO driver license from any other state or the District of Columbia
- Social Security card
- Bank statement or record
- ATM card with preprinted name and applicant's signature. (Please note: An ATM card and bank statement cannot be submitted together.)
- Current health insurance card, prescription card or employee ID card with printed pay stub
- State professional license
- NJ public assistance card with photo (also known as a NJ Social Services ID card)
- High school diploma, GED or college diploma
- Property tax statement, bill or receipt issued by a New Jersey municipality
- For NJ high school students: a waiver certificate for the written portion of the driver's test
- Veterans Affairs universal access photo ID card

3

CHOOSE Proof of Address

You must also present proof of residential address, which may be, but is not limited to, ONE of these

- Utility or credit card bill issued in the past 90 days that shows your name at your current address.

Note: Mail addressed to P.O. boxes not accepted as proof of address (39:3-9a)

- Checking or savings account statement from a bank or credit union, issued in the past 60 days
- High school or college report card or transcript containing your address, issued within the past two years
- Original lease or rental agreement showing your name as the lessee or renter
- Property tax bill, statement or receipt from the past year
- Any letter or correspondence (including tax bills) received from the IRS or state tax office in the past year
- First-class mail received from any federal, state or local government agency in the past six months
- If you are under 18, then we will accept a Parent or Guardian Certification that verifies you are living with a parent or guardian

4

SOCIAL Security Number

To complete 6 Point ID Verification, MVC will verify that your Social Security number matches your name and birth date on record with the Social Security Administration database.

If you are not eligible for a Social Security number, you must provide an exemption letter from the Social Security Administration.

ADD UP POINTS

PRIMARY

+

SECONDARY

TOTAL

Must equal 6 or more points



▣ GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSE (GDL)

In 2001, New Jersey sought to enhance driver preparation and safety by implementing a multi-stage driver licensing system. Known as the Graduated Driver License (GDL) Program, the system gradually introduces driving privileges to first-time drivers, extends their practice driving time and requires a minimum age of 18 in order to receive an unrestricted, basic driver license. GDL restrictions placed upon first-time drivers must be strictly adhered to. Failure to do so may result in a fine of \$100 or a possible suspension of a motorist's driving privilege. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-10 and 39:3-13 through 39:13.8)

STEP 1 GET A SPECIAL LEARNER PERMIT

- Must be at least 16 years old
- Must have signed parent or guardian consent
- Must be enrolled in approved behind-the-wheel driver training course through the N.J. Department of Education or commercial driving school
- An approved instructor must purchase the permit
- Must pass MVC's knowledge and vision tests
- Must pay required fee

MVC will validate Special Learner Permits ONLY after training course completion.

STEP 2 PRACTICE WITH AN ADULT SUPERVISING DRIVER

- Must observe special learner permit driving restrictions
- Must practice at least six months

STEP 3 GET A PROVISIONAL LICENSE

- Must have completed six months of supervised driving without any suspensions or postponements
- Must pass MVC's road test
- Must be at least 17 years old

STEP 4 WITH A PROVISIONAL DRIVER LICENSE

- Must practice unsupervised driving for at least one year
- Must observe provisional driver license restrictions

STEP 5 GET THE BASIC DRIVER LICENSE

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must have completed one year of unsupervised driving with provisional driver license restrictions
- Must pay required fee

Note: Permit may not be used for practice driving until validated at an MVC Driver Testing Center.

STEP 1 GET AN EXAMINATION PERMIT

- Must pass MVC's knowledge and vision test
- Must be at least 17 years old
- Must pay required fee
- Must obtain parent or guardian consent if you are under 18 years of age

STEP 2 PRACTICE SUPERVISED DRIVING

- Must practice with an adult supervising driver
- Must practice at least six months
- Must observe examination-permit driving restrictions

STEP 3 GET A PROVISIONAL LICENSE

- Must have completed six months of supervised driving without any suspensions or postponements
- Must pass MVC's road test

STEP 4 PRACTICE UNSUPERVISED DRIVING

- Must practice unsupervised driving for at least one year
- Must follow provisional driver license restrictions

STEP 5 GET THE BASIC DRIVER LICENSE

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must have completed one year of unsupervised driving
- Must pay required fee

STEP 1 GET AN EXAMINATION PERMIT

- Must be at least 21 years old
- Must pass MVC's knowledge and vision tests
- Must pay required fee

STEP 2 PRACTICE SUPERVISED DRIVING

- Must practice with an adult supervising driver
- Must practice at least three months
- Must observe examination permit driving restrictions

STEP 3 GET A PROVISIONAL LICENSE

- Must have completed three months of supervised driving without any suspensions or postponements
- Must pass MVC's road test

STEP 4 PRACTICE UNSUPERVISED DRIVING

- Must practice unsupervised driving for at least one year
- Must follow provisional driver license restrictions

STEP 5 GET THE BASIC DRIVER LICENSE

- Must be at least 18 years old
- Must have completed one year of unsupervised driving
- Must pay required fee



▸ SPECIAL LEARNER PERMIT RESTRICTIONS

- No driving between 11:01 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.¹
- No using cell phones, hand-held video games or any other hand-held electronic devices.
- Permit holder must be accompanied in the front seat by an adult supervising driver who is at least 21 years of age and who possesses a valid New Jersey driver license and has a minimum of three years' driving experience.
- Passengers must be from the provisional license holder's household, and up to one additional person.
- Permit holder and all passengers must all wear a seat belt.

▸ EXAMINATION PERMIT RESTRICTIONS

- No driving between 12:01 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.¹
- No using cell phones, hand-held video games or any other hand-held electronic devices.
- Permit holder must be accompanied in the front seat by an adult supervising driver who is at least 21 years of age and who possesses a valid New Jersey driver license and has a minimum of three years' driving experience.¹
- Passengers must be from the provisional license holder's household, and up to one additional person.
- Permit holder and all passengers must wear a seat belt.

▸ PROVISIONAL DRIVER LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

- No driving between 12:01 a.m. and 5:00 a.m.¹
- No using cell phones, hand-held video games or any other hand-held electronic devices.
- Passengers must be from the provisional license holder's household, plus one additional person.
- Provisional license holder and all passengers must wear a seat belt.

¹ If the Examination Permit or Provisional License holder is 21 years of age or older, hour and passenger restrictions do not apply.

▼ GDL DRIVER EXEMPTIONS

Exemptions to the hours rule for permit and provisional drivers under 21 years: Proof of a need to drive during the prohibited hours for employment and/or religion. For an exemption, the motorist must carry a legible certification to indicate this need from his/her employer or religious official on the official letterhead of the business, organization or religious institution, with the signature of the certifying official and his/her name, title, address and phone number. (N.J.A.C. 39:21-8.18)

Note: If the student driver commits a traffic offense, responsibility will be with both the student and instructor or adult supervising driver. All motorists who possess a provisional driver license, whose provisional licensing period is not extended by the MVC beyond the standard 12 months, must visit an MVC agency to upgrade to a basic driver license after the end of those 12 months. Motorists who fail to do so will remain subject to the provisional driver license restrictions and could be cited by law enforcement for violating the restrictions.

▼ SPECIAL LEARNER PERMITS FOR NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS

Any New Jersey resident who is at least 16 years old and is not in suspension status can obtain a special learner permit at any MVC agency. The applicant must have the signed consent of his/her parent or guardian, must be enrolled in a behind-the-wheel driver training course approved by the New Jersey Department of Education or conducted by a commercial driving school, and must pass the MVC's knowledge test and vision screening. An approved course is six full hours of behind-the-wheel instruction in a dual-controlled vehicle. These hours are exclusive of time spent at the MVC for permit purchasing or testing. The instructor must purchase the permit, which is valid for two years. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-13.1)

After an applicant fills out the form with his/her personal information and provides 6 Points of ID Verification and, if applicable, proof that the U.S. government authorizes his/her presence in this country, the instructor can purchase a permit at any MVC agency. Basic automobile license applicants must supply a Social Security number or an exemption from the Social Security Administration.

Upon completion of the approved driver training course and before practice driving, the permit holder must have the permit validated at any MVC Driver Testing Center.

EXAMINATION PERMITS FOR NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS

Any New Jersey resident who is at least 17 years old and is not in suspension status can obtain a driver examination permit at any MVC agency. The examination permit is different from a student learner permit because the applicant does not have to be a student and an instructor is not necessary.

Note: A driver examination permit is required even if the motorist possesses a valid license from another state. See Examination Permits for Out-of-State Drivers.

After an applicant fills out the form with his/her personal information and provides 6 Points of ID Verification and proof that the U.S. government authorizes his/her presence in this country, he/she can purchase a permit to take to the nearest Driver Testing Center. Basic automobile license applicants must supply a Social Security number or an exemption from the Social Security Administration.

Note: Most agencies conduct knowledge testing and vision screening. To find out which MVC agencies offer driver testing services, check online at www.njmvc.gov or call **(888) 486-3339** toll-free in New Jersey or **(609) 292-6500** from out of state.

The MVC will validate the permit for practice driving after the applicant passes the required knowledge test and vision screening. Results are valid for two years (see Chapter 2).

EXAMINATION PERMITS FOR OUT-OF-STATE DRIVERS

All out-of-state drivers are required to purchase an examination permit within 60 days of becoming a permanent New Jersey resident or when his/her out-of-state license expires, whichever comes first.

Out-of-state drivers who are under 18 years of age and move to New Jersey are subject to this state's GDL Program (see pp. 3-6). If they wish to apply for a New Jersey license, he/she should follow the steps outlined for special and examination permit holders. Permits may be purchased at any MVC agency upon presenting the required proof of age and 6 Point ID Verification. Applicants may be required to pass a knowledge test, vision screening and road test.

Out-of-state driver licenses must be surrendered when the MVC issues a New Jersey driver license.

EXAMINATION PERMITS FOR OUT-OF-COUNTRY DRIVERS

A non-citizen must show formal proof that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has authorized his/her presence in this country under federal law.

Students and their families on visas must show INS Form I-20, student identification cards or certification on school letterhead indicating status.

Note: Foreign drivers may use their native driver licenses as proof of driving experience if their countries are members of the United Nations Convention on Road Traffic and if the applicants have their licenses translated into English by a consulate or an MVC-approved translator.

Note: Licenses from US Possessions and Territories are considered out-of-country.

INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT (IDP)

Visitors with a foreign driver license who travel to the United States should carry an IDP or attach an acceptable English translation to their national driver licenses. The IDP is translated into the official languages of the United Nations (including English) and is useful in traffic emergencies. Non-citizens must obtain the IDP in their native country before traveling to the United States.

New Jersey motorists who travel to foreign countries may obtain an IDP application through their local AAA club.

Visit www.aaa.com/vacation/idpc.html for more information.

Note: A motorist must carry a valid driver license. Although it is an official document, the IDP cannot replace a driver license, but it can be used in conjunction with the license to provide an additional source of motorist identification and span foreign language barriers.

NON-DRIVER ID

An individual, 17 years of age or older, who does not possess a valid driver license may apply for a non-driver identification card. To obtain an identification card, the individual must show proof of age and provide 6 Points of ID Verification and proof that his/her presence in this country is authorized under federal law. The cost is \$24. The non-driver ID must be surrendered if the individual applies for and receives a New Jersey driver license. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-29.2 to 39:3-29.8)

HEARING-IMPAIRED DESIGNATION

A special driver license for deaf or hearing-impaired motorists (41 dB loss or more) is provided by the MVC. To obtain this license, which is designated with the international symbol of the deaf or a numerical code, a motorist must complete an application, available at any MVC agency. Verification by a physician or audiologist is required. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-11a)

COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE (CDL)

There are three classes of a commercial license; A, B, and C. However, no one can apply for these licenses until he/she is in possession of a valid basic Class D New Jersey driver license or he/she possesses a valid out-of-state CDL.

Class A: License is necessary for the operation of tractor trailers or any truck or trailer with a gross combination weight rating (GCWR) of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of the vehicle being towed is more than 10,000 pounds. The Class A license also allows the motorist to operate all vehicles in the class B, C and D categories, provided the motorist has qualified for all the proper extra endorsements. See the chart on page 25.

Class B: License is necessary for the operation of any vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 pounds or more:

- A vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more towing a trailer with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 10,000 pounds
- A bus with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including the driver

A Class B license allows the motorist to operate all vehicles in the Class C and D categories, provided the motorist has qualified for all the proper extra endorsements.



Class C: License is necessary for any vehicle with a GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds, used and placarded to transport hazardous material:

- Any bus, including school buses, designed to carry 16 passengers or more, including the motorist, and with a GVWR of less than 26,001 pounds and all school vehicles designed for 15 passengers or fewer, including the motorist
- Any bus or other vehicle designed to transport 8 to 15 passengers, including the motorist, which is used for hire

▼ COMMERCIAL DRIVER EXEMPTIONS

Taxi drivers, ride-sharing van drivers, funeral procession drivers, operators of rescue, first-aid squad or firefighter apparatus, farmers hauling their own products and equipment within 150 miles of their farms, non-civilian operators of military equipment and operators of construction equipment not designed for operation on public roads are exempt and need not apply for a commercial driver license. Operators of recreational vehicles are also exempt, provided the vehicle is being operated only for personal use. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-10k, 39:3-10.11)

COMMERCIAL LICENSE ENDORSEMENTS

Most commercial drivers will need to obtain at least one special endorsement. An example of an endorsement on a commercial license is "H" for hazardous materials, which means that the motorist may legally transport hazardous materials.

CODE	VEHICLE	ENDORSEMENT	SPECIAL REQUIREMENT
T	Double and Triple Trailer	Needed by operators of vehicles pulling two or three trailers	Requires a knowledge test. Class A license required to operate this type of vehicle
P	Passenger	Needed by operators of buses or similar vehicles used to transport passengers	Requires a road test. Other special requirements are necessary (see CDL Manual)
S	School Bus	Needed by all school bus drivers	Requires a knowledge and road test. Motorists who hold an "S" endorsement will also have to test for a "P" endorsement. Both are required to operate a school bus
N	Tanker Vehicle	Needed by operators of vehicles used to transport liquids or gas in bulk	Requires a knowledge test.
H	Hazardous Materials	Needed by operators of vehicles used to transport hazardous materials	Requires a knowledge test and may require a road test. Must be trained and retested every two years. See the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration for requirements (www.fmcsa.dot.gov)

COMMERCIAL LICENSE RESTRICTIONS

Numbered restrictions, such as corrective lenses, are noted on all commercial licenses. An example of a special restriction on a commercial license is "L" for air brakes. This means the motorist may not operate a vehicle equipped with air brakes, if designated on the license.

COMMERCIAL DRIVER MANUAL

For more information on commercial motor vehicle licensing, refer to the MVC's Commercial Driver Manual. All CDL tests are based on information contained in the manual. To get a copy, visit any MVC agency or regional service center or view/request it online at www.njmvc.gov. Manuals may also be obtained by calling **(888) 486-3339** toll-free in New Jersey or **(609) 292-6500** from out of state.





Chapter 2

New Jersey Driver Testing

- 30 Requirements for Basic Driver License
- 32 Road Tests
- 34 Reasons for Rejection

REQUIREMENTS FOR A BASIC DRIVER LICENSE

6 POINT ID VERIFICATION

Applicants for a New Jersey driver license must have all required documents to satisfy the 6 Point ID Verification at all times.

VISION TEST

A vision screening is required for all motorists. The MVC may refer applicants with impaired vision to a physician.

KNOWLEDGE TEST

The knowledge test consists of 50 questions, plus a survey question about organ donation. The MVC offers the knowledge test in English and these foreign languages: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. If the applicant cannot read in any language, an oral test that is conducted in English or Spanish may be arranged. If the applicant is unable to take an oral or written test in the languages provided or if he/she is hearing impaired, he/she may use an MVC-approved interpreter, according to the following guidelines.

INTERPRETERS

An approved foreign language interpreter is:

- A full-time faculty member of a college or university in the United States, who displays a current identification card issued by that college or university
- A priest, minister, rabbi or other religious leader of a recognized organization, who displays credentials showing his/her association in such an organization
- An individual listed on the N.J. Administrative Office of the Courts (Language Services Section) Registry of Interpreters and Agencies

An approved hearing-impaired interpreter is:

- An interpreter certified by the National Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf and listed with the New Jersey Division of the Deaf
- An interpreter who has been evaluated by the Division of the Deaf and is on the approved list of professional interpreters

The MVC will pay the interpreter fees for hearing-impaired applicants. Contact any Driver Testing Center for more information about approved interpreters or fee payments.

TEST REQUIREMENTS

SCREENING TESTS	MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS
EYESIGHT	<p>Basic license applicants: 20/50 vision with or without corrective lenses. For sight in one eye only, that eye must meet the 20/50 rule and the applicant must have documentation signed by a licensed physician.</p> <p>CDL license applicants: 20/40 vision with or without corrective lenses in both eyes. Must be able to distinguish among red, green and amber lights.</p>
WRITTEN	80 percent, or 40 of the 50 questions, must have correct answers.
HEALTH	Inform examiner of health problems. Under federal law, commercial drivers must carry a medical examiner's fitness statement and have it renewed every two years.

OUT-OF-STATE AND OUT-OF COUNTRY APPLICANTS

Applicants who wish to transfer a valid out-of-state license may be required to take the knowledge test, vision screening and/or road test. Out-of-state applicants between 17 and 18 years of age who possess a valid out-of-state license will be given a provisional license for a period of one year and must comply with GDL requirements and restrictions.

All out-of-country applicants must pass the knowledge test and a vision screening and may be required to pass a road test. Test results are valid for two years.

Note: Applicants from U.S. possessions and territories are considered out of country.

VISION RECHECK

Periodically, the MVC may require a vision recheck of a New Jersey motorist. License renewal will be permitted upon passing the vision screening.

HEALTH QUESTIONS

If the applicant has a health problem, a medical review may be necessary. The examiner will discuss this with the applicant.

ROAD TEST

After an applicant passes the knowledge test and vision screening and, if applicable, an approved behind-the-wheel course, the MVC will validate his/her permit so that he/she can practice. GDL permit holders under 21 years of age must have a minimum of six months supervised practice driving prior to a road test appointment. GDL permit holders, 21 years old and over, must have a minimum of three months supervised practice driving prior to a road test appointment. To make an appointment for an initial road test or a retest, visit any Driver Testing Center or schedule online at www.njmvc.gov. Appointments may not be made by phone.

TEST VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

For the road test, an applicant must have a vehicle with a valid inspection sticker, a valid registration document and a valid insurance ID card for that vehicle (unless covered by BPU or federal DOT regulations). The vehicle may not have any obstructions or consoles that prevent the examiner from reaching the foot or parking brakes. The applicant must also have a valid permit and be accompanied by a licensed driver. The accompanying driver must hold a license to operate the type of vehicle for which the applicant has a permit (except for a moped).

Vehicles registered out of state must comply with motorist's home state's laws with regard to insurance identification

ACCOMPANYING DRIVER REQUIREMENTS

An applicant may drive a properly registered vehicle to the road test area. However, a licensed driver must remain in the vehicle with the applicant at all times. A vehicle may not be moved, even in the road test line, without a licensed driver in the vehicle. If the accompanying motorist is licensed in a state other than New Jersey, or has less than three years of driving experience, he/she must drive the vehicle to the road test area. The MVC does not supply vehicles for road tests.

ELEMENTS OF THE ROAD TEST

On the actual road test, an MVC examiner will ride with the applicant when he/she drives in an off-road test area or on a public road course. The purpose of the road test is to make sure that the applicant understands the rules of the road and can drive safely. If the applicant's vehicle has a standard transmission, the examiner will ask the applicant to demonstrate his/her ability to correctly shift gears.

During the basic road test, the examiner may test the applicant on the following items:

TEST ITEM	PAGE
Driving in reverse	49
Following other vehicles	85, 86
Nearing corners, intersections	62
Parking (parallel)	52
Sitting properly	38
Starting a vehicle	44, 45
Steering properly	46, 47
Stopping at signs	71
Stopping smoothly	48
Turning	50, 68, 69
Turning around	51
Using the horn	43
Yielding right-of-way	61

If an applicant passes the road test, the examiner will issue an authorization for licensing. The permit, authorization and 6 Points of ID Verification must be taken to a motor vehicle agency to obtain the digital driver license (DDL).

The MVC will license a successful applicant for a Class D basic driver license or Class E motorcycle license as a provisional driver if the applicant has never been licensed to drive a motor vehicle in this or any other state. The MVC will monitor his/her driving habits for two years.

If an applicant fails the road test, he/she must wait at least two weeks before taking the test again. To reschedule the test, go to any Driver Testing Center in person or schedule online at www.njmvc.gov. After several failures, the MVC may require an applicant to wait six months before retaking the road test.

REASONS FOR REJECTION

Most applicants believe that their driving performance is the only criterion the examiner uses to grade their road test. However, the vehicle may be the cause of failure. Some license applicants may not have the opportunity to take an initial road test because an examiner considers the vehicle unsuitable or unsafe for the test.

Here are some of the more common reasons the MVC rejects road test vehicles:

- Improper, expired or no inspection sticker
- Lack of examiner access to foot brake or parking brake
- Any defect or condition that affects the safe operation of the test vehicle, such as but not limited to:
 - Poor brakes (pedal must not fade or go to the floorboard)
 - Parking brake doesn't work
 - Unsafe tires (smooth, cut, badly worn)
 - Vehicle interior is not in reasonably clean condition
 - Vehicle failed inspection, and motorist does not bring the Vehicle Inspection Report issued by the inspection station to road test area
 - Vehicle not equipped with radial tires or snow tires or chains when road is snow covered
 - Fast engine idle (cannot judge speed control)
 - Missing seat belts (seat belts are required on all vehicles manufactured after July 1, 1966)

Additional items for motorcycle and moped tests only:

- Lack of equipment required by state regulations
- No helmet
- Unapproved goggles or face shield
- No bell or horn (but not a siren or whistle) that can be heard 100 feet away

See motorcycle or moped manuals for more specific information.





Chapter 3

- 38 Buckle Up – New Jersey’s Seat Belt Law
- 39 Car Seats
- 40 Child Restraint Law
- 40 Air Bags
- 42 Car Condition
- 44 Starting a Parked Car

Driver Safety & the Rules of the Road

- 46 Steering
- 47 Speed Control
- 47 Stopping Distances
- 48 Proper Braking
- 49 Driving Signals
- 49 Driving in Reverse
- 50 Turning
- 51 Parking

Safe driving is the responsibility of all individuals who operate a vehicle on New Jersey roads. The rules of the road must be obeyed at all times and laws must be strictly followed. A motorist must ensure the safety of all passengers who are riding in his/her vehicle and be mindful of the other motorists who share the road each day.

BUCKLE UP – NEW JERSEY’S SEAT BELT LAW

The New Jersey seat belt law requires all front-seat occupants of passenger vehicles operated in New Jersey to wear a seat belt. The motorist is responsible for all passengers under 18 years of age. Front-seat passengers 18 years of age and over are responsible for themselves. Motorists with GDL permits or provisional licenses must use seat belts. Additionally, they must require all passengers seated anywhere in the vehicle to use seat belts. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-76.2f, 39:3-13.2a, 39:3-13.4)

New Jersey’s seat belt law requires the motorist, front-seat passenger and children under 18 years old to be belted (N.J.S.A. 39:3-76.2f). Non-compliance is a primary offense. A police officer can stop a motorist solely for a violation of the seat belt law. The law also expands the definition of passenger vehicle to include vans, pickup trucks and utility vehicles. Although rear seat belts are not required by law, passengers should always use them.

The exemptions are any passenger vehicle manufactured before July 1, 1966, a passenger vehicle that is not required to be equipped with seat belt systems under federal law and a physical or medical reason, verified in writing by a licensed physician, that makes the motorist or passenger unable to wear a seat belt. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-76.2g)

Seat belts can save a life and improve a motorist’s chances of surviving a crash by 60 percent. A motorist’s chances of surviving a collision are three to four times better if he/she is wearing both a seat belt and a shoulder strap. Fastening a seat belt takes only three seconds and reduces the chances of death or serious injury. Seat belts help in many ways, for example:

- They keep motorists and passengers from being thrown from the vehicle in a collision. If a motorist/passenger is held in place, any injury may be less severe.
- They slow a body down with the vehicle. If a vehicle hits something, the vehicle stops, but the person keeps going at the same speed that the vehicle was moving. Hitting the dashboard or windshield at 30 mph is like falling from the top of a three-story building.

- They keep a motorist/passenger from sliding on the seat during sudden stops and turns. Belts and straps also keep a motorist in position so he/she can control the vehicle.

▼ TIPS FOR SEAT BELT USE

- Buckle up with both lap and shoulder belts on every trip. (Air bags are supplemental protection devices.)
- Wear the lap belt under the abdomen and low across the hips. The shoulder portion should come over the collar bone, away from the neck, and cross over the breast bone. The shoulder belt in most new vehicles can be adjusted on the side pillar to improve fit.
- Know how to adjust the seat belts and how to release them if motorists/passengers have to quickly get out of the vehicle.
- Buckle up if riding in the backseat; use center seat belts if those seats are used. Seat belts help prevent riders from falling forward.
- Never put more than one person in one belt.

▼ CAR SEATS

Traffic accidents are a leading killer of children. When riding in a vehicle, children should be held in place by a restraint system that meets all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. Refer to the paragraph on Child Restraint Law.

All child restraint systems built since January 1, 1981, must be designed to pass tough safety tests. These seats carry a label that gives the date of manufacture and reads: "This child restraint system conforms to all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards."

There are many types and styles of car seats. An infant car seat will protect a baby up to 20 pounds and 26 inches and must be placed in the vehicle facing the rear. A convertible car seat is a larger seat that can be used for an infant or a toddler of up to 40 pounds and 40 inches in height. The seat can be adjusted to a reclining position and placed in the vehicle facing backwards for a baby. When the baby weighs at least 17 pounds and can sit up well without help, the seat can be adjusted to an upright position and placed in the vehicle facing forward.

Note: It is preferred that whenever possible, child car safety seats be placed in the backseat. However, if a motorist is riding with a new infant and the vehicle does not have a backseat, move the front seat as far back as possible from the dashboard and make sure the child is buckled properly in the appropriate restraint for his/her height and weight. Never place rear-facing infant safety seats in the front seat of a vehicle with a front passenger-side air bag.

While a convertible seat is designed to be used facing forward once a child has reached at least 17 pounds, an infant seat must never be faced forward. To do so would be very dangerous. Always check the label on a car seat to find out the size and weight of the child the seat is designed to protect.

Using the car seat every time a child rides in the vehicle - and using it correctly each time - is very important for the safety of the child. Always read the instructions that come with the seat and follow them very carefully. Correct use of the car seat is the best protection a motorist can offer a child. For more information on child car seats, contact the Division of Highway Traffic Safety at **(800) 422-3750** or visit **www.njsaferoads.com**.

CHILD RESTRAINT LAW

The New Jersey child passenger safety law (N.J.S.A 39:3-76.2a) states:

- Children up to age eight or a weight of 80 pounds must ride in a federally approved safety or booster seat in the rear seat of the vehicle. If there is no rear seat, the child must sit in the front seat secured by a safety or booster seat.
- Children under age eight and over 80 pounds must be in a rear seat and use a seat belt. If there is no rear seat, the child must be properly belted in the front seat.
- Failure to comply with this law could mean a \$54 fine and court costs.

AIR BAGS

Air bags are standard equipment in almost all new vehicles and are designed to supplement seat belts in frontal crashes. Federal safety standards required that manufacturers equip all new passenger cars and light trucks with air bags by 1999. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, statistics show that between 1986 and 2000, front air bags saved the lives of 5,303 front- seat riders.

Air bags inflate at speeds of up to 200 mph to protect adults in a front-end collision. An average-sized adult who is correctly belted is not likely to come in contact with the air bag until it is fully inflated.

When air bags are combined with lap/shoulder seat belts, they have saved many adult lives and prevented many injuries in motor vehicle crashes. However, air bags could seriously injure or kill children who are sitting in the front seat.

In 1995, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) allowed cutoff switches in pickup trucks, sports cars and autos with no backseat. In January 1998, it allowed repair shops and dealers to install the switches in vehicles after the appropriate application was made for people in these categories:

- **Driver-and passenger-side air bags:** For individuals with medical conditions when the risks of a deploying air bag exceed the risks of impacting the steering wheel, dashboard or windshield.
- **Driver-side air bags only:** For individuals who cannot properly operate the vehicle and keep at least 10 inches between the center of the steering wheel and the center of the breastbone.
- **Passenger-side air bags only:** For individuals who must place infants in the front seat because the vehicle has no rear seat (e.g., a pickup truck) or the rear seat is too small to hold the child's rear-facing seat, or the motorist must monitor the child's medical condition; for individuals who must place children, 1 to 12 years old, in the front seat because the vehicle has no rear seat, or because the individual must transport more children than can be seated in the rear seat, or because the motorist must monitor the child's medical condition.

For more information about an air bag on-off switch or for an application to request one, call NHTSA's toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at **(800) 424-9393**. Information is also available online at **www.nhtsa.gov**.

Children of any age are safest when they are belted properly in the backseat of a vehicle, especially when the vehicle is equipped with a passenger-side air bag. Other safety points are:

- Always put an infant in a rear-facing infant child safety seat in the back seat of a vehicle with air bags.
- Always be sure that children 12 years old and younger ride in the backseat of the vehicle.
- Always make sure everyone is buckled up.

A motorist can tell if his/her vehicle has an air bag by the words “air bag” or the letters “SRS” (supplemental restraint system) or “SIR” (supplemental inflatable restraint) on the steering wheel and dashboard panel. Manufacturers also may mark the sun visors or the sides of the open door frame with warning labels or enter a warning in the vehicle owner’s manual.

CAR CONDITION

A motorist should always check the condition of the vehicle before driving it. If the items below are not working properly, it means the vehicle needs to be repaired.

BACKUP LIGHTS

When driving in reverse, backup lights should be on. These must be checked to make sure they are in working order.

Note: It is against New Jersey law (N.J.S.A 39:3-52) to have any backup lights on while a vehicle is moving forward.

BRAKES

A motorist should be able to brake smoothly and quickly. If the vehicle pulls to one side when it stops or a motorist feels a taut pedal or hears an unusual squealing or grinding, the brakes must be checked. With conventional disc and drum brakes, a motorist should pump them gently after driving through water to test them and dry them out. If the brakes are hit hard, they could lock up. A motorist should be able to stop within 25 feet at 20 mph. This can be tried in an empty parking lot. Chalk marks can be made on the surface to see if the vehicle can stop within that distance.

If a vehicle has an antilock braking system (ABS), the brakes can be tested by applying steady pressure to the brake pedal. A motorist should never pump an ABS or jerk the steering wheel when braking. On very soft surfaces, such as loose gravel or unpacked snow, an ABS system may actually lengthen stopping distance. In wet or slippery conditions, a motorist should still drive carefully, always keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front and maintain a speed consistent with the road conditions.

BRAKE LIGHTS

If a vehicle’s brake lights are not working, someone may crash into it from the back. A motorist should have someone help to check the brake lights. Replace broken light covers. They may cause a glare that affects the motorist in back.

▼ HEADLIGHTS

Bright and dim lights must work and be in line. A motorist can check them against the garage wall or on parked vehicles. Lights should be kept clean. If other motorists flash their lights while a motorist's lights are on low beam, it could mean that the lights are out of line.

▼ HORN

A horn should not be overused, but a motorist should check it often to make sure it works. Use the horn to signal when passing or when coming out of a blind alley, curve or driveway.

▼ STEERING

On straight level roads a vehicle should hold a straight course. The front end should not vibrate (shimmy). The steering should respond to a motorist's turns without too much play in the steering wheel.

▼ TAIL LIGHTS

Always keep tail and side lights in working order. They signal other motorists in the dark and prevent accidents.

▼ TIRES

If a motorist feels or hears any unusual thumping while driving, he/she should check the tires. Bumps, cuts or bad tread can cause blowouts. Tire pressure should be checked often, especially when tires are cold. A motorist should check the owner's manual to determine proper tire pressure or should ask for advice at a service station. Properly inflated tires save money in fuel consumption. A vehicle should not be driven with tires that have less than 1/16 inch of tread (about the edge of a dime). To hold on to the road properly, tires must match (do not mix radials with other tire types) and must have enough tread.

▼ TURN SIGNALS

A motorist should be able to hear the clicking and see the lighted arrows flash on the dashboard. If they do not work, the signals must be fixed as soon as possible. Meanwhile, a motorist should use hand signals.

▼ WINDSHIELD

Cracks or chips in a windshield could cause it to break; it should be replaced. A windshield should be clean at all times, inside and out. Windshield wipers should always work. If they come with washers, a motorist can use non-freezing spray to stop icing. New Jersey laws prohibit add-on tinting on windshields and front side windows.

▼ SNOW/ICE

State law (N.J.S.A 39:4-77.1) requires a motorist to remove snow or ice from a vehicle before driving it. If snow or ice dislodges from a moving vehicle, it could strike another vehicle or pedestrian, causing injury or property damage.

▼ STARTING A PARKED CAR

Before getting into a vehicle, look behind it and in front of it. There are blind spots once a motorist is behind the wheel. Children may be there. There also may be bottles, cans, bicycles or other things that cannot be seen from the motorist's seat.

▼ STARTING CHECKLIST

- All windows should be clean and nothing should block a motorist's vision.
- The seat must be adjusted so a motorist can reach all pedals and controls easily. (For most motorists, the seat may be adjusted so he/she is sitting an arm's length from steering wheel).
- Inside and outside rearview mirrors should be adjusted.
- Seat belts and shoulder harnesses should be fastened so that they are firm and comfortable.
- The vehicle should be in park or neutral gear and the parking brake should be set.
- Doors should be locked.

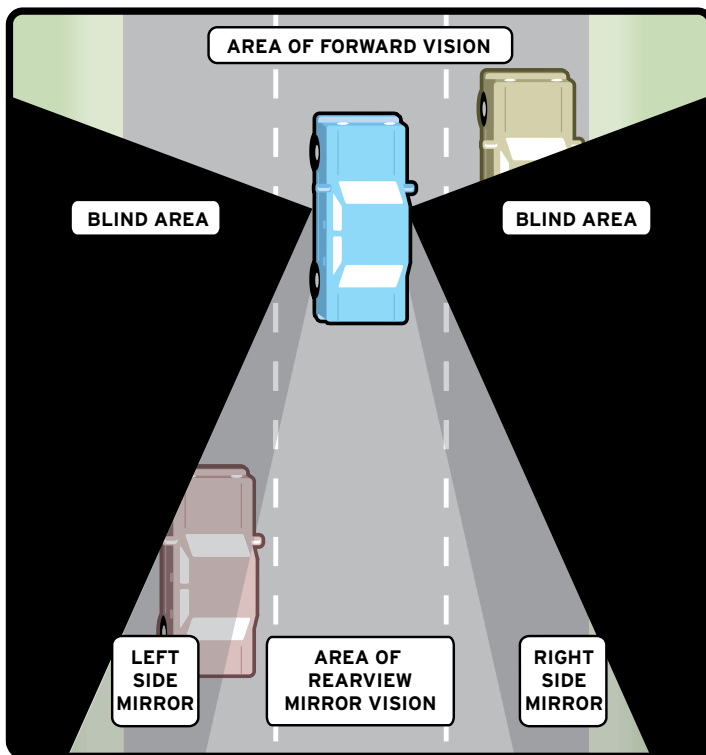
A motorist should keep good posture while driving. The seat should be adjusted so that the motorist can reach the foot pedals easily. The motorist should be comfortable behind the wheel. He/she should not have to strain to reach the gear shift levers, turn signals or dashboard controls. A motorist is properly positioned when he/she can see clearly and can glance to the rear.

If a motorist wears glasses, he/she should adjust them. More than 95 percent of the information a motorist needs is visual. To fight glare at night, colored lenses should be avoided as they distort color. Anti-reflective coatings should be used on lenses. This will help eliminate internal reflections in eyeglasses and may help night driving. A motorist should have an eye checkup every two years. As a motorist ages, visual clarity declines and peripheral vision becomes less distinct. For example, a 60-year-old perceives light about a third as well as a 20-year-old.

Inside and outside mirrors should be adjusted to reduce blind spots. These are areas where a motorist cannot see behind his/her vehicle (on both sides) through the mirror. A motorist can check this by turning his/her head. The outside mirror should be adjusted so that the motorist can see the tip of the driver-side front door handle in the lower right of the mirror. This will allow the motorist to see part of the lanes of traffic to the left and rear of the vehicle.

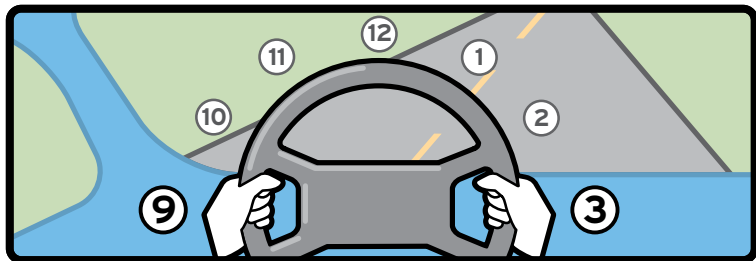
After starting the engine, a motorist should make sure his/her path is clear by turning and looking back. A motorist should not depend on rearview mirrors. A motorist must also be sure to check for pedestrians and less conspicuous vehicles, such as bicycles and mopeds. A motorist should give the proper signal and drive with caution.

The illustration below shows blind spots while driving.



When on the road, a motorist can check the vehicle's mirrors by letting a vehicle pass on the left. As the passing vehicle disappears from the inside rearview mirror, a motorist should be able to see its front bumper in the outside rearview mirror.

STEERING



HAND POSITION

A motorist's grip on the steering wheel is important. The steering wheel can be thought of as the face of a clock. For normal driving, a motorist should grip the steering wheel by the outside rim at the 9 and 3 o'clock positions, keeping his/her thumb along the face of the wheel. Gripping the steering wheel as described diminishes the risk of hand, wrist or arm injury if the air bag is deployed. A motorist should never turn the wheel while gripping it from the inside of the rim, hand facing inward. The steering wheel should be held firmly but not too tight, as steady as possible as the vehicle's speed increases. Both hands should be kept on the wheel at all times, except when shifting gears or giving hand signals.

The motorist should keep the vehicle in the center of the lane that it is traveling. On a two-lane road with traffic coming toward the vehicle, the motorist should keep to the right. Once a motorist feels how the vehicle reacts to steering, he/she will be ready to practice turning, parking and other movements.

It takes practice to get the feel of steering. If the vehicle has antilock brakes (ABS), the motorist should never violently jerk the steering wheel while braking. (See page 42, "Brakes")

▼ HAND-OVER-HAND STEERING

Hand-over-hand steering permits a motorist to make steering adjustments ranging from very minor up to a half turn of the wheel, while keeping both hands on the wheel. If turning through a slight curve, both hands will typically retain their original grip on the wheel, making only slight finger or wrist adjustments as necessary to maintain the path of travel. However, when moving through a turn, the hands may move as much as 165 degrees. The motorist initiates the turn by pushing the wheel up from the 9 or 3 o'clock position toward 12 o'clock, and the opposite hand crosses over and down to the 9 or 3 o'clock position, as appropriate to provide additional input or to stabilize steering. The original hand then returns to the original start position of 9 or 3 o'clock. The process is reversed to return to a straight path, or the wheel can be allowed to slip through the fingers (controlled slipping) to straighten when coming out of a turn, while both hands are always on the wheel to make adjustments as necessary. Hand-over-hand steering is particularly well-suited for precision maneuvers, steering through curves, intersection entry and exit, and skid recovery.

▼ SPEED CONTROL

Certain speed control guidelines should be used for safe driving. A motorist should start slowly, gradually increasing speed until safely within the legal speed limit and flow of traffic. On open roads, a motorist should keep a steady, legal speed. When necessary, a motorist should decrease speed slowly.

Press the brake pedal lightly. This gives other motorists and pedestrians a chance to react accordingly. To check speed, a motorist should glance at the speedometer. With practice, a motorist will be able to judge the correct gas-pedal pressure for any speed.

▼ STOPPING DISTANCES

There is no simple way to tell exactly how long it will take a vehicle to stop at a certain speed. Stopping distance depends on:

- Motorist reaction time
- Weather and road conditions
- Vehicle weight
- Brake conditions
- Condition and type of tires
- Roadway conditions
- Speed

One point is sure: The faster a vehicle is going, the longer it will take it to stop. When a motorist must stop quickly, speed can be the difference between life and death.

STOPPING DISTANCES ON DRY SURFACES FOR PASSENGERS

Speed	Reaction distance	Braking distance	Total
10 mph	11 ft	6 ft	17 ft
20 mph	22 ft	25 ft	47 ft
30 mph	33 ft	55 ft	88 ft
40 mph	44 ft	105 ft	149 ft
50 mph	55 ft	188 ft	243 ft
60 mph	66 ft	300 ft	366 ft
70 mph	77 ft	455 ft	532 ft

Based on a reaction time of 3/4 second, which is typical for most motorists under most traffic conditions. See p. 71 for more information on stopping, p. 86 for information about following distances and p. 90 for information about stopping at night.

PROPER BRAKING

The use of brakes may seem simple, but it is not. A motorist should know the type of braking system that his/her vehicle uses. It could be a conventional drum and disc brake system or an antilock braking system (ABS). Whether the vehicle is front- or rear-wheel drive does not determine proper braking.

Many new motorists make the common mistake of slamming the brake pedal, even if there is no emergency. The vehicle will jerk to a stop quickly and wear out brakes and tires. Steady, gentle pressure should be applied to the brake to bring the vehicle to a controlled stop. With an ABS, a motorist should not pump the brakes or violently jerk the wheel. An ABS-equipped vehicle may go out of control at only 35 mph if a motorist violently jerks the steering wheel and brake, even on dry pavement. New motorists should practice hard braking and steering in an empty parking lot or similar open space until they are accustomed to the ABS. A motorist should always use his/her right foot for both the brake and the gas pedal. If the vehicle is equipped with a manual transmission, the left foot should be used for the clutch.

DRIVING SIGNALS

A motorist should always give a proper signal when turning, changing lanes, stopping or slowing down. Most vehicles have turn signals and a motorist should always use them. A motorist should turn on the turn signal at least 100 feet before turning and be sure to cancel the signal after making a turn. Not doing so could mislead other motorists. (N.J.S.A. 39:4-126)

New Jersey law requires a motorist to know the correct hand signals for stopping and turning, which are standard in all states. To give a hand signal, a motorist should put his/her arm well out of the vehicle so that it is visible to other motorists.

- **Stop or slowing down:** hand and arm downward, palm facing to the rear
- **Right turn:** hand and arm upward
- **Left turn:** hand and arm straight out

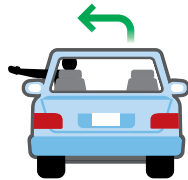
Another signal is the horn, which is a warning signal. It calls attention to what the motorist is doing. Motorists may sound the horn when passing another vehicle when not in a business or residential zone. Under normal conditions, the horn should be able to be heard for at least 200 feet. (N.J.S.A. 39:3-69) Only emergency vehicles may use sirens, whistles or bells.



STOP



RIGHT TURN



LEFT TURN

DRIVING IN REVERSE

Before driving in reverse, a motorist must be sure that the path is clear. This can be done by using the mirrors and turning to check. He/she must be very careful because the view to the rear is limited. In reverse, turning the wheel to the right will direct the vehicle to the right. Steering to the left will direct the vehicle to the left. If a motorist does not turn the wheel while in reverse, the vehicle will move straight backward.

To drive in reverse, a motorist's head and body should be turned to the right until he/she can see clearly through the back window of the vehicle without the use of mirrors. The motorist's right hand and arm should be placed over the back of the front passenger seat; the left hand should grasp the top of the steering wheel.

This is the position a motorist should be in to reverse in a straight line, with sight seeing correction made as needed. A vehicle should be driven slowly in reverse – typically, walking speed (2 to 4 mph). The motorist should not turn forward until the vehicle is totally stopped.

If a motorist must turn the wheel while reversing other than in a straight line (e.g. parallel parking), two hands must be on the wheel to steer, while a motorist's head and body is turned to look out the rear window. Palming the wheel with one hand while turning in reverse is dangerous and can result in failing the road test. A motorist should always remember that the front of the vehicle will swing in the opposite direction of a turn. A vehicle should be driven slowly in reverse.

A motorist must be able to drive in reverse in order to pass the road portion of the driving test. He/she will be asked to back the vehicle about 100 feet in a straight line, slowly and smoothly.

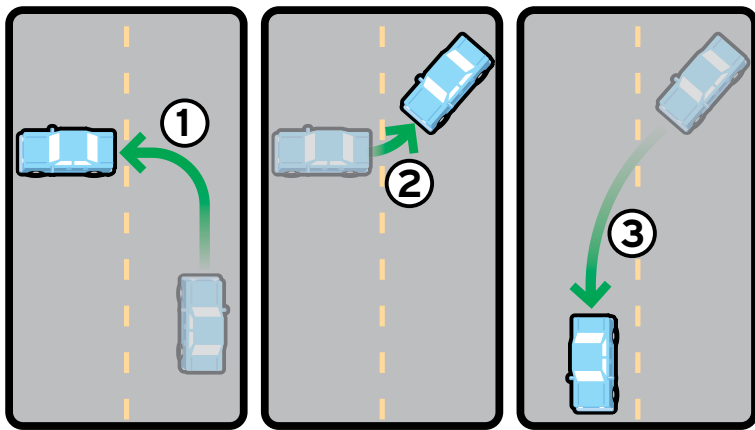
TURNING

To make safe turns, a motorist should decide well in advance where he/she wants to turn. Last-minute turns can be unsafe. State law requires a motorist to get in the proper lane and signal at least 100 feet before making any turn. The faster the traffic is moving, the sooner a motorist should plan his/her turn. If a turn is missed, a motorist should never back up. It is better to take the next turn than to risk a collision. Before turning, a motorist should always:

- Use the mirrors to look behind and to both sides for other vehicles (or people) to see if it is safe to turn
- Check for less visible vehicles, such as motorcycles, bicycles and mopeds
- Signal first (use turn signals or hand signals) and then move into the proper lane.
- Slow down before reaching an intersection
- Keep a steady speed and follow pavement markings
- Always stay in the same lane until the turn is finished
- Make sure turn signal is turned off after the turn is completed

THE 3-POINT TURN (K TURN)

When turning a vehicle around, a motorist should start from the right edge of the road. Choose a safe spot with good visibility in both directions. If there is no other traffic, the motorist should signal left and move forward slowly while turning the steering wheel to the left. The vehicle should be stopped several inches from the left curb or street edge. The motorist should then signal right and back slowly while turning the steering wheel to the right, stopping several inches from the right curb or street edge. The motorist should next move the vehicle forward, signaling left, while turning the steering wheel to the left. Finally, the motorist should straighten the vehicle's wheels as it faces in the direction he/she wants to go. This is a complete 3-Point (or K) Turn. A new motorist will be required to make this turn during MVC's road test.



PARKING

When parking, a motorist should always set the hand brake and put the vehicle in park or, with a manual transmission, in reverse or low gear. There are several important steps for a motorist to follow when parking his/her vehicle on a street with a curb:

- **When parking a vehicle facing downhill:** The hand brake should be set and the vehicle's wheels should be turned toward the curb. The vehicle should be in park or, with a manual transmission, in reverse.
- **When parking a vehicle facing uphill:** The hand brake should be set and the vehicle's wheels should be turned away from the curb. The vehicle should be in park or, with a manual transmission, in low.

▼ ANGLE PARKING

Angle parking is often used in parking lots of shopping centers and sometimes at curbs.

A motorist should follow these rules when entering an angle parking space to his/her right:

- Watch for traffic both ahead and behind.
- Signal and begin to slow down.
- Make sure the rear of the vehicle will clear the parked vehicles.
- Steer sharply into the parking space, and then straighten the wheels centering the vehicle in the parking space.
- Shift to park, or reverse if standard transmission, and apply the parking brake.

A motorist should follow these rules before backing out of an angle parking space:

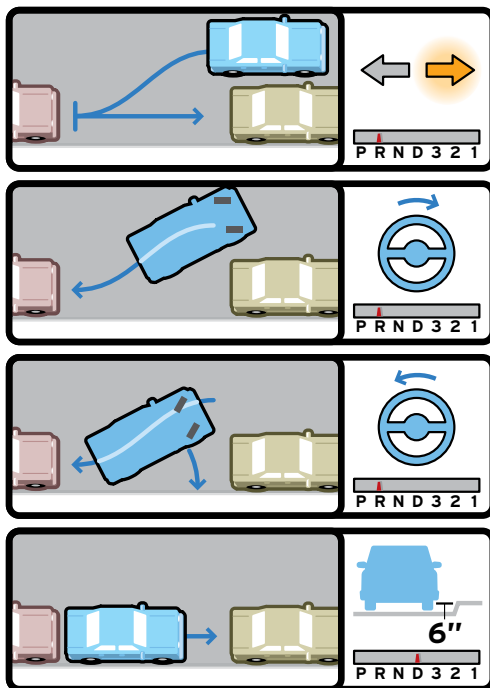
- Walk around to make sure nothing is in the vehicle's way.
- Slowly move the vehicle in reverse and be sure that the lane is clear of traffic.
- Tap the horn to warn nearby pedestrians.
- When able to see past the tops of vehicles parked next to the vehicle, stop and look again.
- Look back and to each side for other motorists.
- Remember that the front of the vehicle will swing opposite to the direction of the turn.
- Back up slowly while turning until the vehicle's left front wheel passes the rear bumper of the vehicle parked on the left.
- Straighten the wheels as the vehicle comes back into the lane of traffic.

▼ PARALLEL PARKING

Parallel parking is the most common type of parking on city streets. A motorist must be able to parallel park a vehicle in order to pass the MVC's road test. This takes the most practice for a new motorist. A motorist should practice often, in an empty parking lot at first. Flags or markers 25 feet apart may be used to show where the other vehicles would be. If a motorist hits these signs, he/she is not ready for parking between real vehicles and should keep practicing. The slower and smoother a motorist backs into a parking space, the easier it is to park. To properly parallel park, a motorist should:

- Find a parking space that is large enough to fit the vehicle.
- Signal for a stop and signal to the right to alert motorists that the vehicle will back up to the right.

- Pull up alongside (parallel) about two to four feet from the vehicle in front.
- Turn and check to see that the way is clear behind the vehicle before backing up.
- Turn his/her body to look out the rear window of the vehicle. Begin backing up slowly for about two feet and turn the steering wheel all the way to the right.
- When the front of the vehicle has cleared the rear bumper of the vehicle in front, stop and check the angle.
- Make sure the right back wheel has not hit the curb.
- Turn the steering wheel all the way to the left while beginning to back up slowly.
- Make sure the vehicle can clear its back bumper.
- When the vehicle is in line, stop. Be sure not to hit the vehicle in back.
- Turn the vehicle's wheels straight, and drive to the center of the parking space. The vehicle's tires should be no more than six inches from the curb.









Chapter 4

- 58 Speed Control
- 60 Passing
- 61 Keeping to the Right
- 61 Yielding the Right-of-Way
- 62 Pedestrians in a Crosswalk
- 62 Intersections
- 64 Entering Highways, Parkways and Turnpikes
- 65 Leaving Highways, Parkways and Turnpikes

Safe Driving Rules & Regulations

- 66 Special Highway, Parkway and Turnpike Conditions
- 67 Curves
- 67 Interchanges
- 68 Turning Regulations
- 71 Stopping Regulations
- 74 Using Headlights
- 76 Parking Regulations
- 77 Cellular Telephones
- 78 Littering

SPEED CONTROL

Exceeding the speed limit is a common contributing factor of fatal and other types of accidents. A motorist must always obey the speed limit. Speed affects almost everything that can happen when driving. A good rule is to keep up with the flow of traffic at any legal speed. In order to make safe emergency stops when necessary, it is important to keep enough distance from surrounding traffic. New Jersey law sets top speed limits for any given road, street, highway or freeway.

SPEED
LIMITS
25

25 mph
School zones, business
or residential districts

SPEED
LIMITS
35

35 mph
Suburban business and
residential districts

SPEED
LIMITS
50

50 mph
Non-posted rural roadways

SPEED
LIMITS
55

55 mph
Certain state highways (as
posted) and interstates

SPEED
LIMITS
65

65 mph
Certain interstate
highways (as posted)

Motorists pay double fines for exceeding the 65 mph limit by 10 miles per hour or more. Double fines also apply to most other moving violations committed in a 65 mph zone. (N.J.S.A. 39:4-98.6)

▼ NEW JERSEY SPEED LIMITS (UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED)

(N.J.S.A. 39:4-98)

Never drive faster than weather, road or other conditions safely allow, regardless of the posted speed limit. A motorist should judge his/her speed control by existing conditions. A motorist should slow down enough to be able to see clearly and stop quickly in traffic. Failure to do so can result in a moving violation.

Always slow down:

- On narrow or winding roads
- At intersections or railroad crossings
- On hills
- At sharp or blind curves
- Where there are pedestrians or driving hazards
- When the road is wet or slippery

If vehicle problems prevent a motorist from keeping up with the normal flow of traffic, he/she should pull off the road and activate hazard lights.

▼ DRIVING TOO SLOWLY

A motorist should always try to keep up with the normal flow of traffic, while not exceeding the posted speed limit. Some collisions are caused by driving too slowly and backing up traffic. When road surfaces and traffic are normal, New Jersey law prohibits blocking traffic through slow driving.

▼ SAFE CORRIDORS (N.J.S.A. 39:4-203.5)

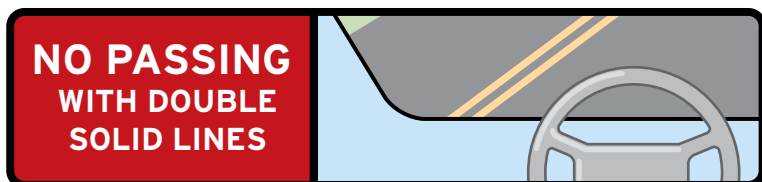
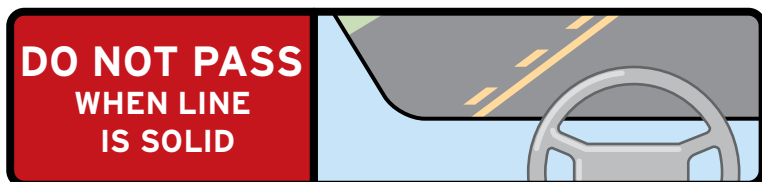
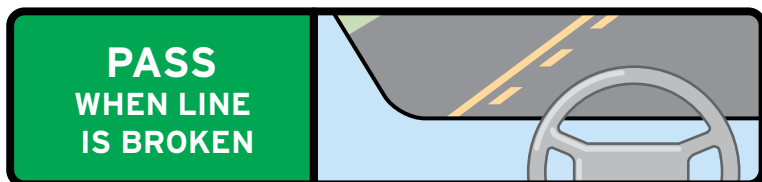
In an effort to improve highway safety, New Jersey initiated the Safe Corridors Program, which was signed into law in July 2003. The Safe Corridors law doubles fines on various state highways for a variety of driving offenses, including speeding and aggressive driving. Highways are designated as safe based on statistics showing crash rates 50 percent over the state rate and 1,000 or more crashes reported over a three-year period. The Commissioner of Transportation has the authority to designate highways as necessary, as well as to remove those that show improved safety levels. The law took effect on February 15, 2004. A current list of Safe Corridor highways is available on the New Jersey Department of Transportation Web site at **www.nj.gov/transportation**.

PASSING

A motorist must know the proper lane for normal driving and how to change lanes safely. The rules for passing depend on the type of road. Stay to the right of the roadway's center lines. Passing is only safe when there is no oncoming traffic.

Watch for the following lane markings: (N.J.S.A. 39:4-86)

- **Both center lines are solid:** No passing allowed.
- **One center line is broken:** Passing is allowed only on the side with the broken line.
- **Both center lines are broken:** Passing is allowed on both sides.



Note: All passing must be completed before the center lines are solid again.

▼ PASS ONLY WHEN SAFE

Most passing should be on the left. Passing on the right is allowed only on roads with more than one lane going in the same direction, if vehicles on the roadway are moving in two or more substantially continuous lines or when the motorist ahead is making a left turn and there is room to pass. Never pass on the right shoulder of the road. This is against the law. (N.J.S.A. 39:4-85)

A motorist should not pass:

- On a hill or a curve or at any time he/she cannot see far enough ahead
- At a street crossing or intersection
- At a railroad crossing
- On narrow bridges or in underpasses or tunnels
- When a sign prohibits passing or center lines restrict passing
- When behind a vehicle that has stopped to let a pedestrian cross

▼ KEEPING TO THE RIGHT

The laws of New Jersey require motorists to keep to the right, except when passing. Motorists must drive on the right half of the roadway unless driving on a one-way street. Motorists must drive a vehicle as close as possible to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway, except when overtaking and passing another vehicle. (N.J.S.A. 39:4-82)

On a multi-lane roadway, motorists must drive in the lane nearest to the right-hand edge or curb of the roadway when the lane is available for travel, except when overtaking another vehicle or in preparation for a left turn. (N.J.S.A. 39:4-88)

▼ YIELDING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY

Although laws govern the right-of-way, a motorist should always be prepared to yield. These basic rules always apply.

- **Emergency vehicles:** when police cars, fire engines and ambulances are giving warning signs (sirens, flashing lights)
- **Buses:** when re-entering the flow of traffic
- **Postal vehicles:** when vehicle is seeking to re-enter the flow of traffic
- **Pedestrians:** when in a crosswalk or seeking to cross a road
- **Motorized or mobility-assistance devices:** when in a crosswalk or seeking to cross a road
- **Other vehicles that are already in the intersection**

PEDESTRIANS IN A CROSSWALK

New Jersey has experienced a large number of pedestrian injury crashes and fatalities, as compared to the nation as a whole. The most important pedestrian safety message for New Jersey residents is: **Pedestrian safety is a shared responsibility**. There is no single cause of crashes involving pedestrians. Pedestrians and motorists must all do their part to keep pedestrians safe.

A motorist must:

- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. (Per N.J.S.A 39:4-36, failure to yield carries a \$100 fine, up to 15 days in jail and a 2-point license penalty).
- Watch for pedestrians when turning right on red.
- Obey speed limits.
- Be sure not to block or park in crosswalks.
- Keep the vehicle's windshield clean for maximum visibility.
- Be alert for pedestrians at all times.
- Be aware of areas where pedestrians are most likely to appear (near schools, town centers, residential neighborhoods, parks).
- Never pass another vehicle that has stopped to yield to a pedestrian.
- Yield the right-of-way to all pedestrians in a crosswalk, even if they began crossing with a proper signal and they are still in the crosswalk when the signal changes.
- Remember that pedestrians are the most vulnerable roadway users
Motorists will be held responsible for maintaining pedestrian safety.

INTERSECTIONS

An intersection is where two or more roads cross or merge at angles. As most collisions occur at intersections, a motorist should be aware of the three types of intersections and know how to safely navigate through them. A single solid white line across a road at an intersection means that a motorist must stop behind the line for a traffic signal or sign.

CONTROLLED

An intersection is controlled if there are traffic signals or signs in any direction. A motorist must obey the signals and signs. At a controlled intersection, a motorist must yield for certain conditions. At a multi-way stop or stop intersection, a motorist must yield to the motorist on the right if both motorists get there at the same time. A motorist should also yield to another motorist already stopped at the intersection.

At an intersection controlled by a yield sign, a motorist must slow down and yield to traffic on the intersecting roadway, even if he/she has to stop. When making a left turn at an intersection, a motorist must yield to oncoming traffic and to pedestrians within the crosswalk.

Note: Driving on private property to avoid a traffic signal or sign is a motor vehicle violation. (N.J.S.A.39:4-66.2)

UNCONTROLLED

An intersection is uncontrolled when two or more roads join and there is no traffic signal or regulatory device. A motorist must be very careful when approaching these types of intersections. Most of the time there will be a warning sign prior to reaching the intersection. As a motorist nears a crossroad that is not controlled, he/she must reduce speed and be ready to stop if any traffic is coming from the right or left. A motorist coming from a private road or driveway must yield to all traffic on the main road (although a motorist can never be sure that will occur). As a general rule, the vehicle on the left should yield to the vehicle on the right. When a traffic signal is not illuminated because of a power failure or other malfunction, the traffic signal is observed as a 4-way stop signal. (N.J.S.A. 39:4-81)

BLIND

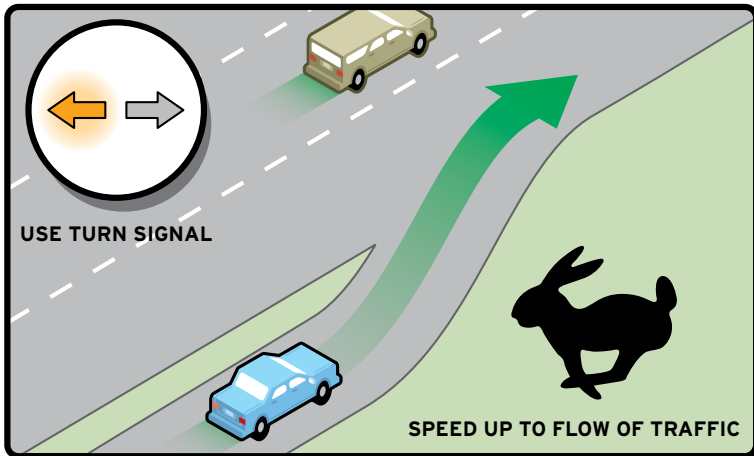
Buildings, parked vehicles or bushes may obstruct a motorist's line of sight. On rural roadways, trees or crops may obstruct a motorist's line of sight. A motorist should always slow down or stop completely to make sure there is no cross traffic before proceeding.

TRAFFIC CIRCLE

There are no set rules for driving into, around and out of a traffic circle in New Jersey. Common sense and caution must prevail at all times. In most cases, the circle's historically established traffic flow pattern dictates who has the right-of-way. If a major highway flows into and through the circle, it usually dominates the traffic flow pattern and commands the right-of-way. Traffic control signs, such as stop or yield signs, at the entrances to the circle also govern which motorist has the right-of-way. Never enter a traffic circle without checking all signs and determining the intentions of the motorists already moving within the circle.

Whenever a motorist is in doubt concerning who has the right-of-way in a circle, he/she should exercise extreme caution and remember the basic rule governing any uncontrolled intersection: The vehicle to the left yields the right-of-way to the vehicle approaching from the right.

ENTERING HIGHWAYS, PARKWAYS AND TURNPIKES

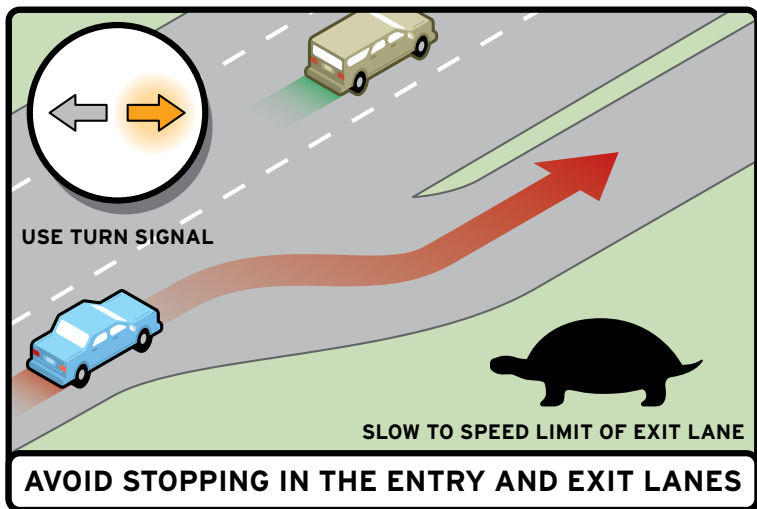


Highways, parkways and turnpikes are high-speed (up to 65 mph) divided roadways and generally have multiple lanes. Traffic on each side of the divide will travel in only one direction. There are no direct intersections. Motorists enter these roadways by way of acceleration lanes, which are extra lanes at highway entrances used by motorists to speed up to join the flow of traffic. A motorist must yield to traffic already traveling on the main road before moving into the proper lane.

Keep the following points in mind when entering a highway, parkway or turnpike:

- Obey posted advisory speed limits (if any) at the entrance ramp.
- Speed up to the flow of traffic when leaving the acceleration lane.
- Avoid coming to a complete stop in the acceleration lane.
- Yield to traffic and enter the right-hand lane when safe.

LEAVING HIGHWAYS, PARKWAYS AND TURNPIKES



In most cases, exit ramps or deceleration lanes, which are extra lanes at a highway exit, are located on the right-hand side of the roadway. A motorist should always watch for signs that direct where to exit the roadway. If a motorist misses an exit ramp on a highway, parkway or turnpike, he/she should go to the next exit.

Keep the following points in mind when leaving a highway, parkway or turnpike:

- Start slowing down when entering a deceleration lane.
- Obey the posted advisory speed limit of the deceleration lane
- When the exit is located on the left of a roadway, look for signs that will direct traffic to the proper lane for exiting.
- If you miss an exit, go on to the next one.
- Never back up on an exit ramp or deceleration lane.

▼ SPECIAL HIGHWAY, PARKWAY AND TURNPIKE CONDITIONS

▼ WEAVE LANE

A weave lane is both an entrance and an exit for an expressway. Traffic may come onto and leave the expressway at the same location. This traffic weave causes conflicts, both for motorists using a weave lane and those on the expressway and entrance ramp (in terms of speed and space adjustments). The motorist entering from the entrance ramp must yield the right-of-way to the motorist leaving the expressway.

▼ HIGHWAYS THROUGH CITIES

The volume of traffic may increase dramatically. Speeds may slow to a crawl. A motorist should drive in the left or center lane to avoid merge conflicts during rush hour. A motorist should search for exits early and adjust position for exit.

▼ DISABLED VEHICLES

When seeing a disabled vehicle ahead, a motorist should reduce speed and increase the space between his/her vehicle and the disabled vehicle. This may involve changing lanes. Be alert for pedestrians, tow trucks and/or police vehicles. If a motorist's vehicle becomes disabled, he/she must:

- Pull off as far as possible onto the shoulder or median
- Turn on emergency flashers.
- Raise the hood to signal for assistance.
- Stay in the vehicle and lock the doors.
- Ask anyone who stops to go to a phone and call for assistance.
- Not get into a stranger's vehicle.

▼ CONSTRUCTION AREAS

A motorist should always stay alert for construction-area warning signs. When coming across these areas, a motorist should adjust speed and adjust position to maintain space around his/her vehicle.

▼ TOLL BOOTHS

A motorist should stay alert for toll booth signs and begin reducing speed early, as traffic may be backed up at the booth. Green lights or signals will highlight open booths. A motorist should be aware of EZ Pass booths and lanes, including high-speed EZ Pass lanes. When exiting toll booths, a motorist should search traffic to both sides for merging potential, accelerate smoothly and adjust speed.

CURVES

It is important for a motorist to adjust steering and speed when approaching a curve in the road because vehicles tend to keep going straight. The best way to enter a curve is to slow down before entering and avoid drifting into another lane. A motorist should always watch for vehicles that may drift into his/her lane as well. Check for Curve Ahead warning signs and recommended speeds.

INTERCHANGES

Divided roadways are built for express traffic. To ease traffic flow, there are usually no traffic lights or direct intersections. To enter or exit such an expressway, a cloverleaf turn is often necessary. A motorist should watch for entrance and exit signs and drive slowly in the circle, obeying the posted speed limit.



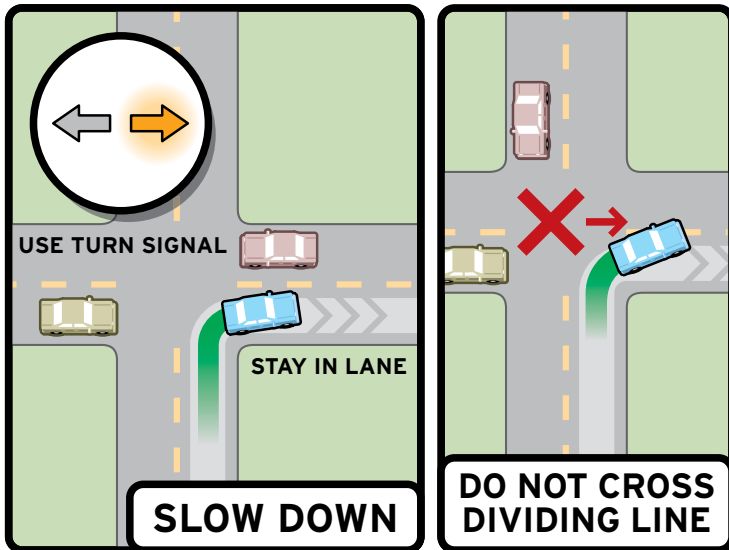
TURNING REGULATIONS

RIGHT TURN ON RED

Unless a No Turn on Red sign is posted, New Jersey law authorizes a right turn on a red light after a motorist comes to a full stop and checks for traffic. A motorist must yield to all oncoming traffic and pedestrians before turning right at a red light. Difficult-to-see vehicles, such as bicycles and mopeds, may have a green light, so it is important for a motorist to be aware of their presence. (N.J.S.A. 39:4-115) Always use a proper turn signal at least 100 feet before making any turn, and cancel the signal after completing the turn. (N.J.S.A. 39:4-126)

RIGHT TURNS (N.J.S.A. 39:4-123)

To make a safe right turn, a motorist should approach the intersection as far to the right as possible, keeping near to the curb or parked vehicles. The motorist should not swing outward or into another lane while making the right turn. He/she should drive up to the turn as far to the right as possible, keeping close to the right curb or parked vehicles at the curb. This vehicle positioning prior to a right turn reduces the chance of another vehicle being in the space on the right as the motorist makes the turn. He/she should not swing into the wrong lane while making the turn.

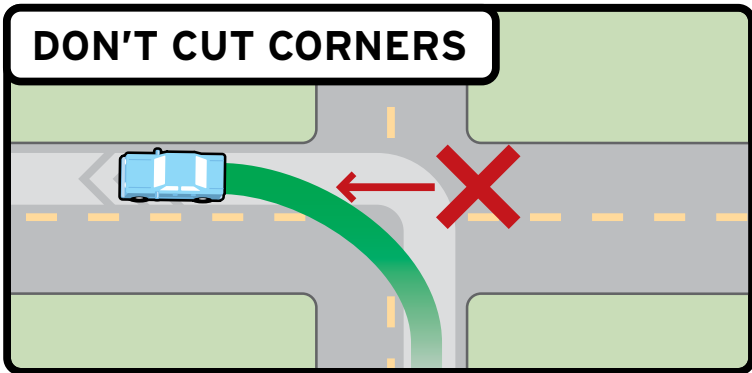
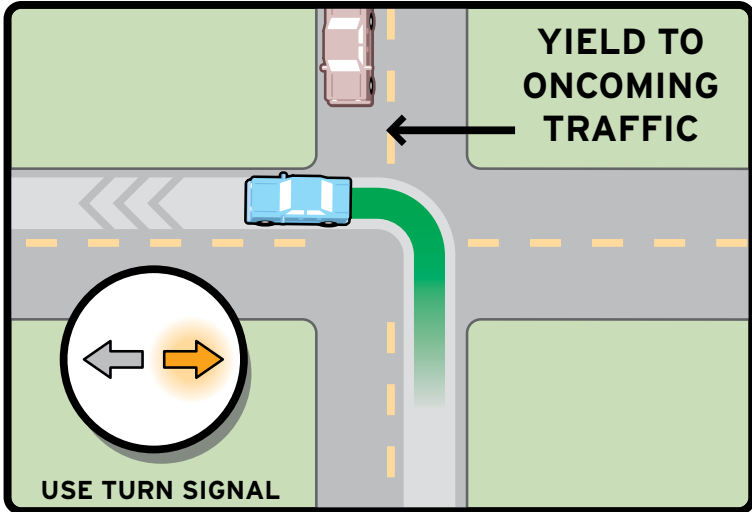


▾ LEFT TURNS (N.J.S.A. 39:4-123)

Left turns, two vehicles: When two vehicles meet at an intersection and both have signaled to turn left, extra caution must be applied. When safe, each motorist should turn to the left of the center of the intersection.

Left turn from a one-way road on to a one-way road: Approaching the turn in the left lane, the motorist should turn into the left lane of the road he/she is entering.

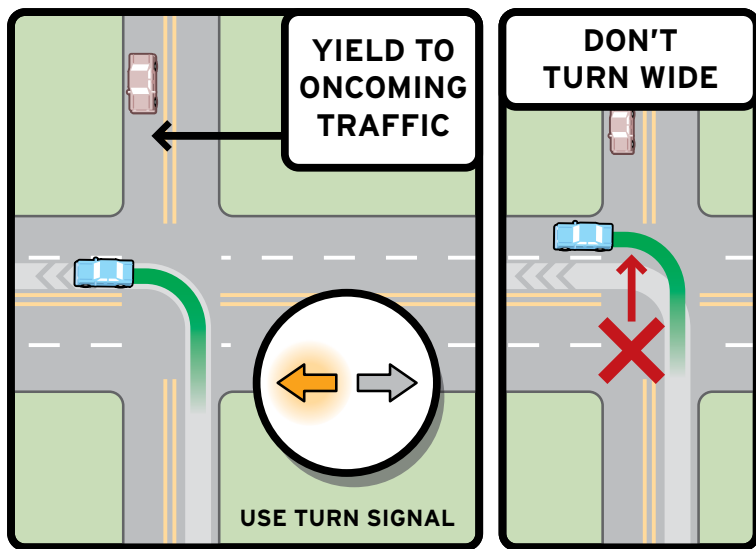
Left turn from a two-way road onto a two-way road: Approach the turn as close as possible to the line nearest to the center of the road. When turning, the vehicle should not cross lane markings. The motorist should keep to the right of the center line of the road that the vehicle is entering.



Left turns, between intersections: Between intersections, solid lines show when not to pass. However, these lines may be crossed with care when entering or leaving driveways in business or residential areas.

Left turn from a two-way road onto a four-lane highway: Approach the turn as close to the center line of the right side of the road as possible. Make the turn before reaching the center of the intersection.

It is important not to cross lane markings. The motorist should turn into the lane nearest the center line of the right side of the other road. This is the passing lane of the four-lane highway. When traffic permits, the motorist should move to the right, out of the passing lane.



STOPPING REGULATIONS

Signs, signals and traffic rules indicate when a motorist must stop. A motorist should never try to beat a traffic light change. A motorist must be careful even if the light is changing to green (fresh green light). There may be other vehicles coming through or still in the intersection. Most accidents at traffic signals happen in the first few seconds after the light has changed. When a yellow light follows a green light, a motorist must stop before entering the intersection, unless yellow appears when the vehicle is too close to stop safely. If the light changes while a driver is already in the intersection, he/she should go through with caution. Be alert for a stale green light; this is a light that has been green for some time.

Be prepared for it to change to yellow and then red. Slow down and stop accordingly.

A motorist must stop:

- At an intersection with a stop sign
- At an intersection with a red light either flashing or illuminated
- At an intersection with a yellow light after a green, unless too close to stop safely
- When a traffic officer orders the vehicle to stop
- When there is a yield sign, and traffic does not permit a safe merge
- When a school bus is picking up or letting off children and/or the red lights are flashing
- When coming from an alley, private driveway or building
- At a bridge span that is about to open for boat traffic
- For a blind pedestrian using a white or metallic walking cane, or a trained guide dog, or a guide dog instructor engaged in instructing a guide dog
- For a pedestrian in a crosswalk or at an intersection
- For a motorized wheelchair or mobility-assistance device in a crosswalk or at an intersection

Single white stop lines show motorists where to stop at stop signs or traffic signals.

STOP AT RAILROAD CROSSINGS

To ensure public safety, the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and railroad companies mark public highway railroad crossings with one or more warning devices. Warning devices include advance warning signs, pavement markings in front of a railroad crossing, flashing lights (usually on railroad crossing signs), gates or gates with flashing lights, bells and flag signals.

A motorist must stop at least 15 feet from railroad crossings when there are flashing lights, ringing bells or flag signals. Descending gates or gates that have already been lowered indicate that a train is coming and a motorist must stop. A motorist should never attempt to cross until the gates have been raised and the lights have stopped flashing (N.J.S.A. 39:4-127.1).

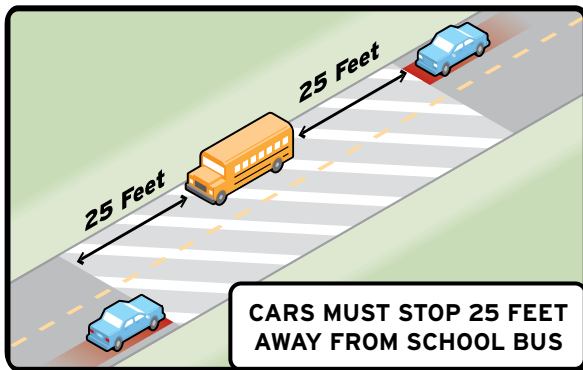
All other commercial motor vehicles:

Some vehicles, such as school buses or vehicles carrying hazardous materials, must always stop at railroad crossings. When driving behind one of these vehicles, a motorist must be prepared to stop, even if signals do not indicate a train is coming (N.J.S.A. 39:4-128).

A motorist should never stop his/her vehicle on railroad tracks. If a vehicle stalls on the tracks, and the motorist sees a train coming, he/she should get out and walk clear of the tracks. Never try to race a train. Most trains need more than a mile to stop, if traveling at 60 mph or more.

STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES (N.J.S.A. 39:4-128.1)

A motorist must stop for a school bus with flashing red lights. State law requires motorists to stop at least 25 feet away if he/she is traveling on a two-lane road or on a multi-lane highway where lanes are only separated by lines or on a privately maintained road. When traveling on a dual-lane highway, a motorist should slow to 10 mph if on the other side of a safety island or raised median.



School buses are equipped with yellow (or amber) and red flashing lights. The yellow (or amber) lights go on before the bus stops, and the red lights go on when it has stopped. However, a motorist should not depend on these lights, however, if driving behind a school bus. They may be malfunctioning.

When a bus stops, all motorists traveling behind or approaching it must stop their vehicles at least 25 feet away. A motorist should only proceed after the bus signals have been turned off, and even then, he/she must watch for children.

If a school bus has stopped directly in front of a school to pick up or let off children, a motorist may pass from either direction at a speed of no more than 10 mph.

▼ STOP FOR FROZEN DESSERT TRUCKS (N.J.S.A. 39:4-128.4)

When approaching or overtaking an ice cream or frozen dessert truck from either direction, and the truck is flashing red lights and posting a stop signal arm, a motorist must:

- Yield the right-of-way to any person who is crossing the roadway to or from the truck.
- Watch out for children and be prepared to stop.
- Stop, then drive past the truck at a slow speed of no more than 15 mph.

A motorist need not stop on a dual highway if he/she is on the other side of a safety island or raised median.

▼ PULL OVER AND STOP FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES

New Jersey law requires all motorists to yield to emergency vehicles when they sound sirens and/or flashing red and/or blue emergency lights. A motorist should steer to the extreme right of the roadway, stop and wait for the vehicle to pass. Afterward, the motorist should keep at least 300 feet behind a signaling emergency vehicle (N.J.S.A. 39:4-92, 39:3-54.12).

Police cars, fire trucks, ambulances or other emergency vehicles have sirens and red lights. Private vehicles operated by volunteer fire and rescue squad members (with emergency vehicle identification) responding to an emergency call use blue lights. A motorist should never park within 200 feet of a fire department vehicle in service or drive over a fire hose unless directed to do so by a fire, emergency rescue or police official.

▼ USING HEADLIGHTS

Proper use of headlights is critical to safe driving. Headlights must be used between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise. Headlights must also be used when visibility is 500 feet or less, when using windshield wipers (during rain, snow and ice) or when encountering fog, mist, smoke or other factors that reduce visibility (N.J.S.A. 39:3-46).

Being able to see clearly while driving is very important. A vehicle's lights should always be in good working order and clean. Headlights help other motorists see approaching vehicles. Parking or auxiliary lights cannot legally be used in place of headlights when headlights are required.

▼ BRIGHT AND DIM

Headlights have two sets of beams: bright (high) and dim (low), which are controlled by a switch or button on or near the dashboard. The bright beam is for open-country driving when there is no traffic in sight. The bright beam helps a motorist see farther ahead and peripherally or at a wider angle. At night, a motorist's pupils are dilated, allowing more light to aid in the ability to see. Bright beams can momentarily blind other motorists by constricting the pupils and should not be used if other vehicles are approaching or when driving behind another vehicle. It can take three to five seconds for a motorist to recover from the glare of approaching high-beam headlights. At a speed of 50 mph, a motorist will have traveled the length of a football field while being unable to see. If a vehicle is approaching with high beams, a motorist should look to the right of the road until the vehicle passes. Never flash high beams at an approaching motorist.

The dim beams are used for city driving and driving in traffic on roadways. Dim beams are focused down on the road. Dim beams are used when traveling behind other vehicles or when another vehicle is approaching.

▼ OTHER TYPES OF LIGHTS

Parking lights: These lights are to be used for a short period of time, such as when a vehicle is left in a permitted zone, to show other motorists where a vehicle is parked. Parking lights are required on vehicles parked in areas other than business or residential zones.

Tail lights: These lights turn on at the same time as a vehicle's headlights and parking lights. They become brighter when a motorist applies the brakes to show that he/she is slowing or stopping. During the day, without headlights, the taillights also turn on as a motorist applies the brakes.

Brake lights: These lights become brighter when a motorist applies the brakes, showing that the vehicle is slowing or stopping.

Interim (overhead) lights: Found inside the vehicle, these types of lights should be used only briefly (when necessary) when driving or to comply with a police officer's request to illuminate the motorist's compartment of the vehicle when stopped.

Dashboard lights: If dashboard lights are too bright, they may create a glare for the motorist and impede vision. The lights should be kept dim but still light enough for a motorist to read the dials.

Spotlights: These types of lights should be used only in emergencies. This also applies to emergency flashers (hazard lights). Spotlights may not be used for driving purposes.

Fog lights: These auxiliary driving lights may be used with low-beam headlights to provide general lighting ahead of a motor vehicle, specifically during foggy weather conditions (N.J.A.C. 13:20-32.25).

▼ PARKING REGULATIONS

A motorist should always check for traffic when leaving a vehicle after parking. He/she should also check for bicycles or mopeds, which are sometimes difficult to see, before opening the driver-side door and exiting the vehicle. A motorist opening a door into traffic may be liable for any collision with a moving vehicle. It is safer for passengers to exit a parked vehicle from the curb side. A motorist should read parking signs before parking on a city street to be aware of restrictions or time limits. It is illegal for a vehicle to be parked more than six inches from the curb (N.J.S.A. 39:4-135). Never park where a vehicle will block traffic.



▼ DO NOT PARK (N.J.S.A. 39:4-138)

Unless directed to do so by a police officer or to avoid an accident, a motorist should never stop or park at any of the following places:

- On a crosswalk
- Between a safety zone for pedestrians and the adjacent curb or within 20 feet of the end of the safety zone
- Near properly marked street construction
- In a space on public or private property marked for vehicle parking for the handicapped (unless legally authorized)
- On an interstate highway
- On a sidewalk
- In a bus stop zone
- In front of a public or private driveway
- Within an intersection
- Within 10 feet of a fire hydrant
- Within 25 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection, or side line of a street or intersection highway, except at alleys
- Within 50 feet of a railroad crossing
- Within 50 feet of a stop sign
- Within 20 feet of the driveway entrance to any fire station and within 75 feet on the street opposite a fire station entrance
- On any bridge or elevated roadway or in any tunnel
- Next to another vehicle parked at the curb (double parking)
- In an area where parking is prohibited by municipal ordinance

In case of mechanical trouble or other emergency, a motorist should stop on the right highway shoulder and turn on emergency flashers.

CELLULAR TELEPHONES

State law prohibits the use of handheld electronic devices (e.g., cellular telephones) while driving a motor vehicle on any public road or highway. As of March 1, 2008, using a handheld cellular telephone or texting device is a primary offense. Law enforcement may stop and cite a motorist specifically for these actions. Motorists are permitted to use a hands-free cellular telephone if it does not interfere with any federally required safety equipment or with the safe operation of the vehicle. Although the use of a hands-free cellular telephone is legal, it is strongly discouraged. A handheld cellular telephone may be used only in certain emergency situations, which include:

- Fire
- Traffic accident
- Serious road hazard
- Medical emergency
- Hazardous material emergency

Motorists in the above-mentioned circumstances must keep one hand on the steering wheel while using a handheld telephone. To prove legal use of a handheld telephone while operating a motor vehicle, a motorist may be asked to produce testimony or written statements from appropriate authorities, or telephone records. Fines for breaking this law range between \$100 and \$250 (N.J. S.A. 39:4-97.3).

A graduated driver license (GDL) motorist may not use a handheld or hands-free cellular telephone, or any other handheld electronic device, when behind the wheel. Doing so is a violation of GDL restrictions (N.J.S.A. 39:3-13, 39:3-13.2A, 39:3-13.4).

A school bus driver may not use a handheld or hands-free cellular telephone while operating the school bus, except in an emergency situation or when the school bus is parked in a safe area off of a highway (N.J.S.A. 39:3B-25).

LITTERING

Throwing trash, debris or rubbish from a moving or parked vehicle is illegal. Litter is a safety hazard and an eyesore. Fines of up to \$1,000 may be imposed on motorists found throwing dangerous objects from a vehicle onto a roadway. If the vehicle is moving when litter is thrown, the motorist may lose his/her license. All trash, debris or rubbish carried in a vehicle must be covered to keep it from littering the roadway (N.J.S.A. 39:4-63, 39:4-64).





Chapter 5

- 82 Prevent a Collision
- 82 Aggressive Driving/Road Rage
- 83 Distractions
- 83 Tired Driver/Highway Hypnosis
- 84 Communicating and Driving
- 85 Keep a Safe Distance/Do Not Tailgate
- 86 Following Distances
- 87 Changing Lanes and Passing

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

- 87 Passed by Another Vehicle
- 87 Road Conditions
- 90 Reduced Visibility
- 90 Night Driving
- 91 Driving Situations
- 94 Reacting to Driving Problems
- 96 Vehicle Failure
- 98 Collisions (Accidents)
- 100 What to do in Case of a Collision

PREVENT A COLLISION

Most collisions are caused by motorist error. A motorist can reduce the chances of a collision by knowing and using the standard collision-prevention formula:

Be alert: Never think the other motorist will not make a driving mistake.

Be prepared: Learn what to do in any situation when you have to act fast, and always expect the unexpected.

Act in time: Try not to panic. Know what to do if something happens suddenly

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING/ROAD RAGE

Emotions can have a great affect on a motorist's driving. If a motorist is angry or excited, he/she should take time to cool off. Aggressive driving is defined as a progression of unlawful driving actions, such as speeding, improper or excessive lane changing, or improper passing. Aggressive drivers fail to consider how their actions behind the wheel may affect other motorists on the road. When behind the wheel, a motorist should always remain calm and follow the rules of the road. Extreme cases of aggressive driving may lead to road rage.

Road rage occurs when motorists lose their tempers or become frustrated because of a traffic disturbance. These aggressive motorists may run stop signs and red lights, speed, tailgate, weave through traffic, pass illegally on the right, make improper and unsafe lane changes, make hand or facial gestures, scream, honk horns or flash high beams. In extreme cases, aggressive motorists may cause a collision.

New Jersey is waging a campaign against road rage. The state has specially trained enforcement patrols to help stop aggressive motorists. To report an aggressive motorist call (888) SAF-ROAD or cell phone #77.

Note: While there are emergency exceptions to the hand held cellular phone law, it is always safest to pull over to the side of the road before making a call.

DISTRACTIONS

Operating any motor vehicle requires the motorist's full attention. In many cases, collisions are caused by a distracted motorist. Inattentive motorists often tailgate, go too fast or drift out of their lanes. They ignore traffic signs and signals, road markings, potential traffic hazards, road conditions and other vehicles. Some causes of inattentive driving are:

- Lighting a cigarette
- Trying to fasten a safety belt while driving
- Reaching across the seat to close a door or look in the glove compartment
- Reaching for coins in pockets while driving up to a toll booth
- Trying to wind or adjust a wristwatch
- Watching children or pets in the vehicle
- Trying to remove a coat
- Reading maps and newspapers
- Eating while driving
- Adjusting a mirror while driving
- Using a cellular phone
- Adjusting the radio or CD player
- Shaving
- Using a laptop computer or fax machine
- Applying makeup

A motorist should never do any of these while driving. His/her full attention must be on the road at all times.

TIRED DRIVER/HIGHWAY HYPNOSIS

A tired driver is a dangerous driver. A tired driver cannot drive well and his/her reaction time is reduced. The motorist may also get upset more easily or even fall asleep behind the wheel. A tired driver can be as dangerous as a drunk driver. Maggie's Law, which was enacted in June 2003, makes it illegal to knowingly drive a vehicle while impaired by lack of sleep. This law establishes driving while fatigued as recklessness under the vehicular homicide statute (N.J.S.A. 2C:11-5).

When a motorist has been behind the wheel for a long time, he/she may experience "highway hypnosis." This trance-like state may be avoided by not looking at any one thing for more than a few seconds. It is recommended that a motorist rest every two hours and/or share the driving with another licensed motorist.

▼ DROWSY DRIVING – WHO IS MOST AT RISK?

Motorists who are:

- Sleep deprived
- Driving long distances without rest breaks
- Driving through the night or at other times when they are normally asleep
- Taking medicine that increases sleepiness, or drinking alcohol
- Driving alone
- Driving on long, rural, boring roads
- Young people
- Shift workers
- Commercial drivers

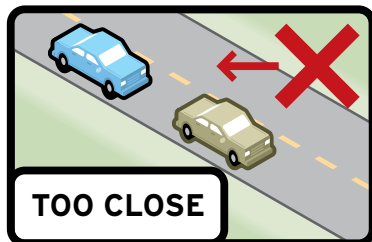
▼ COMMUNICATING AND DRIVING

Communicate with other motorists by all available means and signals. A motorist should always stay in the lane that shows where he/she intends to turn. Turn signals (hand signals) allow a motorist to tell other motorists what he/she is going to do. Another good method is catching other motorists' eyes. It may be necessary to tap the horn to warn other motorists. At night, a quick flip of the headlights from low to high and back to low might be helpful.

A motorist should always be patient in town or city traffic and try not to make quick turns or lane changes. Do not let rush-hour traffic become irritating. Be alert and drive defensively. Always use good judgment in stopping, starting and turning. Knowing all traffic rules, signs and signals is helpful. If a motorist must pull off the road, he/she should always turn on the vehicle's emergency flashers (hazard lights).

KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE/DO NOT TAILGATE

A motorist should always keep a safe distance from other vehicles on the road so that he/she has plenty of time to react to emergencies. Tailgating refers to following too closely behind a vehicle directly in front. This is a common cause of accidents. Tailgating can cause a series of rear-end collisions when many vehicles are too close together. There should be plenty of space between a motorist's vehicle and others on all sides. A motorist should stay in the middle of the lane and make sure there is enough room ahead to stop or pass safely.



ONE CAR LENGTH

Although there is no perfect rule for following distance, the rule of thumb most often used is to keep one car length back (about 20 feet) for each 10 miles per hour of speed. At high speeds or in bad weather, following distances should be increased.

▼ THREE-SECONDS-PLUS RULE

Since most people have trouble judging distances, the three-seconds-plus rule to determine safe distance may be easier to use. It is useful at any speed.

- Choose some fixed object ahead of the vehicle in front. The object may be a sign or a tree. Make sure the object does not distract attention from driving.
- As the vehicle in front passes the object, begin counting seconds (one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three).
- If it takes at least three seconds before the vehicle passes the object, a motorist should have enough distance for a sudden stop.
- Practicing safe space management/following distance is the ability to stop a vehicle safely and smoothly in the event the vehicle in front stops.
- Stopping Distance = Perception Distance + Reaction Distance + Braking Distance.
- By keeping a foot near the brake, a motorist can reduce reaction distance.
- Time and distance relationships are designed for the best driving conditions.
- It should be noted that heavier vehicles may take longer to stop.

Try the rule while driving. It can help a motorist develop good judgment for proper following distances. During bad weather, the time interval should be increased to four or more seconds.

▼ FOLLOWING DISTANCES

While keeping the proper following distance in traffic, the motorist should always know the condition of his/her vehicle's brakes. Test them often. Make sure of the distance it might take to stop. This is very important on wet roads and where there is snow or ice. A motorist should always increase following distance with poor road conditions.

MINIMUM SAFE FOLLOWING DISTANCE (in car lengths)

Road condition	20 mph	30 mph	40 mph	50 mph
Ideal	2 car lengths	3	4	5
Wet pavement	4 car lengths	6	8	10
Gravel	4 car lengths	6	8	10
Packed snow	6 car lengths	9	12	
Ice	12 car lengths	18		

CHANGING LANES AND PASSING

Using the proper lane is an important part of defensive driving. Do not straddle a lane. Be alert to traffic behind. When a lane change must be made, look at the rearview mirror. Glance behind to check blind spots. Always signal lane changes. Before passing a vehicle or changing lanes, keep the following points in mind:

- Only pass or change lanes when necessary.
- Only pass or change lanes if it can be completed without speeding.
- Keep a safe following distance; do not tailgate.
- Check traffic ahead and behind.
- Only pass when signs and pavement markings permit.
- Signal every lane change.
- Signal your return to the right lane.
- Return to the right lane when well ahead of the vehicle that was passed. (A good indication that it is safe to return to the right lane is when the vehicle that was passed is visible in the rearview mirror.)
- Cancel the turn signal.

PASSED BY ANOTHER VEHICLE

When a motorist is passed by another vehicle, he/she must be careful. Stay in the proper lane and slow down to make the pass easier for the other motorist. Return to normal speed after the passing vehicle is well ahead (N.J.S.A. 39:4-87).

ROAD CONDITIONS

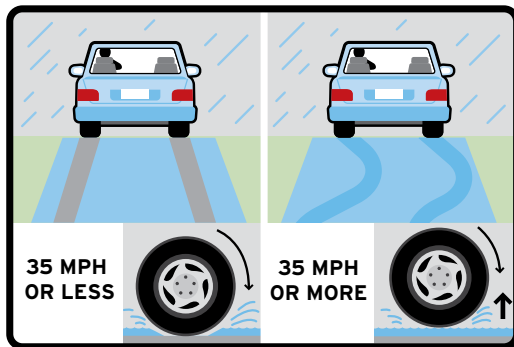
WET ROADS

Drive more slowly on wet roads. Stopping and turning should be completed with great care. The three-seconds-plus rule should be increased to four or more seconds. Quick turns or changes in speed may cause a vehicle to skid.

Road surfaces are the most slippery during the first few minutes of a rainfall. When driving through a water puddle, a motorist should test the brakes by pumping them. This will also help to dry the brakes. Speed should be decreased when passing through water puddles, especially those deeper than the tread of a tire.

HYDROPLANING

Wet road surfaces can cause tires to hydroplane, or ride up on a film of water, starting at about 35 mph, which could cause a motorist to lose control of his/her vehicle. Chances of hydroplaning increase as speeds increase. After 55 mph, tires may totally leave the road surface. If tires totally leave the road surface, braking is virtually impossible, and turning is not possible. A gust of wind, a change in road level or a slight turn can create a skid if a vehicle is hydroplaning. To avoid hydroplaning, do not drive on bald or badly worn tires, and slow down when heavy rain, standing water or slush is present. In a heavy rainstorm, try to drive on the highest point of the road. For example, use the center lane on a multiple lane highway, when available.



SNOW AND ICE

Winter driving has special dangers, including longer hours of darkness, fog, rain, snow, sleet and ice. Each of these increases the possibility for an accident. A safe motorist is prepared for these types of situations.

Before driving in cold weather, start the engine and let it warm up according to manufacturer directions. All snow and ice must be removed from the entire vehicle. New Jersey law states that a motorist is responsible for any ice that flies from his/her vehicle and causes death, injury or property damage (N.J.S.A. 39:4-77.1). Always make sure the vehicle has the proper type of windshield washing fluid.

In snow and ice conditions, a motorist should take precautions and get a feel for the road. Gently applying the brakes while driving slowly will allow a motorist to find out just how slippery the road is. This will also allow the motorist to judge how fast the vehicle can go and still stop safely. A vehicle will skid if a motorist:

- Accelerates too quickly.
- Turns too fast.
- Brakes improperly.

Motorists who have a vehicle with antilock brakes (ABS) should keep a foot on the brake pedal and not pump the brakes. Conventional disc and drum brakes require firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal. Hitting the brakes too hard may cause the wheels to lock. If the brakes do lock, release the brake pedal and then immediately reapply with slightly less pressure. This process should be repeated with less and less pressure on the brake pedal until the vehicle is under control. Snow tires help driving during the winter months by providing better traction for more controlled starting, steering and stopping. Snow tires do not provide good traction on ice. Tire chains are the best traction on ice and in hard-packed or deep snow. In New Jersey, motorists may use studded snow tires between November 15 and April 1 (N.J.S.A. 13:20-15.2g).

To start on snow and ice, keep the engine speed low. If the wheels spin, a lower gear should be used. When stuck, rock the vehicle back and forth by shifting between forward and reverse to escape.



Motorists are prohibited from allowing their motor vehicles to idle for more than three consecutive minutes. Among the exceptions for this prohibition include motor vehicles stopped in the line of traffic, motor vehicles being repaired, motor vehicles waiting to be inspected, emergency vehicles in emergency situations and buses while discharging or picking up passengers (N.J.A.C. 7:27-15.8, 7:27-14.3).

REDUCED VISIBILITY

Poor roadway or weather conditions require motorists to increase following distance because rough, wet or snow-covered roads may require more response time. A good rule on snow-covered roads is to maintain a following distance of six seconds or more.

Frost or ice: Always scrape and wipe a vehicle's windows before starting. Turn on the defroster. If the defroster does not work while driving in freezing rain or snow, stop the vehicle. Close the windows and let the heater warm up the windows.

Fog: Always slow down when driving in fog. Headlights should be kept on low beam and fog lights should be turned on, if the vehicle has them. Pavement markings and other vehicle lights can serve as a motorist's guide.

Sun glare: Sun visors should always be adjusted to shield a motorist's eyes without cutting off his/her view of the road. Hold the steering wheel firmly and slow down. Watch for lane markings.

In all cases, if visibility is greatly reduced, a motorist should stop alongside the road or on the shoulder, out of the way of traffic, and turn on emergency flashers.

NIGHT DRIVING

Nearly 90 percent of driving decisions are based upon what a motorist sees while driving. At night, a motorist's vision is reduced. To drive safely at night, slow down and drive within the range of the vehicle's headlights. A motorist should always be sure the vehicle can stop within the distance that he/she sees ahead. A motorist should always consider the following factors when driving at night:

- Speed
- Reaction distance (distance traveled before hitting the brake)
- Braking distance (distance needed to completely stop vehicle)

DRIVING AND STOPPING AT NIGHT

Speed	Reaction distance	Braking distance	Stopping distance
20 mph	44 ft	25 ft	69 ft
30 mph	66 ft	57 ft	123 ft
40 mph	88 ft	101 ft	189 ft
50 mph	110 ft	158 ft	268 ft
60 mph	132 ft	227 ft	359 ft
70 mph	154 ft	310 ft	464 ft

This table shows the distance the average motorist will need to stop while driving at a designated speed using low beams at night. Numbers are based on a motorist reaction time of 1.5 seconds. A vehicle travels 88 feet per second at 60 mph. Deceleration is 17.02 feet per second.

Other safety rules for night driving are:

- Drive with headlights on at dusk, night, dawn, on dark days and whenever weather conditions reduce visibility to less than 500 feet. State law requires the headlights to be on when windshield wipers are in use (N.J.S.A. 39:3-46).
- Drive more slowly than during daylight.
- Watch for road signs, slow-moving or unlit vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and animals.
- Allow for more safety margins than you would during daylight.

DRIVING SITUATIONS

A motorist will come across a number of different driving situations that have their own unique safety concerns or requirements. A motorist must know how to safely navigate his/her vehicle in each of these situations.

CITY DRIVING

When traveling in a city, heavier traffic and more pedestrians require motorists to be very alert. In city traffic, a motorist should try to cooperate with other motorists. Drive more slowly and watch for the movements of others. Motorists must be more careful about pedestrians and less-visible vehicles, such as bicycles, mopeds, motorcycles, motorized wheelchairs and mobility-assistance vehicles. Pedestrians and individuals in wheelchairs or mobility-assistance vehicles always have the right-of-way in a crosswalk. Motorists must always yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk.

A motorist should look at least 12 seconds ahead. This means that he/she should be able to see an object far enough ahead so that it takes at least 12 seconds to get to it. While driving at 25 mph on a clear road in a city, a motorist should be able to see about a block ahead. When traffic is heavy, extra time to react is necessary, which means driving more slowly. By reducing speed, a motorist gains time.

On city streets, a motorist will pass through intersections very often. Many new motorists fail to see intersections. A motorist should always consider the following safety tips:

- If at the middle of a block, check intersections ahead for traffic controls.
- When approaching or nearing an intersection, reduce speed. Glance left and then right. Keep foot on the brake.
- When at a crosswalk, a vehicle should be at its lowest speed. A motorist must decide whether to stop or go across. Take quick glances around. If clear, proceed to cross.

Watch for uncontrolled intersections where there are no lights or signs. Do not think that a roadway is protected because it is wide, smooth or busy. If there are no traffic signals, there is no traffic control. Avoiding collisions is up to the motorist. Look. Listen. Think.

▼ HIGHWAY DRIVING

Traffic accidents and deaths can happen on highways when the weather is good and the roads are dry. Exceeding the posted speed limit or driving too fast for road conditions is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic collisions.

Major highways are usually in good condition. They often have four or more lanes. Wide-open spaces often give a motorist the feeling that he/she can relax his/her attention. It is important to stay alert on highways. Some highways may not have traffic signs or signals at crossroads. This means a motorist must drive defensively and stay within the speed limit. Always be ready to react to the unexpected.

▼ HILLS, BRIDGES AND OTHER ROAD HAZARDS

A motorist should always be on the lookout for signs that warn of road hazards. These include hills, dips, narrow bridges, bumps and railroad tracks. Drive slowly in these areas. If a vehicle is moving too fast, the motorist may not be able to slow down in time. Speeding and applying the brakes firmly can cause a skid or a spin.

Motorists should be cautious when traveling in farm country or in open land where livestock or deer may cross the road. If a motorist encounters an animal, he/she should slow down until the animal has passed. Animals make unexpected moves, so a motorist must be alert.



CONSTRUCTION ZONES/WORK ZONES (N.J.S.A. 39:4-203.5)

Most motorists will encounter construction on roadways. In New Jersey, traffic fines are doubled for motor vehicle violations committed in the area of roadway construction zones. These work zones are identified by an advance warning sign or flashing lights on a vehicle up to one-half mile before the work area. Flaggers may control traffic and protect project personnel in the work area. Sometimes it is necessary to redirect traffic from its normal path around the work zone. Motorists may encounter a detour onto another roadway to bypass the work area or a diversion onto a temporary roadway, such as a median crossover or a lane shift. If traffic is permitted through or adjacent to the work area, it will be guided with temporary traffic control devices. At the end of the work area, there will be an End Road Work sign or the last temporary traffic control device, so motorists can resume normal driving. For illustrations of signs and barricades used in construction zones, see the Driver Safety Section at the end of this manual.

It is extremely important for motorists to remain alert when traveling through a work zone. Annually, there are nearly 800 fatal and over 37,000 serious injury crashes in work zones. In addition, congestion and delays may mount, causing the frustration level of motorists to rise. Motorists should keep the following basics in mind:

- **Stay alert:** Dedicate full attention to the roadway.
- **Pay close attention:** Signs and work zone flaggers save lives.
- **Turn on headlights:** Workers and other motorists must be able to see the vehicle.
- **Don't tailgate:** Unexpected stops or slowing may occur.
- **Don't speed:** Note the posted speed limits in and around the work zone.
- **Minimize distractions:** Avoid changing radio stations or talking on hands-free devices when traveling through a work zone.
- **Expect the unexpected:** Keep an eye out for workers and their equipment.
- **Be patient:** Remember that work-zone crew members are working to improve the ride for all motorists.

REACTING TO DRIVING PROBLEMS

A motorist should always be prepared for any problems that he/she may encounter while driving. Certain situations require the motorist to react immediately in order to avoid an accident.

IGNITION SYSTEM

Today's vehicles are equipped with ignition systems that, when used properly, will prevent the theft of an automobile and vehicle rollaway. An ignition system permits key removal only when the vehicle's transmission is in the Park position. Motorists in an emergency situation on the highway may attempt to turn off the vehicle while it is still in motion, believing they will bring the vehicle to a stop. The basic rule the motorist must follow when operating a vehicle with a steering wheel ignition system is to never turn the ignition to the lock position while the vehicle is in motion. The steering will lock as the vehicle turns, and the motorist will lose control of the vehicle.

SKIDS

Sudden turns, lane changes or hard braking can throw a vehicle into a skid. This often happens on wet or icy roads. A motorist should handle a skid in both front-wheel and rear-wheel drive vehicles in the same way. If the rear end of the vehicle starts to slide, a motorist should take his/her foot off the gas pedal. A vehicle may spin if the steering wheel is quickly turned away from the direction of the skid.

To avoid a spin, the motorist should turn in the direction the rear of the vehicle is skidding, without over steering. When skidding, a motorist should look in the direction that he/she wants to go. A motorist will be able to feel when the vehicle is back under control and should then straighten the wheels. During a side skid, avoid using the brakes.

EMERGENCY STOPS

If an emergency highway stop is necessary, a motorist should always keep several basic points in mind. On a highway with paved shoulders, signal and turn onto the shoulder at or near traffic speed. Then begin to slow down. Where the shoulder is unpaved, signal a turn and slow down to a safe speed before turning off. Once the vehicle is pulled to the shoulder, turn on the parking lights or emergency warning lights.

Never block tail lights at night by standing or working behind the vehicle. Day or night, put a flare or other warning sign just behind the vehicle. Put another warning device at least 300 feet back (about 120 paces). Raise the hood. Tie a white handkerchief to the antenna or left door handle as a signal, if help is needed.

RUNNING OFF THE PAVEMENT

If a vehicle's wheels drift onto the shoulder of the road, do not try to turn back onto the pavement right away. This might throw the vehicle off balance. Too often motorists panic and steer abruptly to return to the road, causing the vehicle to slingshot across the roadway or into traffic. Instead, a motorist should stay on the shoulder and ease up on the gas pedal. After the vehicle has slowed down to 25 mph or less, the motorist may turn back onto the road by turning the steering wheel one-quarter turn toward the roadway. This will allow tires to climb the pavement edge and get back onto the pavement.

If a vehicle runs off the pavement:

- Slow down.
- Regain control.
- Turn slowly onto the road.

CAR FIRES

Most car fires are caused by short circuits in the electrical system. In case of fire, do not waste time. Get passengers out and away from the vehicle at once, and call for help. A motorist should never attempt to put out a fire.

▶ **PLUNGING INTO WATER**

Water causes more panic than any other emergency. Actual tests have resulted in a few tips. A vehicle with windows and doors closed will float for about three to ten minutes. Two major points in escape and self-rescue from a submerged vehicle are to wear a seat belt, which will increase the chances of surviving the initial impact of the water, and, while the vehicle is still floating on the surface, to escape through an open window. It is hard to open a door against water pressure, but a window can be rolled down easily. Power windows may short out, so try to open them at once. Glass in the side and rear windows can be broken but only with a heavy, hard object.

A front-engine vehicle will sink nose first. Some air may be pushed to the rear, near the roof. When the pressure inside and outside the vehicle is equal, it is easier to open a door. A motorist should try to escape through a door or window. Remember that three to five minutes gives plenty of time in an emergency. Wearing a seat belt is the best insurance against being knocked unconscious. Once out of the vehicle, a motorist may become disoriented underwater. Always remember to follow the air bubbles to reach the surface.

▶ **STALLING ON RAILROAD TRACKS**

If the vehicle has a standard shift, the motorist should try to move it by running the starter in low or second gear. With an automatic shift, the motorist will have to push the vehicle off the tracks. If the vehicle cannot be moved off the tracks, and a train is coming, the motorist should move as far away from the tracks as possible and call for help.

▶ **VEHICLE FAILURE**

No matter how well a vehicle is maintained, there is still a chance a motorist will experience vehicle problems. A motorist should always be prepared for any type of situation and never panic.

▶ **BRAKE FAILURE**

If a vehicle's conventional disc and drum brakes suddenly fail, a motorist should shift to a lower gear and pump the brake pedal fast and hard several times. This may build up enough brake pressure to stop the vehicle. If that does not work, the parking brake should be used while holding the brake release, so the motorist can let up if the rear wheels lock and the vehicle begins to skid. With the vehicle in low gear, the motorist should begin looking for a safe place to stop off the roadway and call for help.

▶ **TIRE BLOWOUT**

If a motorist experiences a flat tire or blowout, he/she should hold the steering wheel firmly and keep the vehicle straight while gradually slowing down. The motorist should remove his/her foot from the gas pedal but not use the brakes. The vehicle should coast to a stop on its own as the motorist pulls to a safe area off the roadway.

▶ **POWER STEERING FAILURE**

When an engine dies, a vehicle's power steering will fail. The motorist should keep a firm grip on the wheel because extra hand power will be needed to turn or keep control. The vehicle should be brought to a stop in a safe area off the roadway. The motorist may need to push very hard on power brakes that are not working.

▶ **HEADLIGHT FAILURE**

If headlights suddenly go out, a motorist should safely bring the vehicle to a stop in a safe area off the roadway. The headlight or dimmer switches may help the lights go on again. If this does not work, the motorist should put the parking lights, emergency flashers or turn signals on and call for help.

▶ **GAS PEDAL PROBLEMS**

If a gas pedal sticks, the motorist should keep his/her eyes on the road while quickly shifting to neutral. Steer the vehicle to a safe area off the roadway, turn the engine off and call for help.

▶ **HOOD LATCH FAILURE**

If the vehicle's hood suddenly flies up, the motorist should slow down immediately. He/she should try to look under the hood to see the road or look out of the side window around the hood. Using the center line or lane markings as a guide, the motorist should pull the vehicle to a safe area off the roadway as soon as possible.

▶ **WINDSHIELD WIPER FAILURE**

When windshield wipers stop suddenly during rain or snow, the motorist should slow down, pull to a safe area off the roadway and turn on emergency flashers. Call for help if necessary.

COLLISIONS (ACCIDENTS)

AVOIDING COLLISIONS

No matter how careful a motorist is, emergencies do arise. A motorist may not always be able to avoid a collision. This is why it is important to know how to safely handle any type of situation that may occur. Proper reaction could save the life of the motorist and his/her passengers or others involved. Above all, seat belts should always be worn while driving.

If a motorist sees that his/her vehicle may hit something, one of three things can be done: stop, turn or speed up.

Stop quickly: If the vehicle has conventional disc and drum brakes, the motorist should pump the brakes to gain better control in steering. The wheels will lock and cause skidding if a motorist brakes too hard and holds them down. If the vehicle has antilock brakes (ABS), they will adjust automatically if a wheel begins to lock. With this brake system, a motorist can put maximum pressure on the brakes and retain steering control without pumping the brakes.

Turn quickly: If a motorist cannot stop in time, he/she should turn away and drive off the road if necessary. If the motorist can keep from using the brakes while turning, this will lessen the chances of a skid. A motorist should not brake hard if turning onto a soft shoulder of a road. This could cause skidding or loss of control.

Speed up: Sometimes it is best or necessary to speed up to avoid a collision. This may happen when another vehicle is about to hit a motorist's vehicle from the side or from behind, and there is room to the front to get out of danger. A motorist should push the gas pedal to the floor. There may be only seconds to act, so a motorist must decide quickly. Once the danger has passed, the motorist should slow the vehicle's speed.

LAST-MINUTE CHOICES

A motorist should never panic, especially in the few seconds before a possible collision. There are some last-minute choices that he/she will have to make. A motorist should always be aware of what to do in an emergency situation. Reacting properly and quickly can avoid collisions or, at least, minimize damage.

If a collision looks possible, the motorist should turn away from oncoming traffic, even if it means leaving the road. Driving off the road, rather than skidding, gives the motorist more control over the vehicle. The motorist should choose to hit something that will give way (such as brush or shrubs) rather than something hard.

Choose to hit something moving in the same direction, rather than something that is not moving. Choose to hit something not moving, rather than something coming straight on. If hitting something is unavoidable, try to make it a glancing blow. A sideswipe, for example, will help slow the vehicle. Try to never hit anything head-on. For every inch that a motorist steers away from a collision between the center of the vehicle's front end and the center of the oncoming object, the energy of the collision will dissipate and reduce injury and damage.

▼ REAR COLLISION

If the vehicle is about to be hit from the rear, the motorist must be ready to apply the brakes to avoid being pushed into a vehicle ahead. The motorist should brace his/her body between the steering wheel and the seat back, pressing the back of his/her head firmly against the head rest (if vehicle has one).

▼ SIDE COLLISION

If the vehicle is about to be hit from the side, the motorist should keep a tight grip on the steering wheel. This may keep him/her from being thrown against the side of the vehicle. The motorist should be ready to turn fast, so that if the vehicle spins around, he/she can try to control the vehicle.

▼ HEAD-ON COLLISION

If the vehicle is about to be hit from the front, the motorist should use his/her arms and hands to protect his/her face if wearing a shoulder strap and the vehicle is equipped with air bags. If the vehicle is not equipped with a shoulder strap or air bags, the motorist should throw himself/herself across the seat to keep from hitting the steering wheel or windshield. Air bags will typically deploy in vehicles that have them.

▼ PARKED VEHICLE COLLISION

If a motorist hits a parked vehicle, the police must be notified. The driver should also try to find the owner of the vehicle.

▼ WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF A COLLISION

If a motorist witnesses a collision or is involved in one, he/she should follow these tips in order to help protect everyone involved:

- Stop the vehicle.
- Remain calm.
- Assume the worst and get help (notify the police; call an ambulance).
- Wait at the scene, but try not to block traffic.
- Ask for assistance from passing motorists, bikers or joggers, if needed.
- Depending on the location of the accident – local road, highway or in a busy city intersection—warn oncoming traffic.

▼ REPORTING ACCIDENTS (N.J.S.A. 39:4-130, 39:4-131)

New Jersey law requires motorists to notify the police of accidents where there is injury, death, or vehicle or property damage. If someone has been killed, do not move the body or permit anyone to move the body until the police or ambulance arrives.

If the motorist is involved in the accident, he/she can help the police by answering as many questions as possible and by giving them as many facts about the accident as possible. When damage to property is more than \$500 or there is personal injury, a motorist must:

- Send a written report to the MVC within 10 days if no police report is filed. A written report is not required if a report is filed by police. A motorist can get a copy of the report form from the police.
- Notify his/her insurance company at once, giving complete information about the accident.
- If the motorist is shaken up, he/she should see a doctor as soon as possible.





Chapter 6

Drinking, Drugs & Health

- 104 Effects of Alcohol
- 104 How Much is Too Much?
- 106 Drinking and Driving
- 106 Good Hosts and the Drinking Driver
- 107 Designated Drivers
- 107 Drugs and Driving
- 108 Healthy Driving

▶ EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL

Alcohol is a drug that affects overall driving ability. Alcohol may make a motorist overconfident and unable to think clearly. Motorists who drink may make more mistakes. Even if a motorist thinks he/she is below the level of legal intoxication, alcohol will affect driving. Drinking even a small amount of alcohol increases a motorist's chances of having an accident. Never drink and drive.

Driving under the influence of intoxicating beverages means that a driver's senses and judgment are impaired by alcohol. After two, three or four drinks, alcohol begins to impair reaction time, coordination and balance. Vision and the ability to judge distance is affected, making it more difficult to react and to drive safely. The only thing that can make a person sober is time. Alcohol is removed slowly by the body. The majority (90 percent) of the alcohol detoxified is oxidized (burned up) by the liver. The other 10 percent is eliminated in breath, urine and sweat. This fact is the prime reason why sober-up-quick methods do not work.

In addition, studies have proven conclusively that a combination of alcohol and anger is responsible for much of the reckless, aggressive driving that can cause fatal highway accidents. While most alcohol-related collisions involve only one vehicle, they frequently result in the death or serious injury of numerous people, including passengers, pedestrians and other motorists.

▶ HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?

The only scientific way to check is through blood alcohol concentration, or BAC. A simple breath test will show a motorist's BAC. BAC is determined by four factors:

- Quantity of alcohol consumed
- Body weight
- How quickly drinks were consumed
- Food eaten

The best way to reduce the risk of a crash caused by drinking and driving is not to drive at all after drinking.

In New Jersey, it is illegal for an individual who is 21 years of age or older to drive with a BAC of .08 percent or higher (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50). For individuals younger than 21, it is illegal to drive with a BAC of .01 percent or higher. Violators face severe penalties in addition to other penalties assessed for DUI/DWI (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.14).

If a motorist has reached a BAC of slightly above .05 percent after drinking, the risk for causing a motor vehicle accident doubles. The risk is six times as great when driving with a BAC of .10 percent. The risk is 25 times as great when driving with a BAC of .15 percent.

Note: Under state law, refusal to take a breath test is equal to driving with a BAC of .08 percent for a first offense. The current penalty for both is the loss of driving privileges for seven months to one year, to run concurrently or consecutively, based upon a judge's order (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.4a). Motorists who refuse to take a breath test in New Jersey are also subject to an MVC insurance surcharge of \$1,000 per year for three years (N.J.S.A. 17:29A-35). Failure to pay this surcharge will result in an indefinite suspension of driving privileges until the fee is paid.



It is important to remember that it does not matter what alcoholic beverage is consumed. There is just as much alcohol in the average beer as there is in the average drink of whiskey or wine. For example, 1 ½ ounces of 80-proof whiskey, 12 ounces of beer or 5 ounces of table wine all contain the same amount of alcohol: about ½ ounce of alcohol per drink. Studies show that most people arrested for drinking and driving had been drinking beer.

Although food does slow the absorption of alcohol into the bloodstream, eating will not prevent a high BAC when steadily drinking large amounts. Heavy drinking will always produce a high BAC. Eating does not make a motorist sober. The best way to avoid drinking and driving is to arrange for a designated motorist, use public transportation or call a cab.

DRINKING AND DRIVING

Drinking affects a motorist's thinking and slows reaction time. Alcohol may also give a motorist a false feeling that he/she can do anything. Law enforcement is trained to notice certain telltale signs that a motorist has been drinking:

- **Speeding:** An intoxicated driver often thinks high speed driving is safe
- **Weaving:** Even though an intoxicated driver may stay in the correct lane, driving straight may be a problem
- **Slow driving:** An intoxicated driver may be overly cautious and drive slower than the normal traffic flow
- **Jerking motion:** An intoxicated driver often may have short mental lapses and not keep a steady speed on a clear road
- **Quick stops:** An intoxicated driver may make sudden stops at a traffic sign or light, rather than easing up to it

GOOD HOSTS AND THE DRINKING DRIVER

Always be a good host. If serving alcohol at a party, always provide alcohol-free drinks and serve nutritious foods or snacks. Never insist that a guest should drink an alcoholic beverage or insist on refills.

Stop serving alcohol well before the party ends. If someone drinks too much, do not let them drive. If no other transportation is available, suggest a nap or invite the guest to spend the night. As a last resort, notify the police. Hosts may become involved in a lawsuit if a guest is involved in a drinking and driving collision after leaving the party.

DESIGNATED DRIVERS

As the first state in the country to officially launch the Hero Campaign for Designated Drivers, New Jersey encourages all state residents to participate in designated driver programs wherever they travel, whether as a motorist or a passenger. Being a designated driver is a great responsibility. The designated driver is responsible for the safe transportation of friends or family members who have been drinking alcoholic beverages. Designated drivers not only ensure the safety of the people they are escorting home but also the safety of other motorists.

A motorist who chooses to have a designated driver when attending functions where alcohol will be served shows maturity and consideration for other motorists who share the road. More information about designated drivers and the Hero Campaign can be found at www.herocampaign.org.

DRUGS AND DRIVING (N.J.S.A. 39:4-49.1, 39:4-50)

It is illegal to operate a motor vehicle on New Jersey roadways under the influence of any illegal drugs. The labels on bottles of prescription drugs will describe common side effects. Drugs that “may cause drowsiness or dizziness” should not be taken before driving. Ask a professional about how over-the-counter drugs may affect driving. Drugs that may affect basic driving skills include cold pills, tranquilizers and some prescription medications.

Never mix drugs without asking a medical professional about possible side effects or how the drug may affect driving. Alcohol should never be mixed with any drugs or medications.

If asked, motorists using prescription drugs must show proof of the prescription to law enforcement. If a motorist does not have a prescription for the drug, and a prescription is necessary in order to obtain the drug, the drug will be considered illegal.

After alcohol, marijuana is the drug most often found with drivers involved in collisions. Marijuana use may affect a motorist in the following ways:

- **Loss of tracking ability:** This is the ability to maintain a vehicle in a given line.
- **Distance judgment:** Following too closely can cause problems.
- **Vigilance:** Not remaining attentive to the driving task can cause a motorist to follow too closely, drift into another lane, etc.
- **Divided attention:** Driving is a task that requires constant attention to traffic, roadway and weather conditions, passengers, gauges, etc.

HEALTHY DRIVING

HEALTH

Any health problem can affect an individual's driving. Even little problems like a stiff neck, a cough or a sore leg can give an individual trouble while driving. If a motorist is not feeling well, he/she should let someone else drive.

VISION

Vision is important to safe driving. Most of what a motorist does behind the wheel is based on what he/she sees. State law permits the MVC to retest 10 percent of the driving population each year. A motorist should have his/her eyes tested every year or two. If over age 40, a motorist should have his/her eyes checked every year for special problems.

Good side vision (peripheral vision) is also essential for safe driving. Side vision helps a motorist see out of the corners of his/her eyes while looking straight ahead.

Distance judgment is also an important component to driving. A motorist should know his/her distance from any object while driving. Bad distance judgment often causes accidents.

HEARING

Hearing is more important to driving than many people think. It can warn a motorist of danger. The sound of horns, sirens or screeching tires warns a motorist to be careful. A motorist may be able to hear a car that cannot be seen.

Even people with good hearing cannot hear well if the radio is blaring or he/she is wearing earphones. A motorist should always keep the radio turned down and never wear earphones.





Chapter 7

- 112 The Driving Privilege
- 112 Driving Under the Influence (DUI)
- 113 Mandatory Penalties
- 117 Breath Test
- 117 Ignition Interlock Device
- 118 Intoxicated Driver Resource Center

DRIVER PRIVILEGES & PENALTIES

- 118 Motor Vehicle Violations
- 122 Driver Programs
- 124 Motor Vehicle Surcharges and Point Violations
- 125 Point System
- 126 Moving Violation Point Chart
- 129 Interstate Compacts
- 129 Work Licenses

THE DRIVING PRIVILEGE

Driving is a privilege, not a right. State law allows or requires an individual's driving privilege to be suspended for certain motor vehicle violations, which means the driver license will be taken away and the motorist may not drive for a stated period of time. In addition to license suspension, fines and imprisonment may also be imposed for moving violations. The length of suspension time depends on the law that is broken and how many convictions a motorist receives. Likewise, license restoration depends on the types of offenses and the number of convictions. A habitual offender is a motorist whose driver license has been suspended three times in three years. To avoid any problems, it is important to know and obey New Jersey's traffic laws, which are in place to protect every motorist.

Some suspensions are decided on a case-by-case basis. If the sentence is not mandatory, the Chief Administrator of the MVC or the courts may suspend driving privileges. Reasons for loss of driving privileges may include, but is not limited to the following reasons:

- Failure to appear in court or to pay fines
- Failure to pay motor vehicle surcharges
- Driving while suspended
- Failure to provide proof of insurance
- Physical or mental disqualification
- Drug or alcohol use
- Traffic law violations
- At fault in a fatal accident
- Failure to respond to an MVC notice

The MVC Chief Administrator may also require a re-examination of any person considered to be a problem driver. This re-examination will help to determine whether driving privileges should be suspended.

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE (DUI)

Drivers under age 21 (the legal age to purchase/consume an alcoholic beverage) found with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) at .01 percent or more while operating a motor vehicle will be penalized (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.14). The current BAC for drivers age 21 and older is .08 percent (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50).

In New Jersey, a person must be 21 to purchase, possess or consume alcoholic beverages. Underage drinking is illegal and can have severe consequences for young people who drink and for adults who provide alcoholic beverages to those under age 21.

If a driver under age 21 buys or drinks alcohol in a place with an alcoholic beverage license, he/she may be fined \$500 and lose his/her license for six months. If a person under age 21 does not have a driver license, the suspension starts when he/she is first eligible to receive a license. Also, the person may be required to participate in an alcohol education or treatment program.

MANDATORY PENALTIES

First offense/BAC .08% or more but less than .10% (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50)

- Three-month suspension of driving privilege
- \$250 to \$400 fine
- 12- to 48-hour participation in an Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC)
- \$230 per day IDRC fee
- Up to 30 days imprisonment
- \$100 Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund fee (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.8)
- \$100 Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund (AERF) fee
- \$1,000 annual surcharge for three years
- \$75 Safe Neighborhood Services Fund fee (N.J.S.A. 2C:43-3.2)
- Possible interlock device requirement for six months to one year (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.17)

First offense/BAC .10% or more (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50)

- Seven-month to one-year suspension of driving privilege
- \$300 to \$500 fine
- 12- to 48-hour participation in an Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC)
- \$230 per day IDRC fee
- Up to 30 days imprisonment
- \$100 Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund fee (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.8)
- \$100 Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund fee
- \$1,000 annual surcharge for three years
- \$75 Safe Neighborhood Services Fund fee (N.J.S.A. 2C:43-3.2)
- Possible interlock device requirement for six months to one year (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.17)

Underage first offense/BAC .01% or more but less than .08%(N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.14)

- 30- to 90-day suspension of driving privilege (on the day motorist becomes eligible to obtain a license or on the day of conviction, whichever is later)
- 15 to 30 days community service
- Participation in an Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC) or alcohol education and highway safety program, as prescribed by the MVC Chief Administrator.

DRIVING OFFENSE CONVICTION	LOSS OF LICENSE ¹	FINES, FEES, SURCHARGES	IMPRISONMENT	COMMUNITY SERVICE (CS), IDRC ² OR DETAINMENT
Alcohol- or drug-related (DUI) ³ first offense	3 months to 1 year	\$250-\$500 fine; \$1,000 a yr for 3 yrs surcharge; \$230 per day IDRC fee; \$100 drunk driving fund; \$75 Safe Neighborhood Services Fund \$100 AERF	Up to 30 days	12-48 hrs IDRC
Alcohol- or drug-related (DUI) ³ second offense that occurs within 10 yrs of first offense	2 years	\$500-\$1,000 fine \$1,000 a yr for 3 yrs surcharge; \$280 per day IDRC fee; \$100 drunk driving fund; \$75 Safe Neighborhood Services Fund \$100 AERF	48 hrs-90 days	12-48 hrs IDRC 30 days CS
Alcohol- or drug-related (DUI) ³ third offense that occurs within 10 yrs of second offense	10 years	\$1,000 fine \$1,500 a yr for 3 yrs surcharge; \$280 per day IDRC fee; \$100 drunk driving fund; \$75 Safe Neighborhood Services Fund \$100 AERF	180 days	12-48 hrs IDRC Up to 90 days CS, which can reduce a period of imprisonment
Drinking alcoholic beverages while driving or riding	N/A	\$200 fine, first offense \$250 fine, second offense	N/A	N/A

DRIVING OFFENSE CONVICTION	LOSS OF LICENSE ¹	FINES, FEES, SURCHARGES	IMPRISONMENT	COMMUNITY SERVICE (CS), IDRC ² OR DETAINMENT
Drinking alcoholic beverages while driving or riding (second offense)	N/A	\$250 fine	N/A	10 days CS
Driving on DUI suspension	Additional 1-2 yrs ⁴	\$500 fine; \$250 per yr for 3 yrs surcharge	10-90 days	N/A
Driving with no insurance (first offense)	1 year	\$300-\$1,000 fine; \$250 per yr for 3 yrs surcharge	N/A	CS determined by court
Driving with no insurance (second offense)	2 years	Up to \$5,000 fine; \$250 per year for 3 yrs surcharge	14 days	30 days CS
Driving with possessing drugs	2 years	Min. \$50 fine	N/A	N/A

¹Underage drinking may cause a six-month delay to get a license.

²Intoxicated Driver Resource Center.

³Driving under the influence (DUI). Alcohol- and drug-related offenses require completion of an alcohol screening and evaluation program.

⁴Also suspends registrations for the same period.

The courts may require DUI offenders to use ignition interlock devices on their motor vehicles. An interlock device (see page 117) is attached to a motor vehicle to prevent it from being started when the alcohol level of the motorist's breath exceeds a predetermined amount. The interlock requirement is in addition to any other penalty required under the state's drunk driving statute. Installation is for six months to three years, beginning when the motorist's driver license has been restored following suspension.

BREATH TEST (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.4a)

New Jersey has an implied consent law. This means that motorists on New Jersey roadways have agreed, simply by using New Jersey roadways, to submit to a breath test given by law enforcement or hospital staff following an arrest for a drinking-and-driving offense. Motorists who refuse to take a breath test will be detained and brought to a hospital, where hospital staff may draw blood.

Motorists who refuse to take a breath test in New Jersey are subject to an MVC insurance surcharge of \$1,000 per year for three years. Failure to pay this surcharge will result in an indefinite suspension of driving privileges until the fee is paid. Motorists who refuse to take a breath test will be detained and brought to a hospital, where hospital staff may draw blood.

Under state law, refusal to take a breath test is equal to driving with a BAC of .10 percent for a first offense. The current penalty for refusal is the loss of driving privileges for between seven months and one year, to run concurrently or consecutively, based upon a judge's order.

IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.17)

If a driver license was suspended because of a DUI offense, the court may require the individual to install an ignition interlock device in order to fully restore his/her driving privilege. This device is attached to the vehicle with a built-in Breathalyzer and prevents the vehicle from starting if the motorist's BAC exceeds .05 percent. The interlock requirement is in addition to any other penalty required under the state's drunk driving statute. Court ordered installation may be required for:

- **First DUI offense:** Installation of interlock device for six months to one year (judge's discretion)
- **Second DUI offense:** Installation of interlock device for one to three years or a two-year suspension of registration privileges
- **Third DUI offense:** Installation of interlock device for one to three years as a condition of restoring driving privileges or a 10-year suspension of registration privileges

If the court sentences a motorist to install an interlock device, he/she will receive an MVC notice explaining how to obtain the device, as well as an additional MVC notice confirming the suspension. An approved list of interlock device manufacturers can be found on the MVC's Web site at **www.njmvc.gov**.

INTOXICATED DRIVER RESOURCE CENTER

State law requires that any motorist charged with an alcohol-related traffic offense must be detained at an IDRC. Each of New Jersey's 21 counties has an IDRC where first- and third-time offenders are detained. Second-time offenders are detained at one of three regional IDRCs. The N.J. Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Addiction Services, and the Intoxicated Driving Program coordinates all IDRCs.

During detention, all offenders attend an alcohol and highway safety education program. The center evaluates each offender for an alcohol or drug problem and determines the need for treatment. Those deemed in need of treatment are referred to an appropriate provider for at least a 16-week treatment program.

Satisfactory participation in a state-assigned program is a condition for re-licensing. Failure to comply will result in further loss of driving privileges and the possibility of imprisonment.

MOTOR VEHICLE VIOLATIONS

- **Unsafe driving:** A conviction of unsafe driving that endangers a person or property requires payment of a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$150 for a first offense; not less than \$100 or more than \$250 for a second offense; and not less than \$200 or more than \$500 for a third offense. Motorist may be assessed motor vehicle penalty points if the offense occurs within five years of the prior offense. There is also a \$250 court surcharge for each offense (N.J.S.A. 39:4-97.2).
- **Reckless driving:** Driving recklessly in a manner that willfully endangers the rights, property or safety of others is punishable by imprisonment of up to 60 days, or by a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$200, or both for a first offense (N.J.S.A. 39:4-96). Points are assessed.
- **Abandoning a vehicle:** Motorists who abandon their motor vehicles on or along limited-access highways for four hours or more without permission are subject to a fine of not less than \$100 or more than \$500 and possible loss of driving privileges for up to two years. For subsequent violations the fine is not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000, and the suspension is up to five years. The same penalties apply when owners abandon their vehicles on any highway or public property without consent for 48 hours or more and when owners abandon their vehicles for any period without current license plates (N.J.S.A. 39:4-56.5).

- **Carrying alcoholic beverages:** Motorists who carry open or unsealed alcoholic beverage containers in passenger areas of motor vehicles are subject to a fine of \$200 for a first offense and \$250 or 10 days of community service for all subsequent offenses (N.J.S.A. 39:4-51a).
- **Ice and snow:** Motorists of private vehicles face fines of \$200 to \$1,000 for each time ice flies from their vehicles and causes death, injury or property damage. Fines for commercial owners and operators range from \$500 to \$1,500 (N.J.S.A. 39:4-77.1).
- **Highway construction zones:** Speeding or other moving violations in areas undergoing highway construction mean doubled fines. Some offenses include reckless driving, careless driving, speeding, improper passing, tailgating, improper turns, failure to observe traffic lanes, failure to observe a traffic signal or sign and failure to obey directions of an officer (N.J.S.A. 39:4-203.5).
- **65 mph zone:** Speeding 10 mph or more above the posted speed limit or other certain moving violations in a 65-mph speed zone means doubled fines. Some offenses include racing on a public highway, refusal to comply with an officer's request, or failure to obey traffic signs or signals, failure to comply with rules for passing another vehicle, failure to obey road markings, failure to observe distance between vehicles and careless driving (N.J.S.A. 39:4-98.6).
- **Failure to comply:** Motorists face a \$50 fine if they fail to comply with a police officer's request to illuminate the driver's compartment of the vehicle when stopped (N.J.S.A. 39:4-57.1).
- **Insurance fraud:** Motorists convicted of fraud on insurance applications and claims forms may receive fines of up to \$5,000, or imprisonment for up to three years, or both. In the event the motorist fraudulently receives \$500 or less, he/she may be fined up to \$500 and/or imprisoned for not more than six months as a disorderly person. In addition, a person convicted of an automobile insurance crime will lose his/her driver license for one year (N.J.S.A. 39:6A-15).
- **Drug offense:** A New Jersey motorist's driving privileges will be suspended after he/she is convicted of drug offenses in any federal or state court.
- **Hit-and-run:** A hit-and-run involving bodily injury or death results in a fine of \$2,500 to \$5,000 and/or 180 days in jail for the motorist. In addition, for a first offense, the motorist loses his/her license for one year. For subsequent offense, the motorist permanently loses his/her license (N.J.S.A. 39:4-129).
- **Lying on application:** Lying when applying for a license or registration will result in a fine of not less than \$200 or more than \$500 and/or up to six months imprisonment. A motorist will also lose his/her driver license privileges for six months to two years (N.J.S. A. 39:3-37).

- **Forgery and fraud:** Altering, forging and/or possession with intent to distribute a facsimile of a N.J. driver license is illegal and will result in up to a \$150,000 fine, up to 10 years in prison and a driver license suspension (N.J.S.A. 2C:21-2.1).
- **Driving while suspended:** Driving while a driver license and/or registration is suspended can result in the following penalties:
 - First offense: Fine of \$500 and up to six months additional license and or registration suspension (N.J.S.A. 39:3-40)
 - Second offense: Fine of \$750, jail sentence for not more than five days and up to six months additional license and/or registration suspension (N.J.S.A. 39:3-40)
 - Third offense: Fine of \$1,000, a 10-day jail sentence and up to six months additional license and/or registration suspension (N.J.S.A. 39:3-40).

Additional penalties for driving while suspended:

- Driving while suspended for failing to pay an insurance surcharge will result in an additional \$3,000 fine, plus the fines and penalties listed above (N.J.S.A. 39:3-40).
- Driving while a license and/or registration is suspended for failure to properly insure a vehicle will result in a fine of \$500, an additional driver license suspension of one to two years and possible court ordered imprisonment for up to 90 days (N.J.S.A. 39:3-40).
- Driving while a license and/or registration is suspended and having a collision that causes injury to another person will result in a fine, continued suspension and the potential for a minimum 45-day jail sentence (N.J.S.A. 39:3-40).
- Driving while a license and/or registration is suspended for a drug or alcohol offense, refusal to take a breath test or if the motorist is a habitual offender, will result in a fine of \$500 and an additional license suspension of one to two years and/or possible court-ordered imprisonment for 10 to 90 days (N.J.S.A. 39:3-40).
- Driving while a driving privilege is suspended due to driving while under the influence, refusal to submit to a chemical test or for a habitual offender offense, and driving on school property or within 1,000 feet of school property or through a school crossing zone will result in one to two years additional suspension time, a \$500 fine and between 60 to 90 days imprisonment for a first offense. For second and third offenses, the suspension and fines remain the same, but the imprisonment term is increased to 120 to 150 days and 180 days, respectively (N.J.S.A. 39:3-40).

- Driving after failing to install an interlock device, as ordered by the court, results in a one-year suspension, in addition to any other suspensions already imposed, and may include penalties as a disorderly person (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.19).

Other violations:

- A motorist who refuses to submit to a chemical test and driving on any school property or within 1,000 feet of school property or through a school crossing zone. Motorist will receive for a first offense a \$600 to \$1,000 fine and a one- to two-year driving privilege suspension; for second offenses the fine is \$1,000 to \$2,000 and the driving privilege will be suspended for four years. For a third offense, the fine is \$2,000 and the driving privilege is suspended for 20 years (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.4a).
- A motorist who allows another motorist, who is currently suspended for driving under the influence or operating while suspended, to operate his/ her vehicle. The result may be a loss of driving and/or registration privileges (N.J.S.A. 39:3-40).
- A motorist who loans a license to another motorist. He/she may be fined \$200 to \$500, face jail time and face a suspension of license.
- A motorist who has another person take the driving test. Motorist may be fined \$200 to \$500 and/or imprisonment from 30 to 90 days. The driver license may also be revoked (N.J.S.A. 39:3-37).
- Failure to appear at any scheduled court proceeding when charged with a non-indictable criminal offense, an ordinance violation or a motor vehicle offense. It will result in a court-ordered driver license suspension until the pending matter is settled (2B:12-31).
- Failure to meet the conditions of a sentence imposed (such as to pay a fine, make restitution or perform community service). It will result in a court-ordered driver license suspension (2B:12-31).
- Failure to pay a total of six months' court-ordered child support or provide health insurance. If a child support-related warrant exists in the motorists name, the courts can order basic and commercial driver licenses and professional occupational licenses to be suspended until payments are made (N.J.S.A. 2A:17-56.44).
- A boater convicted of driving under the influence (DUI) on New Jersey's waterways will be suspended from both boating and all driver license privileges and be fined \$250 to \$400 for the first offense, \$500 to \$1,000 for the second offense and \$1,000 for the third offense. Violators under 17 years of age will have their vehicle and moped license privileges delayed for three months, six months and two years for first, second and third offenses, respectively (N.J.S.A. 12:7-46).

Driving under the influence (DUI) convictions:

- A motorist caught with a passenger under 18 years of age at the time of the violation will face a disorderly persons offense, will receive suspension of driving privileges for not more than six months and will perform up to five days of community service (N.J.S.A. 39:4-50.15).

If an individual:

- Is at least 13 years old but under 18 years of age, he/she may have driving privileges suspended or postponed for a graffiti conviction (N.J.S.A. 2A:4A-43.3).
- Sets false alarms and is under 21 years of age, moped or other motor vehicle privileges will be suspended or postponed for six months. If under 17 years of age at the time of conviction, driving privileges will be suspended immediately and until six months after the day the person reaches 17 years of age. Additionally, the courts may apply civil penalties (N.J.S.A. 2C:33-3.1).

DRIVER PROGRAMS

DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Motorists who accumulate between 12 and 14 points in a 24-month period will receive a Notice of Scheduled Suspension by mail from the MVC.

Upon receiving the notice, a motorist can do one of the following:

- Attend a New Jersey Driver Improvement Program
- Request a hearing
- Surrender his/her driver license for the suspension period

The MVC Chief Administrator or an administrative law judge will determine if driving privileges should be suspended for a motorist who is granted a hearing. A motorist who successfully completes a Driver Improvement Program will have three points removed from his/her record (N.J.S.A. 39:5-30.9). The class fee is \$100 (N.J.A.C. 13:19-10.3(c)). After completion of a Driver Improvement Program or after restoration of a motorist's driving privilege, he/she will be in a probationary period for one year. Any violations that occur during this probationary period will result in a scheduled suspension of the motorist's driving privileges.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSES

Most road collisions are caused by motorist error. To reduce the likelihood of being involved in a collision, a motorist needs to understand the concept of defensive driving. These voluntary courses provide a motorist with standard collision-preventing techniques. Upon completion of the defensive driving course:

- Two points will be removed from the accumulated points currently on a driver license (N.J.S.A. 39:5-30.9).
- The motorist may qualify for an insurance rate reduction. Contact an insurance agent for more information.
- The MVC will only recognize a defensive driving course once every five years for point reduction (N.J.S.A. 39:5-30.9).

For a list of state-approved defensive driving courses, check the Department of Banking and Insurance Web site, www.state.nj.us/dobi/dmvschl.htm.

PROBATIONARY DRIVER PROGRAM

A motorist begins a two-year probationary driver period after receiving a special learner or examination permit. During this probationary period, a motorist convicted of two or more moving violations totaling four or more points must enroll in the Probationary Driver School Program, which is administered by the MVC (N.J.A.C. 13:19-10.3(d)). The attendance fee is \$100 for this program, which corrects improper or dangerous driving habits (N.J.A.C. 13:19-10.3f).

Completion of this program will result in a three-point reduction on an individual motorist's history record. Failure to complete the program or conviction of one or more subsequent moving violations during the test period will result in a suspension of driving privileges.

▼ MATURE DRIVER PROGRAM

A mature driver should constantly re-evaluate his/her driving skills. Driver improvement courses are available to mature drivers at various driving schools or through specific organizations.

For example, the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) offers 55 Alive, a motorist improvement course that is specially designed for motorists age 50 and older. The eight-hour course helps motorists refine existing skills and develop safe defensive driving techniques. An added bonus is that in New Jersey, the course may qualify motorists who successfully complete the course to a minimum five percent vehicle insurance discount.

To find out more about this course, call AARP toll-free at (888) 227-7669. Check with insurance companies about how completing the course will affect a premium.

▼ MOTOR VEHICLE SURCHARGES AND POINT VIOLATIONS

Motorists who accumulate six or more points within three years are subject to a surcharge of \$150 for six points and \$25 for each additional point. Surcharges are levied in addition to any court-imposed fines and penalties. Surcharges will remain operational if a motorist has six or more points on his/her motorist record resulting from violations posted in the preceding three years. Point totals are based on the date the violations are posted to a motorist's record, not when the violations occurred (N.J.S.A. 17:29A-35).

Point system reductions in the Driver Improvement Program, the Point System and Defensive Driving Program sections do not apply to the motor vehicle surcharge system. Convicted or administratively suspended motorists must pay a prescribed dollar amount each year for three years.

VIOLATION	SURCHARGE
Unlicensed driver (N.J.A.C. 13:19-13.1)	\$100
No insurance – moped (N.J.A.C. 13:19-13.1)	\$100
Driving while suspended (Court or MVC reported) (N.J.A.C. 13:19-13.2)	\$250
No liability insurance on motor vehicle (N.J.A.C. 13:19-13.2)	\$250
DUI/Refusal	\$1,000
DUI/Refusal (third and subsequent convictions)	\$1,500

Ways to pay a motor vehicle surcharge bill:

- Mail payment to NJ-AISC, P.O. Box 4850, Trenton, NJ 08650-4850.
- Pay online at www.njmvc.gov (online services).
- Use charge-by-phone: call toll free **(888) 651-9999** (using American Express, MasterCard, Visa or Discover).
- Visit an MVC Regional Service Center in person.

Restoration fees may also be paid when making a motor vehicle surcharge payment using the charge-by-phone. Failure to pay any motor vehicle surcharges will result in the indefinite suspension of all driving privileges. The MVC may file a judgment action in the state Superior Court for unpaid surcharges, secure a lien against any real property that a motorist owns, file for a garnishment of wages or take other similar actions (N.J.S.A.17:29A-35). Motor vehicle convictions may increase automobile insurance premiums assessed by a motorist's insurance company.

POINT SYSTEM

The MVC keeps track of a motorist's driving record by adding points to the record when the motorist is convicted of a moving violation. The more serious the violation, the more points the motorist is given. See the following point chart for various violations. For an expanded or updated list of point violations, visit www.njcourtsonline.com.

All point violations after March 1, 1974, will stay on a motorist's driving record. Two points will be added to a driving record for traffic violations committed in other states.

Up to three points will be subtracted from a motorist's point total for every year that the motorist goes without a violation or suspension, but the point total will never be reduced below zero (N.J.S.A. 39:5-30.9).

Traffic laws are enforceable on highways, roadways, parking areas, driveways and grounds owned and maintained by government entities. Also, motorists convicted of reckless or careless driving in any area open to vehicular traffic or usage will be subject to the charges applicable to that moving violation.

MOVING VIOLATION POINT CHART

STATUTES	VIOLATION	POINT VALUE
N.J.S.A. 27:23-29	Moving against traffic: New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway, and Atlantic City Expressway	2
N.J.S.A. 27:23-29	Improper passing: New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway, and Atlantic City Expressway	4
N.J.S.A. 27:23-29	Unlawful use of median strip: New Jersey Turnpike, Garden State Parkway, and Atlantic City Expressway	2
N.J.S.A. 39:3-20	Operating a constructor vehicle in excess of 45 mph	3
N.J.S.A. 39:4-14.3	Operating a motorized bicycle on a restricted highway	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-14.3d	More than one person on a motorized bicycle	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-35	Failure to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-36	Failure to yield to pedestrian in crosswalk; passing a vehicle yielding to a pedestrian in a crosswalk	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-41	Driving through a safety zone	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-52 and 39:5C-1	Racing on highway	5
N.J.S.A. 39:4-55	Improper action or omission on grades and curves	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-57	Failure to observe a direction of an officer	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-66	Failure to stop a vehicle before crossing a sidewalk	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-66.1	Failure to yield to pedestrians or vehicles while entering or leaving a highway	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-66.2	Operating a motor vehicle on public or private property to avoid a traffic control signal or sign	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-71	Operating a motor vehicle on a sidewalk	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-80	Failure to obey a direction of an officer	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-81	Failure to observe traffic signals	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-82	Failure to keep right	2

MOVING VIOLATION POINT CHART

STATUTES	VIOLATION	POINT VALUE
N.J.S.A. 39:4-82.1	Improper operating of a vehicle on a divided highway or divider	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-83	Failure to keep right at an intersection	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-84	Failure to pass right of vehicle proceeding in opposite direction	5
N.J.S.A. 39:4-85	Improper passing on right or off roadway	4
N.J.S.A. 39:4-85.1	Wrong way on a one-way street	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-86	Improper passing in a no passing zone	4
N.J.S.A. 39:4-87	Failure to yield to an overtaking vehicle	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-88	Failure to observe traffic lanes	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-89	Tailgating	5
N.J.S.A. 39:4-90	Failure to yield at an intersection	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-90.1	Failure to use proper entrances to limited access highways	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-91 and 39:4-92	Failure to yield to emergency vehicles	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-96	Reckless driving	5
N.J.S.A. 39:4-97	Careless driving	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-97a	Destruction of agricultural or recreational property	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-97.1	Slow speed blocking traffic	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-97.2	Driving in an unsafe manner (points only assessed for the third or subsequent violation(s) within a five year period)	4
N.J.S.A. 39:4-98 and 39:4-99	Exceeding maximum speed 1-14 mph over the limit	2
	Exceeding maximum speed 15-29 mph over the limit	4
	Exceeding maximum speed 30 mph or more over the limit	5

MOVING VIOLATION POINT CHART

STATUTES	VIOLATION	POINT VALUE
N.J.S.A. 39:4-105	Failure to stop for a traffic light	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-115	Improper turn at a traffic light	3
N.J.S.A. 39:4-119	Failure to stop at a flashing red signal	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-122	Failure to stop for a police whistle	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-123	Improper right or left turn	3
N.J.S.A. 39:4-124	Improper turn from an approved turning course	3
N.J.S.A. 39:4-125	Improper U-turn	3
N.J.S.A. 39:4-126	Failure to give proper signal	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-127	Improper backing or turning in street	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-127.1	Improper crossing of a railroad grade crossing	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-127.2	Improper crossing of a bridge	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-128	Improper crossing of a railroad grade crossing by certain vehicles	2
N.J.S.A. 39:4-128.1	Improper passing of a school bus	5
N.J.S.A. 39:4-128.4	Improper passing of a frozen dessert truck	4
N.J.S.A. 39:4-129	Leaving the scene of an accident	
	No personal injury	2
	Personal injury	8
N.J.S.A. 39:4-144	Failure to observe Stop or Yield signs	2
N.J.S.A. 39:5D-4	Moving violation out of state	2

INTERSTATE COMPACTS

New Jersey belongs to two interstate compacts. Member states exchange information to ensure motorist compliance with the law and that they receive penalties for violations.

The Non-resident Violator Compact assures that non-resident motorists in member states will receive the same treatment as resident motorists. When motorists receive traffic citations in member states, they must fulfill the terms of that citation or face the possibility of license suspension in their home state until they meet those terms. Non-resident motorists have due process protection and cannot be detained out of state. Currently, 44 states and the District of Columbia are members of the compact. Alaska, California, Michigan, Montana, Oregon and Wisconsin are non-members. The compact does not apply to parking or standing violations, highway weight limit violations and violations of hazmat transportation laws (N.J.S.A. 39:5F-1 through 39:5F-30).

The Driver License Compact exchanges violation information with other states and the District of Columbia. Out-of-state violations become part of a motorist's New Jersey driving record. Georgia, Massachusetts, Michigan, Tennessee and Wisconsin are non-member states (N.J.S.A. 39:5D-1 through 39:5D-14).

WORK LICENSES

New Jersey does not allow conditional or special work licenses. If a motorist loses his/her license for any reason, driving is not permitted for any reason until the period of suspension ends and the motorist receives a notice of restoration.



Chapter 8

Sharing the Road with Others

- 132 Pedestrians
- 133 Mature Drivers
- 134 Visually Challenged Persons
- 135 Motorcycles
- 135 Trucks, Tractor-Trailers and Buses
- 137 No-Zone Principle
- 139 Motorized Scooters
- 140 Low-Speed Vehicles

It is important for a motorist to remember that he/she is not the only one using the roadways. From people to animals to other types of vehicles, it is a motorist's responsibility to know how to safely share the road with others.

PEOPLE

PEDESTRIANS

Pedestrians are the second largest category of motor vehicle deaths and injuries in New Jersey. Children and older people are often victims of traffic accidents.

In 2006, the U.S. Department of Transportation Fatality Analysis Reporting System reported 4,784 total pedestrian deaths. New Jersey had 171 pedestrian deaths in 2006. Unfortunately, many of the measures that make roads safer for motorists, such as large medians and wide shoulders, make those roads more treacherous for pedestrians. Vehicle-pedestrian collisions have a five percent fatality rate if the car is going 20 mph, but the rate jumps to 85 percent at 40 mph.

Pedestrian activity is at its greatest in densely developed areas, such as cities and town centers, but it also is significant in neighborhoods and along and across suburban roadways. Motorists should take special precautions to watch for pedestrians.

In most cases, pedestrians have the right-of-way at all intersections. There is a crosswalk at every intersection, even if it is not painted as such. This is known as an "unmarked crosswalk."

Motorists are prohibited from blocking the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or stop sign. A motorist must not stop with a portion of his/her vehicle in the crosswalk area. When a motorist blocks a crosswalk, it forces pedestrians to go around a vehicle, putting them in danger.

A motorist must stop and remain stopped for a pedestrian who is crossing at a crosswalk (marked or unmarked) until the pedestrian completes his/her crossing, unless traveling along the half of the roadway on the other side of a safety island from the pedestrian. Motorists who fail to yield to pedestrians or who overtake and pass vehicles that are stopped for pedestrians are subject to a \$100 fine and up to 15 days in jail (N.J.S.A. 39:4-36).

Never pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk (N.J.S.A. 39:4-36). This frequently causes severe injury or death to pedestrians, especially if the passing vehicle is traveling at a high speed. When stopping for a crosswalk on a multi-lane road, a motorist should stop about 30 feet before a crosswalk to avoid blocking visibility of a motorist in the second lane.

Motorists should watch for signs that mark special hazard areas, such as school zones, bus stops, playgrounds, parks and schools, where children are most likely to play or cross the streets. Children chasing a ball, for instance, give no thought to traffic. Small children are hard to see. Always watch for movement around parked vehicles.

Motorists should drive cautiously along roadways with on-street parking, as pedestrians may appear from between parked vehicles. Motorists traveling at lower speeds will have a greater ability to stop the vehicle and avoid potential conflicts with pedestrians.

Pedestrians and joggers should always face oncoming traffic and use sidewalks when available. They should cross at crosswalks only on the proper signal, look all ways before crossing, avoid crossing between parked vehicles, and at night, wear light-colored or reflective clothes and carry a white handkerchief or a light. It is not a good practice to wear headphones while walking or jogging near the roadway.

At night, motorists should watch for anyone walking along a highway and exercise due caution. None of the above absolves motorists from their duty to be extra vigilant in watching for pedestrians on the roadway.

Always yield to pedestrians. Be extra careful at intersections, particularly when making an allowed right turn on red. Motorists are required to yield to pedestrians who have the right-of-way within a crosswalk and to those who are crossing at an intersection. Be alert for pedestrians when making turns and entering and exiting driveways, parking lots and alleys.

▼ MATURE DRIVERS

One out of four New Jersey residents is 55 years or older. This ratio is expected to increase in the coming years. Mobility by driving is essential for this group.

Normal physical changes are part of the aging process. Mature drivers may experience declines in vision, hearing, reaction time and flexibility.

They can continue to drive safely by learning to compensate for these changes by following these important tips:

- Choose the time and the road that is best suited to driving ability.
- Choose a well-lit roadway for night driving.
- Stay alert when driving to compensate for any declines in vision, hearing or reaction time.
- Keep information on public transportation, taxi services and senior ride programs current and on hand in case an alternative transportation mode is needed.
- Share driving time with another person.
- Keep driver license current.
- Enroll in a defensive-driving or driving refresher course.
- Visit an ophthalmologist, optometrist or optician annually for a vision and eyeglasses check. Have eyes checked immediately if vision problems are experienced.
- Ask a doctor or pharmacist if the medications taken can affect driving.
- Never drive if taking any medications and consuming alcohol.
- Do not drink alcoholic beverages in any quantity and drive.
- Accept the judgment of family and friends about driving skills. Ask them to rate skills, and improve or discontinue driving if there is a concern for safety.

Note: Retesting for drivers may be required after a serious collision or medical problem.

▼ VISUALLY CHALLENGED PERSONS

The law is very specific that vehicles must give the right-of-way when any of the following crosses any highway or intersection: blind persons who use a predominantly white or metallic cane, blind persons accompanied by a guide dog, or a guide dog instructor engaged in instructing a guide dog. A motorist must stop when he/she sees a person with a white or metallic "colored" cane or with a guide dog. All motorists must comply with this law (N.J.S.A. 39:4-37.1).

VEHICLES

MOTORCYCLES

Be alert! The same laws governing other motor vehicles also govern motorcycles. However, due to the smaller size of motorcycles, extra caution should be used when sharing the road.

Never follow motorcycles too closely. A motorist should be aware of slippery, sloped or uneven surfaces and grooves and gratings in the roadway, which present potential hazards for motorcycle riders. Objects on the roadway also present a challenge. Motorcyclists must be ready to react to these situations differently than motorists driving passenger vehicles. This is why it is important to leave plenty of space between an automobile and a motorcycle.

When passed by a motorcycle, a motorist should maintain his/her speed and position. Allow plenty of room for the motorcycle to complete the pass and resume proper lane position.

A motorist's failure to detect and recognize motorcycles in traffic is the most common cause of motorcycle collisions.

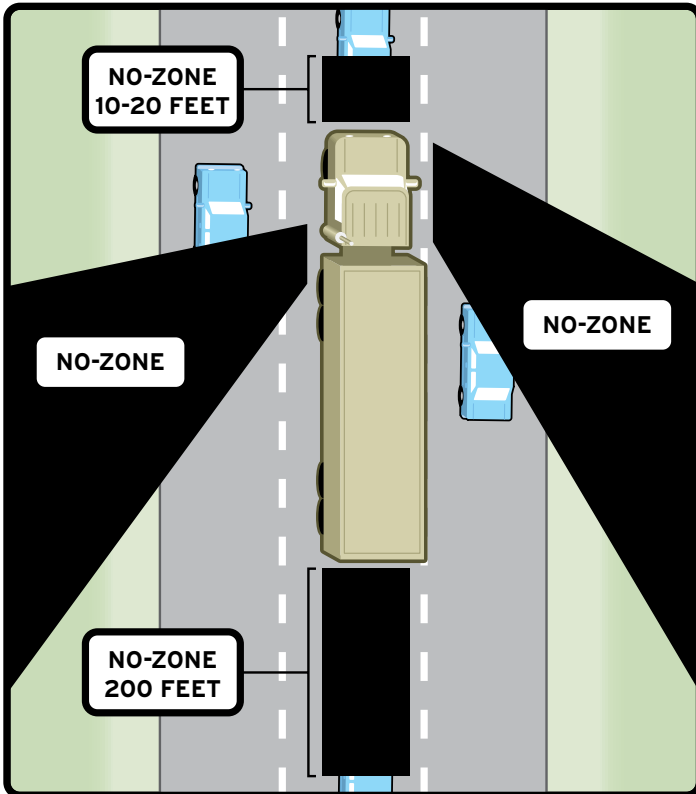
For more information on motorcycle safety, visit www.njridesafe.org. Copies of the New Jersey Motorcycle Manual may be obtained at any motor vehicle agency, online at www.njmvc.gov or by calling (888) 486-3339.

TRUCKS, TRACTOR-TRAILERS AND BUSES

A motorist should always use caution when driving alongside trucks. Sharing the road with larger vehicles can be safe if a motorist knows the limitations of these vehicles regarding visibility, required stopping distance and maneuverability. When passing a large truck or bus, it is important to remember that there are several no-zones (blind spots) in which the motorist cannot see other vehicles. In addition, during bad weather, a truck can take as much as 25 percent longer to stop.

The no-zone principle

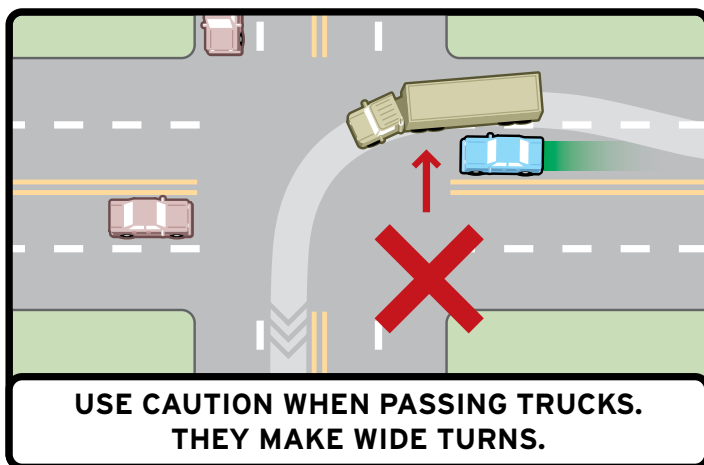
Avoid the area around trucks where vehicles disappear into blind spots. Do not move so close to a truck that the truck driver's ability to stop or maneuver effectively is restricted. The potential for a collision is increased when a motorist is riding in the no-zone. If the motorist of a large truck or bus cannot see another motorist's vehicle in the rearview or side-view mirrors, the vehicle is in a no-zone, or blind spot.



**THE BLACK AREAS ARE "NO-ZONES."
IF YOU ARE IN ONE OF THESE AREAS,
THE DRIVER OF THE TRUCK CAN'T SEE YOU.**

Rear no-zone

- Stay far behind a truck that is preparing to back up or is backing up. Never pass close behind a truck that is preparing to back up or is in the process of backing up. Because of their width, the trailers completely hide objects that suddenly come between them and a loading area. The area behind the truck is a no-zone (blind spot), not only for the truck driver but for other motorists as well.
- A motorist should increase following distance behind a truck or other large vehicle so its driver can spot a motorist's vehicle in the rearview mirrors. Never tailgate or remain sandwiched between trucks. A motorist should maintain a sizable space cushion between his/her vehicle and larger vehicles.
- Leave space when stopping at a light or sign behind a truck or bus, especially when facing uphill. The larger vehicle may roll backward slightly when starting.
- Give more road space to a truck driver who is making a wide turn. Because trucks are larger than other vehicles, their drivers may have to slow, back up or swing wide to negotiate a turn. They cannot see smaller vehicles directly behind or beside them. For example, a truck driver may have to swing wide to the left to make a right turn.



Front no-zone

- Maintain a consistent speed when passing. Do not pull in front of a truck when passing until the whole front of the truck can be seen in the rearview mirror. Always signal before changing lanes. Never pass a truck on the right.

Side no-zone

- Drive away from the long blind spots on the sides of trucks. If the motorist must quickly change lanes or make an emergency maneuver, a vehicle in this area will be in the way. Do not linger alongside a truck when passing.

Head-on no-zone

- A motorist should bear right when a large vehicle is traveling toward his/her vehicle from the opposite direction. This reduces wind turbulence between the motorist and the larger vehicle, and possibly prevents a sideswipe.

▼ **YIELDING TO SCHOOL AND COMMERCIAL BUSES**

State law requires all non-emergency vehicles to yield the right-of-way to buses re-entering traffic after dropping off or picking up bus passengers. However, once the bus is back in the normal flow of traffic, motorists are not required to yield the right-of-way to buses changing lanes. Bus operators are required to drive in a safe and responsible manner. The yield law was enacted to improve safety on the state's roadways. Violations of this law carry a fine of not less than \$50 or more than \$200, up to 15 days in jail or both a fine and a jail term (N.J.S.A. 39:4-87.1).

▼ **MOPEDS**

Motorized bicycles, or mopeds, are low-speed, two-wheeled vehicles with pedals, intended for limited use on public roadways. Moped drivers may not exceed 25 mph, must follow all traffic signs and signals and drive on the right side of the road with the flow of traffic.

A motorist should always be alert for mopeds, which are smaller than motorcycles and harder to see. Moped drivers have the same rights and responsibilities as those driving other motor vehicles. A copy of the New Jersey Moped Manual may be obtained at any motor vehicle agency, online at www.njmvc.gov or by calling **(888) 486-3339** within New Jersey or **(609) 292-6500** out of state.

▼ **BICYCLES, SKATEBOARDS AND INLINE SKATES**

A motorist should always leave plenty of room when following or passing a bicyclist, skateboarder or inline skater. Under New Jersey law, each of these individuals has the same rights and responsibilities as a moving motor vehicle.

While bicycles ridden after dark must have front and rear lights and a rear reflector, these illumination devices may be hard for a motorist to see. A motorist should always remain alert to the presence of smaller vehicles.

When turning right, motorists should be aware of bicyclists, skateboarders or inline skaters. Before turning, the motorist should wait until the intersection clears. Under New Jersey law, motorists signaling a right turn must yield to bicyclists, skateboarders or inline skaters moving through an intersection.

To turn left, a bicyclist, skateboarder or inline skater may choose to use traffic lanes to turn as a vehicle would. A motorist should be aware that a bicyclist, skateboarder or inline skater may ride on the right edge of the turn lane.

▼ **MOTORIZED SCOOTERS** (N.J.S.A. 39:4-14.12 through 39:4-14.15; N.J.S.A. 39:1-1)

A motorized scooter is a miniature motor vehicle. Although it is illegal for these vehicles to be driven on any public road or sidewalk, except on designated municipal or county property, motorists must be very alert if these types of vehicles are present. Motorized scooters are extremely hard to see.

Motorized scooters must be registered in the municipality or county where the owner resides and must be insured. No one under the age of 12 (the age determined by a municipality or county) is permitted to operate a motorized scooter.

Examples of a motorized scooter include but are not limited to:

- Pocket bikes
- Super pocket bikes
- Scooters
- Mini-scooters
- Sport scooters
- Mini-choppers
- Mini-motorcycles
- Motorized skateboards
- Other vehicles with motors not manufactured in compliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and which have no permanent Federal Safety Certification stickers affixed to the vehicle by the original manufacturer

The following are not motorized scooters:

- Electric personal mobility-assisting devices
- Motorized bicycles or low-speed vehicles
- Motorized wheelchairs
- Mobility scooters or similar mobility-assisting devices used by persons with physical disabilities or persons whose ambulatory mobility has been impaired by age or illness

▼ **INDIVIDUALS WITH A MOBILITY-RELATED DISABILITY**

State law allows individuals with a mobility-assisted disability to operate certain motorized scooters on public streets, with a posted speed limit in excess of 25 mph but not more than 35 mph, if local government determines that the scooter does not pose a danger to safety and the flow of traffic. The motorized scooter may only have a maximum speed capability of no more than 15 mph (N.J.S.A. 39:4-14.12 through 39:4-14.15). The following are not permitted for mobility-related disabilities:

- Pocket bikes
- Super pocket bikes
- Scooters
- Mini-scooters
- Sport scooters
- Mini-choppers
- Mini-motorcycles
- Motorized skateboards

The motorized scooter must be registered with the municipality in which the operator resides and must be insured. After registering the motorized scooter with the municipality, the owner may apply for a placard or sticker from the MVC.

▼ **LOW-SPEED VEHICLES** (N.J.S.A. 39:4-31.1 through 39:4-31.5)

A low-speed vehicle (LSV) is a four-wheeled vehicle with an attainable speed of more than 20 mph, but no more than 25 mph on a paved surface. It cannot be powered by gas or diesel fuel and must comply with federal safety standards. Motorists should be alert when these types of vehicles are present, as they may be difficult to see.

The following guidelines must be observed when driving a low-speed vehicle:

- LSVs may not be driven on roadways with speed limits that exceed 25 mph. (In limited cases, if deemed appropriate by a municipality, county or the State DOT, LSVs may be permitted on roadways with speed limits that do not exceed 35 mph).

- Watch for and abide by road signs prohibiting use, even on lower speed roads.
- LSVs may not be used as modified golf carts.
- LSVs must have a 17-digit Vehicle Identification Number.
- A motorist must have a valid Class D license to operate an LSV.
- The LSV must be properly registered and insured.
- Child restraints in LSVs must meet the same standards as those used in passenger vehicles.
- A motorist may lease or rent LSVs that are properly titled, registered and insured for temporary use.
- An LSV may be registered in the name of an individual, business or government entity but may not be used as a commercial vehicle.
- LSV drivers are subject to the same violations as other vehicles (except for the regular inspection requirements).
- All LSVs shall have a safety information decal provided by the manufacturer on the rear of the vehicle.
- If the LSV has only one license plate, it should be placed on the rear of the vehicle.
- LSVs must meet federal and state requirements.

Federal Requirements (49 CFR 571.500)

Low speed vehicles cannot exceed 25 mph and must be equipped with:

- Headlamps
- Front and rear turn signal lamps
- Tail lamps
- Stop lamps
- Red reflex reflectors: one on each side as far to the rear as possible and one on the rear of the vehicle
- Exterior mirror mounted: on the motorist's side of the vehicle and either an exterior mounted on the passenger's side or an interior rearview mirror
- Parking brake
- Windshield that meets federal safety requirements
- Vehicle Identification Number
- Seat belts

State Requirements (N.J.S.A. 39:4-31.2)

LSVs operated on any public road or highway in the state shall be maintained in proper condition and comply with equipment requirements and standards:

- Adequate brakes to control the movement of the vehicle
- Odometer
- Speedometer
- Original manufacturer's VIN die-stamped on the body and/or frame, engine or motor of the vehicle
- Safety information decal provided by the manufacturer must be in a conspicuous place on the rear of the vehicle displaying "25 MPH Vehicle"

▼ **SNOWMOBILES AND ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATVs)**

(N.J.S.A. 39:3C-1 through 39:3C-31)

Motorists must be aware of the presence of legally registered snowmobiles and ATVs that may attempt to cross certain roadways. While it is illegal for these types of vehicles to ride on public roadways with other vehicles, they are permitted to cross certain roadways when safety permits. Operators of snowmobiles and ATVs must maintain a proof of insurance and display the vehicle's registration at all times. Copies of the New Jersey Snowmobile or ATV brochures may be obtained online at www.njmvc.gov.

▼ **ANIMALS**

Animals often dart onto roads or streets. Trying to avoid them often causes collisions. By swerving, the vehicle may hit something else or be hit by another vehicle from behind. The best defense against such accidents is to watch for animals on both sides of the road ahead and be prepared for unexpected movement.

▼ **HORSEBACK RIDERS**

Horse-drawn vehicles and horseback riders have the same rights and responsibilities as do motor vehicles when using public roadways (N.J.S.A. 39:4-25.1). Motorists should approach or pass a horse or horse-drawn vehicle with care at a maximum speed of 25 mph and observe the request, either by hand signal or otherwise, of a person riding a horse or driving a horse-drawn vehicle in the opposite direction for the motorist to stop his/her motor vehicle and remain stationary for as long as it takes the horse to pass (N.J.S.A. 39:4-72).

Horse-drawn vehicles and horseback riders may not use certain limited-access highways and must ride with traffic, keeping as far to the right as possible. Other rules apply. Speeding and illumination rules apply. A light must be displayed on the back of the horse-drawn vehicle:

- 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise
- If visibility is 500 feet or less
- When encountering fog, mist, smoke or other factors that reduce visibility (N.J.S.A. 39:4-25)





Chapter 9

Vehicle Information

- 146 Laws Governing Vehicle Title and Registration
- 147 Titles
- 149 Registration
- 149 License Plates
- 150 Handicapped Plates/Placards
- 151 Vehicle Inspection
- 155 Insurance
- 155 Insurance Fraud

In addition to safely navigating the roadways, a motorist must also understand the requirements for vehicles that he/she drives.

VEHICLE TITLE AND REGISTRATION

New Jersey residents who buy a new or used vehicle must title, register, and insure it before driving it on public roads (N.J.S.A. 39:3-4, 39:10-11, 39:6B-1, 39:6B-2). New Jersey law states a vehicle classified under the Lemon Law must have that classification on the title (N.J.S.A. 39:10-9.3). For information about the Lemon Law, contact the Lemon Law Unit of the Division of Consumer Affairs at **(973) 504-6200**. If a motorist moves into this state, the law requires his/her vehicle to be titled and registered within 60 days; sooner, if the out-of-state registration expires before then (N.J.S.A. 39:3-17.1). The titled owner (person whose name appears on the title as the owner) or a person with authority to act on the vehicle owner's behalf¹ is required to visit an MVC agency to process the transaction. An initial registration for a brand-new vehicle will be valid for four years. All other registrations are typically valid for one year² (N.J.S.A. 39:3-4).

¹ Visit **www.njmvc.gov** for specific information on who is authorized to act on the owner's behalf.

² Visit **www.njmvc.gov** for exceptions.

▼ HOW TO TITLE A NEW VEHICLE

- Obtain the title through the dealership where the vehicle was purchased.
- Obtain the manufacturer's certificate of origin assigned to the owner, ensuring that the document has the sales tax satisfied stamp on the back (if purchased from a dealer authorized to collect New Jersey sales tax).

The documents can be taken to any MVC agency. The owner must pay the required titling fee. If the dealer is not authorized to collect New Jersey sales tax, the buyer must pay sales tax when titling the vehicle.

▼ HOW TO TITLE A USED VEHICLE

- Complete the reverse side of the title with the buyer's name, address, date of sale, mileage odometer reading, sale price, buyer's signature and seller's information and signature.
- Present the signed title and pay the required titling fee.
- The buyer must pay sales tax on the purchase price when titling the vehicle.

Note: To avoid a \$25 penalty when buying a used car, the title must be presented to an MVC agency for transfer within 10 business days of the sale (N.J.S.A. 39:10-11.1).



▼ HOW TO REPLACE A TITLE

If the title is lost or stolen, a duplicate title can be issued at any MVC agency or by mail for a \$25 fee (N.J.S.A. 39:10-12).

The titled owner (person whose name appears on the front of the title) will need:

- A completed Application for Duplicate Certificate of Ownership (ISM/SS-52)¹
- A current registration certificate or insurance identification card for the vehicle
- A lien release from the lien holder if the vehicle was financed

If the title is damaged, defaced or illegible, a replacement title can be issued at any MVC agency or by mail for a \$20 fee (N.J.S.A. 39:10-16).

The titled owner (person whose name appears on the front of the title) will need:

- The damaged title
- A completed Application for Duplicate Certificate of Ownership (ISM/SS-52)¹

¹ ISM/SS-52 can be obtained at any MVC agency, online at **www.njmvc.gov** or by calling **(888) 486-3339** (toll-free in New Jersey) or **(609) 292-6500** (out of state).

If someone other than the titled owner is applying for a replacement or duplicate title, please contact the MVC online at **www.njmvc.gov** or call **(888) 486-3339** (toll-free in New Jersey) or **(609) 292-6500** (out of state) for additional requirements.

▼ HOW TO COMPLETE AN INITIAL REGISTRATION

- Complete a New Jersey Vehicle Registration application (BA-49) at any MVC agency. Provide the name of the vehicle's current insurance company name and the policy number on the application.
- Show proof of vehicle ownership. For a new vehicle, a manufacturer's certificate of origin and a dealer's certificate of sale are proof. For a previously owned vehicle, a title signed by the previous owner is proof. For a leased vehicle, get a power of attorney from the leasing company. For out-of-state vehicles that are leased or financed, secure the original title from the lien holder or leasing company. Visit **www.njmvc.gov** or call **(888) 486-3339** (toll-free in New Jersey) or **(609) 292-6500** (out of state) for more information.
- Show proof that the required sales tax has been paid, or pay the tax at the agency.

Note: In New Jersey, a motorist must be at least 17 years old to register a vehicle (N.J.S.A. 39:10-11.1).

REGISTRATION RENEWAL

The MVC mails renewal notices at least 60 days before the annual registration expires. If a renewal form is not received by mail, the renewal may be completed in person at any MVC agency, or contact the MVC to have an application mailed. It is the motorist's responsibility to keep his/her vehicle registration current. There is a fine for driving without a current registration document.

Registration renewals may be conducted quickly and easily by phone or on the Web, 24 hours a day. Both are free services. A personal address change can be made online while renewing.

- Call toll-free **(877) 368-6548**.
- Go online at **www.njmvc.gov**.

For both, a preprinted registration renewal with PIN, valid insurance ID card and credit card are necessary. The PIN is a security feature. If the pre-printed form is lost, a motorist will not be able to renew online or by phone.

If renewing by mail, fill out the renewal form and mail to the MVC with a check or money order. Please allow enough time for processing before the registration expires.

Note: The MVC no longer issues license plate registration decals to passenger vehicles or non-commercial light-truck owners.

TITLE AND REGISTRATION CORRECTIONS

Title and registration corrections may be made at any MVC agency or regional service center. Please call (888) 486-3339 (toll-free in New Jersey) or (609) 292-6500 (out of state) for specific instructions.

LICENSE PLATES (N.J.S.A. 39:3-33)

Motorists will receive two matching license plates upon registering a vehicle. One plate is provided when registering a trailer, moped or motorcycle. For passenger vehicles, one plate should be attached to the front of the vehicle and the other to the rear at least 12 inches but less than 48 inches above the ground. Both plates must be clean and visible. The rear plate must be lighted so it is visible from 500 feet at night, even with reflectorized plates (N.J.S.A. 39:3-48b). Using license plate covers or holders that obscure or conceal any lettering on the license plate is a violation, with a fine of up to \$100.



▼ LICENSE PLATE FACTS

- Report lost or stolen plates to local police. Retain a copy of the complaint.
- Replace lost or damaged plates within 24 hours at any MVC agency, and turn in the old plates at any MVC agency or mail them to the MVC, P.O. Box 403, Trenton, NJ 08666-0403.
- Transfer the plates to your new vehicle. Most plates are transferable. Visit **www.njmvc.gov** or call **(888) 486-3339** (toll-free in New Jersey) or **(609) 292-6500** (out of state) for details.
- If a motorist sells his/her vehicle and does not transfer the plates to another vehicle, he/she should turn in the old plates at any MVC agency or mail them to the MVC, P.O. Box 403, Trenton, NJ 08666-0403. A receipt will be provided. It should be kept in a safe place.
- Obtain information about personalized plates from any MVC agency at **www.njmvc.gov** or call **(888) 486-3339** (toll-free in New Jersey) or **(609) 292-6500** (out of state).
- A motorist may place only valid plates on his/her vehicle. Forged or counterfeit license plates on any motor vehicle may result in a fine of up to \$500, up to 60 days imprisonment or a license suspension of up to six months, or both (N.J.S.A. 39:3-33, 39:3-38).
- If a motorist terminates vehicle insurance, the plates must be returned to the MVC (N.J.A.C. 13:21-5.10b).

▼ HANDICAPPED PLATES/PLACARDS/CARDS (N.J.S.A. 39:4-206 and 39:4-205)

Handicapped license plates and a rearview mirror placard are available to disabled persons at no charge to allow them to park in specifically designed spaces.

- A motorist may obtain an application online at **www.njmvc.gov** or request one by calling **(888) 486-3339** (toll-free in NJ) or **(609) 292-6500** (out of state). Applications may also be obtained at any MVC agency. Along with the application a motorist will receive instructions, FAQs and a checklist to assist in completing the application.
- Qualified individuals will complete Part 1 of the application; their physicians will complete Part 2, which establishes and certifies eligibility under the provisions of the law. The completed application is then mailed to the MVC for processing.
- Qualified individuals may receive one set of plates and one placard (N.J.A.C. 13:20-9.4).

To obtain a temporary placard:

- A motorist must go to the chief of police in the municipality where he/she resides to get an application.
- The motorist must have his/her doctor certify the need for the placard.
- The motorist must return the completed application to the police department with a \$4 fee, payable to Motor Vehicle Commission.
- Upon payment, the police department will issue a temporary placard.
- Temporary placards are good for six (6) months and may be renewed, if needed, for an additional six (6) months.

When the vehicle is parked, the handicapped placard must be displayed on the vehicle's rearview mirror. It must be removed prior to driving.

License plates and placards for eligible persons are issued with an Identification Card and are to be used exclusively for and by the person named on the Identification Card. The card is non-transferable and will be forfeited if used by another person. Abuse of this privilege is cause for revocation of both the license plates/placard and card (N.J.S.A. 39:4-205).

Upon the death of the eligible person, the handicapped plates/placard and Identification Card must be returned to the MVC. They may be surrendered at any MVC Agency or mailed to the MVC Office of Customer Advocacy, P.O. Bo x 403, Trenton, NJ 08666-0403, with a letter of explanation.

Plates must be renewed every year, and placards must be renewed every three years. Upon receipt of an application for renewal, the MVC may require the applicant to submit a statement from a physician recertifying his/her qualification as provided under N.J.A.C. 13:20-9.1a4.

Fraud or abuse of handicapped plates and placards will not be tolerated. It is important that applicants and certifying physicians know that under New Jersey law, making a false statement or providing misinformation on an application to obtain or facilitate the receipt of license plates or placards for persons with disabilities is a fourth-degree crime. A person who has been convicted of an offense may be subject to a fine, not to exceed \$10,000, and to a term of imprisonment, which shall not exceed 18 months (N.J.S.A. 2C:21-4a).

VEHICLE INSPECTION

All gasoline-fueled vehicles, except new vehicles, registered in New Jersey must pass state safety and emissions inspections every two years at a state inspection facility or a state-licensed private inspection facility (N.J.S.A. 39:8-2c, N.J.A.C. 13:20-7.2).

New gasoline-fueled vehicles must pass their first MVC inspection four years after 7.4b). they are initially registered (N.J.S.A. 39:8-2c and N.J.A.C. 13:20-28.6, 13:20. The MVC inspects diesel-fueled passenger vehicles and trucks registered under 10,000 pounds for safety only, but the MVC may require these vehicles to undergo occasional roadside spot inspections. High-rise and reconstructed vehicles must be taken to specially equipped inspection stations in Winslow, Asbury Park and Morristown. Call **(888) 486-3339** for more information.

To be eligible for inspection, all motorists must bring a valid driver license and valid New Jersey registration and insurance documents for the vehicle to be inspected at either a state inspection station or a state-licensed private inspection facility. Without the proper documentation, the vehicle will not pass inspection. When moving to New Jersey from another state, a motorist must have his/her vehicle inspected within 14 days after registering it (N.J.A.C. 13:20-7.4). For motor vehicle inspection information, please call **1-888-NJMOTOR (1-888-656-6867)** or visit **www.njmvc.gov**.

Since September 1, 2007, customers wishing to obtain off-cycle vehicle inspections must visit a private inspection facility (PIF), which will charge a fee. Only those vehicles that are within two months of the expiration date indicated on the inspection sticker will be inspected at a centralized inspection facility (CIF).

THE INSPECTION PROCESS

Upon inspection, the New Jersey emissions inspector will determine the vehicle's engine type and prepare it for testing. To comply with state and federal safety standards, the MVC tests the vehicle's brake suspension, steering, wheel alignment and safety features (headlights, tail lights, tires, horn, windshield wipers and turn signals).

To comply with federal Clean Air Act standards, the MVC inspects a vehicle's emissions system based on the year, make and model of the vehicle. New Jersey uses an on-board diagnostics, or OBD, test. OBD allows technicians to download emissions information from an on-board computer found in most vehicles manufactured in 1996 or later. The MVC analyzes emissions data in this way to determine if the vehicle passes inspection. Any vehicle with a lit "check engine" light will automatically fail the OBD test.

The final stage of the test will assure that the vehicle's gas cap is sealing correctly so that it limits the escape of fumes into the environment

After the vehicle passes inspection, the inspector will place a new certificate of



approval in the lower left corner of the windshield that shows the expiration date. No other sticker can appear in the left corner of the windshield unless approved by the MVC Chief Administrator.

To properly maintain a vehicle, a motorist should always check its condition between inspections and before long trips.

Driving a vehicle with an expired inspection sticker may result in fines between \$100 and \$200 and/or imprisonment for up to 30 days. Additionally, the MVC may revoke registration privileges (N.J.S.A. 39:8-9).

INSPECTION TEST RESULTS

When a vehicle passes inspection, it will receive a certificate of approval. If the vehicle fails inspection¹, the owner will have up to one month from the last day of the month indicated on the inspection sticker to make the necessary repairs and return for re-inspection at a state inspection facility or state-licensed private inspection facility (N.J.A.C. 13:20-7.5). Vehicles overdue for inspection do not receive additional time to make necessary repairs (N.J.A.C. 13:20-43.12). The vehicle may still be cited by law enforcement for equipment out of compliance.

All emission repairs must be completed by a registered emissions repair facility. If a private state-licensed garage is licensed to only do inspections, the facility cannot make emissions repairs.

¹ See Inspection Advisories

INSPECTION OF USED CARS

Per N.J.A.C. 13:20-7.4, when a used vehicle is purchased and has a valid New Jersey inspection certificate of approval properly affixed to the windshield, the new owner has two options:

- Use the time left on the previous owner's inspection certificate of approval.
- Take the vehicle for inspection within 14 days after registration.

If the vehicle is from another state or does not have a valid New Jersey inspection sticker, the vehicle must be inspected within 14 days after registration.

INSPECTION ADVISORIES

Since March 1, 2007, the MVC has been using Inspection Advisories to inform motorists of certain minor vehicle defects found during an inspection. The vehicle is not given a rejection sticker for these items; rather, the motorist is issued an Inspection Advisory, noting the items that require repair. A motorist then has 60 days from the date of the inspection to make those repairs. If repairs are not made, the motorist may be cited for failure to make repairs and be subject to penalties. At any time, though, a vehicle may be cited for equipment out of compliance.

Motorists do not have to re-inspect their vehicles for advisory items. The following items will not be cause for rejection but will cause the motorist to receive an Inspection Advisory:

- Missing or defaced license plates (at least one undamaged license plate must be presented)
- Current registration containing typographical errors in the vehicle identification number (provided the make, model year and license plate number on the registration is accurate)
- Missing or burned-out license plate lights
- High-mounted rear stop light that is missing, obstructed, inoperative or does not operate properly (two stop lights must be operable)
- Headlights that are cracked, chipped or contain moisture or that are equipped with brush guards or grills over the headlights (as long as they are operational and visible)
- Broken, cracked or missing lens on turn-signal light (provided that no white light is showing to the rear of the vehicle)
- Improper specialty lights (regardless of number, location and condition) including fog, passing, supplemental driving, spotlight, cowl, fender or any other auxiliary lights
- Excessive rust or sharp edges on the vehicle body or bumper
- Cracked or broken mirrors (as long as the motorist has adequate rearview vision)
- Motorcycle helmets that do not have reflective tape or helmets that are not reflective

INSPECTION EXEMPTIONS

Inspections are not required for certain vehicles, such as historic and collector vehicles (N.J.S.A. 39:8-1).

- Historic vehicles at least 25 years old, used only for exhibition/educational purposes or manufactured before 1945, require a special registration and a QQ plate displayed on the rear of the vehicle (N.J.S.A. 39:3-27.3, N.J.A.C. 13:20-34.2).
- Collector vehicles display two standard license plates and have a triangular decal on the front left windshield that is valid for two years. The owner must provide proof of miles driven annually (3,000 miles or fewer) and special insurance (limited-use collector vehicle) and renew this status every two years or if the owner changes (N.J.A.C. 13:20-43.1, N.J.A.C. 13:20-43.2).

AUTO REPAIR FACILITIES

When a vehicle is damaged in an accident and needs repair, a motorist should only consider repair facilities that are properly licensed to remove, rebuild or install integral component parts of an engine, power train, chassis or body of a vehicle damaged in a collision. Before choosing an auto body shop:

- Check out several shops.
- Visit www.njmvc.gov for a list of licensed auto body repair shops or call **(888)**

486-3339 toll-free in New Jersey or **(609) 292-6500** from out of state

- Check for the equipment that the shop needs to properly repair your vehicle (frame machine, mig welder, paint room).
- Ask if the shop is a member of the local Chamber of Commerce or a collision repair association (A motorist may want to call one of these groups to verify the shop's reputation).
- Ask about assistance with insurance claims. It is illegal for a shop to save a motorist the cost of the insurance deductible. Insurance fraud violators are subject to a penalty of not more than \$5,000 for a first offense, \$10,000 for a second offense and \$15,000 for a third offense (N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5).
- Request an estimate in writing before authorizing repairs. Also, obtain a written warranty on the work that will be done. The estimate should contain the agreed-upon payment terms and the repair completion date and if authorized equipment will be used.

INSURANCE

Motor vehicle liability insurance is mandatory in the State of New Jersey. Every vehicle registered in New Jersey must have liability insurance (N.J.S.A. 39:6B-1, 39:6B-2).

The type and cost of insurance coverage can vary. Check the Department of Banking and Insurance (DOBI) Web site at www.njdoabi.org to review the many insurance coverage choices, or contact an insurance company.

A New Jersey Insurance Identification Card will be provided for each vehicle insured under a policy. This card must remain in the vehicle with the driver. It must be shown prior to inspection, when involved in an accident and when stopped by law enforcement for a traffic violation or roadside spot check.

Driving with an uninsured vehicle can result in fines, community service, license and registration suspension and insurance surcharges.

INSURANCE FRAUD

The Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor (OIFP) in the Division of Criminal Justice aggressively investigates and prosecutes individuals who engage in insurance fraud. If a person commits insurance fraud by providing false information to an insurance company while making a claim or submitting an insurance application, the OIFP can file criminal charges that can result in incarceration. It may also impose civil fines up to \$15,000 for each violation (N.J.S.A. 17:33A-5). In addition, a person convicted of insurance fraud could lose his/her driver license.

Because fraud increases the cost of insurance for all New Jerseyans, motorists can help the OIFP by reporting fraud. Visit www.njinsurancefraud.org and click on Report Fraud, or call **(877) 55-FRAUD (877-553-7283)**. All tips are kept strictly anonymous and confidential.







Chapter 10

Essential Driver Information

- 160 License Renewal
- 160 Permit, Non-Driver ID and License Updates
- 161 Lost or Stolen Permits, Non-Driver IDs and Licenses
- 162 Permit, Non-Driver ID and License Corrections
- 163 Americans with Disabilities Act
- 163 Organ Donation
- 164 Voter Registration
- 164 Maps

LICENSE RENEWAL

A valid license must be carried at all times when driving (N.J.S.A. 39:3-29). It is important to remember to renew the license before it expires. If a driver license is not renewed for three years, or if the motorist may not renew due to a license suspension, he/she must reapply and retake the vision screening and written and road tests (N.J.A.C. 13:21-8.17). It is the responsibility of the motorist to renew his/her license. Renewal notices are sent to motorists up to 90 days prior to the expiration date. If a renewal form is not received by mail, a form may be obtained at any MVC agency. When renewing a license, a motorist must bring his/her expiring license, a completed renewal form and the documents required by 6 Points of ID Verification (N.J.A.C. 13:21-8.2) to any MVC agency. When a basic license is renewed, any endorsements (motorcycle, commercial vehicle, boat) must also be renewed in order to drive or operate the endorsed vehicle.

If a motorist enters the military and has a valid New Jersey license, he/she should renew the license before it expires. Most licenses may be renewed up to six months in advance of expiration.

PERMIT, NON-DRIVER ID AND LICENSE UPDATES

Information on a permit, driver license or non-driver ID must be accurate. Changes and corrections should be reported to the MVC immediately.

ADDRESS CHANGES

If a motorist moves within New Jersey or out of state, he/she must report the address change within one week (N.J.S.A. 39:3-36) by any of the following:

- Visit an MVC agency with 6 Points of ID Verification (N.J.A.C. 13:21-8.2) and proof of address change. (A new driver license will be generated for a fee of \$11).
- Submit the request in writing to the MVC Database Unit, P.O. Box 141, Trenton, NJ 08666-0141. (Include copies of 6 Points of ID Verification and proof of address change).
- Submit the change online at www.njmvc.gov.
- Call **(888) 486-3339** (toll-free in New Jersey) or **(609) 292-6500** (out of state).

All motorists who make address changes via mail, Web site or phone will receive address change verification stickers in the mail. The sticker is to be attached to the back of the driver license and to the back of any vehicle registrations in the motorist's name.

NAME CHANGES

If a motorist changes his/her name legally (through a divorce, marriage, adoption or by legal name change) or changes the name of his/her corporation, the name change must be reported to the MVC within two weeks (N.J.S.A. 39:3-9a). Personal name changes may only be made in person at an MVC agency or regional service center. U.S. passports cannot be used as proof of legal name change. Proof of address and 6 Points of ID Verification (N.J.A.C. 13:21-8.2) are required, including a certified copy of the document for the name change. If a new Social Security card with the new name has not been received, the motorist should contact the Social Security Administration at **(800) 772-1213**.

CORPORATE NAME/ADDRESS CHANGES

Corporate name changes or changes of address must be made by mail. A company officer must, within seven days, write and sign a letter on company letterhead that includes the:

- Corrcode number
- Former and new company name
- New company address in New Jersey (P.O. box and street)
- Phone number
- Previous address (if applicable)
- Proof of age and identification of company officer
- Name-change papers from the Treasury Department's Commercial Recording Section.

This information may be submitted to:
MVC Database Correction Unit
P.O. Box 141
Trenton, NJ 08666-0141

LOST OR STOLEN PERMITS, NON-DRIVER IDS AND LICENSES

New Jersey law requires that a motorist carry a validated permit when he/she practices driving and a valid license when driving (N.J.S.A. 39:3-29). In the event that the permit is lost or stolen, any MVC agency will issue a duplicate permit for any class vehicle for \$5. A motorist must provide proof that he/she is 17 years or older and have proof of identity, as described in the preceding pages. A licensed driving instructor must apply for the duplicate if the motorist is under 17 years old.

A lost or stolen driver license or non-driver identification card should be reported to the police. The applicant must appear in person at any agency to obtain a duplicate license or identification card. To ensure that someone does not secure a document in another individual's name, the applicant must show 6 Points of ID Verification. The replacement fee for a lost or stolen license or identification card is \$11.

PERMIT, NON-DRIVER ID AND LICENSE CORRECTIONS

If a motorist requires a change to his/her name or address or other personal data, the MVC will correct the permit, non-driver ID or driver license. Follow the chart on this page. Proofs must be original documents or certified copies with the required state or municipal raised seal. Ceremonial documents, such as baptism certificates or religious marriage certificates, are not valid proof.

ITEM	REASON	PROOF
Name	Marriage/Civil Union	Birth certificate or certified copy, plus marriage or civil union certificate
	Divorce	Birth certificate or certified copy, marriage or civil union certificate, divorce decree noting name change
Date of birth	Adoption	Birth certificate or certified copy, court adoption papers
	Legal change	Birth certificate or certified copy, certified court order
	Correction	Birth certificate or certified copy, Department of State birth certificate, U.S. passport, alien registration card, U.S. citizenship papers, active military ID card, U.S. adoption papers, military discharge papers (DD214), U.S. naturalization certificate
Address	Moved	Bank statement, utility bill, official government mail
Social Security	Correction	Social Security card
Weight, height	Correction or change	None required
Sex	Medical sex change	Amended certified birth certificate

Replacement fees are \$11 for duplicates, replacements, permits and non-driver IDs. Handicapped non-driver IDs are \$7 for a duplicate and \$9 for a change.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The MVC complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the law that states government agencies cannot deny programs and activities to anyone because of disabilities. Everyone who uses government services should have the right to independent access to information. One example is that disabled people can access information about permits, licenses, vehicle inspection and registration, driving laws and regulations. Some programs the MVC provides are:

- Teletype digital display (TDD) machine phone access to general information
- Two 24-hour general information lines
- MVC Web site
- Physical access to MVC facilities and parking
- Clear and concise publications in English (some in Spanish)
- Oral, written and automated driver testing
- Availability of placards and license plates for disabled persons; non-driver identification cards

ORGAN DONATION

Possessing a driver license can save lives through organ and tissue donation. One organ and tissue donor can save or enhance more than 50 lives. The State of New Jersey and the U.S. government passed the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, which allows an individual to donate his/her organs upon death.

An individual's decision to be an organ donor can make a difference in lives throughout New Jersey and across the nation. Right now, tens of thousands of people are awaiting organ transplants, while thousands more are in need of tissue and corneal transplants. The shortage of donors is so severe that every day, 18 people die waiting for organs that could save their lives. You can give the gift of life simply by agreeing to become a donor.

Saying "yes" to organ and tissue donation is an important decision for everyone, including the more than 4,200 New Jerseyans who are waiting for organs. Learn more about being an organ donor. Get the answers and have the power to give others the most precious gift: life.

Most people do not realize that all major religions support organ donation and consider it the greatest gift a person can give. Anyone can decide to be a donor, even in cases of hepatitis and diabetes. There are no costs to the family for donation, and it will not affect funeral arrangements. Age, gender, race, ethnicity or wealth do not affect who receives available organs.

When applying for a driver license for the first time and each time it is renewed, MVC staff will ask if the applicant would like the Organ Donor designation to appear on his/her license. If the individual is 18 years or older and agrees by saying yes, he/she is legally consenting to the donation of organs and tissue. This is an important decision to share with family.

For more information about organ and tissue donation, please visit www.donatelifenj.org.

VOTER REGISTRATION

To expedite the voter registration process, the MVC sends voter registration applications with all driver license renewals and changes of address. In a further effort to encourage all qualified citizens of New Jersey to register to vote, the MVC has voter registration applications at all its agencies. These applications can be used by eligible residents while conducting licensing transactions. The information collected from the voter registration application is transferred to the New Jersey Attorney General's Division of Elections for input into the statewide Voter Registration System.

MAPS

Maps are used by motorists to guide them in their travels. The N.J. Department of Transportation publishes an official transportation map and guide for highways and public transit. It also contains useful tips on a wide array of cultural, recreational and historical attractions that make New Jersey special. To obtain a map, call (800) Jersey-7 (800-537-7397).

Motorists should keep maps of their destinations in their vehicles and should know how to read them. Maps are easy to use. For example, to find a town, a motorist may use the map's index, which notes a letter and number after the town's name. The motorist can then match each to the numbers and letters on the sides of the map. The lines that cross the map from that number and letter combination form a defined area. This will help locate a town in that squared-off area of the map.





Appendix



DRIVER SAFETY



TRAFFIC SIGNS, SIGNALS AND ROAD MARKINGS

Traffic signs, signals and road markings are set up to control the flow of traffic, making streets and highways safer for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. A safe driver always watches for and obeys all traffic signals, signs and road markings. During heavy traffic or in an emergency, a police officer may direct traffic. A police officer can overrule traffic signals. Law enforcement orders or directions must always be obeyed.

Court penalties will be imposed for stealing or damaging airport, traffic or railroad-crossing signs or equipment.

TRAFFIC SIGNALS

When traffic signals are hung vertically, the red light is always on top. The yellow is in the center. The green light is third in line. If there is a green arrow, it is always on the bottom. When the lights are horizontal, red is always on the left.

RED LIGHT

A motorist must stop before the intersection or crosswalk and remain stopped until the light changes to green.

YELLOW LIGHT

A motorist should stop before entering the intersection or crosswalk, unless his/her vehicle is so close to the intersection that it cannot be stopped safely. A yellow arrow means the signal is changing from green to red and gives the motorist a chance to stop safely.

GREEN LIGHT

A motorist should proceed through the intersection. Yield to pedestrians and vehicles still in the intersection and when turning left or right. Before making a left turn, yield to approaching vehicles.

GREEN ARROW

When shown alone or in combination with the red signal, proceed only as shown by the arrow. Be cautious and yield to pedestrians.

FLASHING YELLOW LIGHT

Slow down and proceed with care.



▼ FLASHING RED LIGHT

Stop. Yield to traffic and pedestrians. Go only when safe.

▼ UNLIT SIGNAL

Stop if a signal does not have any of its bulbs working and no one is directing traffic. It is considered a four-way stop sign. Look left and right. Yield to traffic coming from the right or left. Be careful and go only when safe.

▼ ORANGE, STEADY RAISED-PALM SYMBOL

Pedestrians must not leave the sidewalk or enter the roadway when facing the light. Those already in the roadway should quickly go to a safe spot. Pedestrians already within the crosswalk will have time to cross the intersection before the signal changes. Those who have not yet left the sidewalk or curb should not enter the roadway.

▼ WHITE, STEADY PEDESTRIAN SILHOUETTE/COUNTDOWN PEDESTRIAN SIGN WITH STEADY PEDESTRIAN SILHOUETTE

Pedestrians facing the signal may cross the roadway in the direction of the signal. New Jersey law requires turning motorists to yield to pedestrians crossing on this signal and to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Pedestrian push-buttons are located at certain traffic signals. A short time after the button is pushed, the flow of traffic at the intersection changes to a longer green for the side street.

Traffic engineers use color, such as an optional yellow-green or a standard yellow, for the pedestrian crossing and bicycle warning signs which are of utmost importance. These signs alert New Jersey motorists that they must share the road with pedestrians and bicyclists and yield to them.

▼ TRAFFIC SIGNS

Signs are divided into three basic categories:

- **Warning:** Warn motorists of hazards ahead that are difficult to see.
- **Guidance:** Guide motorists to a destination by clearly identifying the route.
- **Regulatory:** Regulate traffic speed and movement.

The signs are manufactured in different shapes and colors to convey a particular message. Examples of the various sign types, shapes and colors are found in the diagram on page 170.

COLOR	SHAPE	# OF SIDES	MESSAGE
White	Vertical rectangle	4	Regulation (such as speed signs) ¹
Blue	Rectangle, square	4	Motorists services and information
Brown	Rectangle	4	Public recreation and scenic guidance
Green	Rectangle	4	Direction guidance
Orange	Diamond	4	Construction and maintenance warning
Red	Octagon	8	STOP signs only
Red	Triangle	3	YIELD signs
Yellow	Pennant	3	No-passing warning signs
Yellow	Pentagon	5	School signs
Yellow	Round		Railroad warning signs
Yellow	Diamond	4	Roadway hazard signs

¹ When the maximum safe speed around a curve or turn is lower than the posted speed limit, an advisory speed sign is used with the proper warning sign.

▼ WARNING SIGNS

Warning signs are for road conditions that need caution and for specific hazards that may be encountered during certain road operations. Some of the warning signs alert motorists to road conditions, school crossings or curved roadways. The signs are yellow and diamond-shaped with a black symbol or word message.

▼ ROAD WORK SIGNS

Road work signs alert motorists to a variety of temporary roadway conditions. It is important to look for:

- Orange, diamond-shaped signs that warn the motorist of lane closings, lane shifts, flaggers, uneven pavement and detours. Road work may temporarily close lanes or divert them, changing traffic patterns
- Reduced speed limit signs that are posted alongside orange work zone signs. In New Jersey, all traffic fines are doubled in work zones.

A Motorist should react to road work signs by:

- Controlling the distance between his/her vehicle and the one in front, as well as his/her reaction time. Always read the signs, follow directions and prepare to slow down or stop
- Staying alert to the moving construction machinery in the work zone. With patience, a motorist will contribute to the overall safety of motorists and workers in the work zone
- Watching for workers on the road, who risk injury, possibly death. Flaggers may stop and release traffic through the work zone. Note that flaggers have the same authority as a regulatory sign, so a motorist may be cited if he/she disobeys their directions.

▼ GUIDANCE SIGNS

Guidance signs identify destinations and routes for motorists; some examples are shown on pages 174-176.

Motorist Service Signs

Motorist service signs have white letters or symbols on a blue background and provide information about motorist services. Some examples are shown on pages 174 and 175.

▼ REGULATORY SIGNS

Regulatory signs are generally rectangular, with the longer vertical dimension, and have black wording and borders on a white background. Some important regulatory signs to know are:

- **STOP:** Octagonal sign with white wording and border on red background
- **YIELD:** White inverted triangle with red wording and border with a white border band
- **DO NOT ENTER:** White square with a red circle that has a white band horizontally across the center of the circle and the words "DO NOT ENTER" in white letters on the upper and lower parts of the circle

Two national signs that indicate where certain interstate trucks can or cannot travel are now being used in New Jersey:

- **Green:** Marks the routes and ramps where trucks are permitted; also marks the travel route to services and terminals
- **Red:** Marks the routes and ramps where trucks are prohibited; also marks the end of designated routes

ROAD MARKINGS

Road markings have the same force of law as signs or traffic signals.

- **Yellow center lines:** Separate traffic flow going in opposite directions
- **White lines:** Separate traffic going the same way when there is more than one lane; show edges of roads
- **Dashed lines:** On a motorist's side of the center line of the road mean that passing is permitted when safe
- **Solid line:** On a motorist's side of the center line means do not pass
- **Road arrows:** When used with other signs, show the correct direction a motorist must make in that particular lane
- **White dashed lines:** Separate traffic lanes on multi-lane highways
- **Yellow solid lines:** Prohibit passing. Do not cross the solid yellow line to pass. Stay in the lane. Keep to the right when driving slowly
- **Yellow solid and dashed lines:** Control passing. If the solid yellow line is on the motorist's side of the road, do not pass. Pass only if the dashed line is on the motorist's side of the road. A pass must be completed before the yellow dashed lines become solid
- **Edge lines:** Separate the shoulder from the travel lane and show the edges of highways; **Yellow edge lines** separate the shoulder from the travel lane and show the edge of the highway
- **White crosswalks:** Indicate pedestrian crossing areas. Pedestrians should use these areas when crossing the road. At intersections where stop lines are missing stop before the crosswalk when required to stop by traffic signs or signals or for pedestrians
- **White stop lines:** Show where to stop at stop signs or traffic signals
- **White special markings:** Show special conditions, such as STOP AHEAD, SCHOOL and R X R, as a motorist alert. At some railroad crossings, there may be a crossbuck, flashing lights and/or gate lowered across the road as a train approaches. The pavement markings, signs and crossbucks are passive warnings; the flashing lights and lowered gates are active warnings. A motorist must always yield to trains
- **White diamonds:** Indicate high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes reserved for a particular vehicle type or vehicles carrying multiple riders, as identified by posted regulatory signs. Such signs will also indicate hours that HOV lanes are in operation. HOV lanes may also be marked with white diamonds painted on the pavement of the lane

▼ SPECIAL WARNING SIGNS

These signs alert motorists to slow-moving vehicles. A fluorescent and reflective orange triangular sign indicates slow-moving vehicles, such as farm and construction equipment operating on public highways. The operators must obey all traffic rules and place a slow-moving vehicle sign on the back of their vehicles to warn approaching motorists.

▼ RUMBLE STRIPS

Transverse and longitudinal rumble strips are small indentations or narrow, raised strips on the highway or shoulder that are put there to alert the motorist there is a decision point ahead (such as a four-way intersection after miles of uninterrupted travel). As the strips vibrate the steering wheel and make a noise, they will wake the motorist who may have dozed off or caution the motorist about the danger ahead. Rumble strips will not damage a vehicle. They are meant to get a motorist to drive slowly. They are almost always used with a cautionary sign.

▼ SPEED HUMPS/SPEED BUMPS

Other types of speed control devices include speed humps and speed bumps. A speed hump is a low ridge that runs across a street and that is designed to slow down cars. A speed bump is a longer, flatter version of a speed bump, which is more raised.

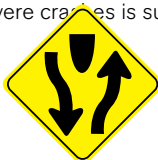
▼ ROUNDABOUTS

A roundabout is a one-way, circular intersection in which traffic flows around a center island. Roundabouts are designed to meet the needs of all road users – drivers, pedestrians, pedestrians with disabilities, and bicyclists. A roundabout eliminates some of the conflicting traffic, such as left turns, which cause crashes at traditional intersections. Because roundabout traffic enters or exits only

through right turns, the occurrence of severe crashes is substantially reduced.



Sharp Turn Ahead



Divided Highway



Cattle Crossing



Winding Road



Merge



Hill



Lane Reduction Ahead



Cross Road



Railroad



School



Slippery When Wet



Hospital



Handicapped



Yield Ahead



Signal Ahead



Workers



Flagman Ahead



Detour



Road Closed



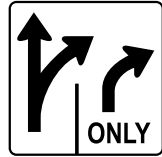
Stop



Left Turn Only



No Trucks



Multiple Turning Lanes



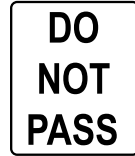
Do Not Enter



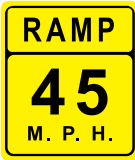
No U-Turns



No Parking Any Time



Do Not Pass



Advisory Ramp Speed



Side Road



No Passing Zone



Stop Sign Ahead



Two-Lane Traffic



Road Narrows



Road Closed



Reserved Parking



U.S. Route Marker



State Route Marker



Rest Area



Stop Here on Red



County Route Marker



Exit Marker



Mile Marker



No Standing Any Time



No Pedestrians



No Turns



Left Turn Only



Interstate



Left or Straight Only



Bus/Car Pool Lane



One Way



Keep Right



Wrong Way



Yield



No Right Turn





MVC Locations & Hours

MVC AGENCIES

Located in each of New Jersey's 21 counties, MVC agencies complete licensing, registration and titling for passenger vehicles. MVC agencies are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. The agencies also have one late evening per week, until 7:30 p.m.

REGIONAL SERVICE CENTERS

MVC maintains four regional service centers: Eatontown (Monmouth County), Trenton (Mercer County), Wayne (Passaic County) and West Deptford (Gloucester County). Each one offers a full-service agency, as well as driver conferences, restoration of driving privileges, and surcharge fee payments.

Regional service centers are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. Each one also has one late evening per week, until 7:30 p.m.

DRIVER TESTING CENTERS

All driver testing centers are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Some provide evening hours.

INSPECTION FACILITIES

There are several types of inspection facilities available to New Jersey motorists.

Central inspection facilities provide services in various locations. These facilities inspect all types of standard vehicles and are open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday from 7 a.m. to noon. Each facility also has one late night per week. Some central inspection facilities require an appointment.

Private inspection facilities are in more than 1,400 locations statewide, including at gas stations and body repair shops. These facilities will perform standard vehicle inspections for a fee. For a complete list of MVC-approved Private inspection facilities, visit www.njmvc.gov.

TTLES, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS
 DRIVER CONFERENCES
 VEHICLE INSPECTION
 WRITTEN TESTS/VISION TESTS
 BASIC ROAD TEST
 CDL ROAD TESTS/ WRITTEN TEST
 MOTORCYCLE/MOPED ROAD TESTS
 WALK-IN (RESTORATION/SURCHARGE)

* Specialty Site
 **Appointment-only site
 () Indicates Inspection late evening

ATLANTIC COUNTY									
Cardiff	X			X		X	X		6725 Black Horse Pike, Shore Mall, Egg Harbor Twp, NJ 08234
Mays Landing (W)			X		X	X	X		1477 19th St, Hamilton Industrial Park, Mays Landing, NJ 08033
BERGEN COUNTY									
Lodi (Th)	X		X	X	X	X	X		8 Mill St (off Garibaldi Ave) Lodi, NJ 07644
Oakland	X								350 Ramapo Valley Rd, Suite 24, Oakland, NJ 07436
Paramus** (Tu)			X						20 West Century Rd, Paramus, NJ 07652
Wallington	X								450 Main Ave, Wallington, NJ 07057
Wyckoff	X								430 Greenwood Ave, Wyckoff, NJ 07481
BURLINGTON COUNTY									
Delanco (M)			X						400 Creek Rd, Beverly, NJ 08010

Medford	X								175-25 Rte 79, Sharp's Run Plaza, Medford, NJ 08055
Mount Holly	X			X			X		500-555 High Street, Mount Holly, NJ 08060
Southampton (W)									1875 Rte 38, Southampton, NJ 08088
CAMDEN COUNTY									
Camden	X			X			X		2600 Mount Ephraim Ave, Camden, NJ 08104
Cherry Hill (Tu)	X			X			X		Executive Campus at Cherry Hill, Bldg #1, Rte 70, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
Cherry Hill VIS						X	X		617 Hampton Rd, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
Runnemedede	X								835 East Clements Bridge Rd, Runnemedede Plaza, Runnemedede, NJ 08078
Winslow * (Th)						X			250 Spring Garden Rd, Ancora, NJ 08037
CAPE MAY COUNTY									
Cape May Court House ** (Tu)				X					6 West Shellbay Ave, Cape May, NJ 08210
Rio Grande	X					X	X		1500 Rte 47 South, Rio Grande, NJ 08242
CUMBERLAND COUNTY									
Bridgeton (Th)	X								40 East Broad St, Ste 101, Bridgeton, NJ 08302
Bridgeton VIS ** (Th)						X			83 Cornwell Dr, Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Please check www.njmvc.gov for the most up-to-date facilities information.

TITLES, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS
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CUMBERLAND COUNTY													
Millville (Tu)		X											1406 Wheaton Ave, Millville, NJ 08332
Vineland	X					X							80 Landis Ave, Vineland, NJ 08360
ESSEX COUNTY													
East Orange	X											X	183 South 18th Street, East Orange, NJ 07018
Newark (W)	X											X	228 Frelinghuysen Ave, Newark, NJ 07114
GLOUCESTER COUNTY													
Deptford VIS (W)		X											725 Tanyard Rd, Deptford, NJ 08096
West Deptford	X											X	215 Crown Point Road (I-195 exit 20), West Deptford, NJ 08086
Turnersville	X												5200 Rte 42 North, Ganttown Plaza, Turnersville, NJ 08012

HUDSON COUNTY									
Bayonne	X		X			X	X		Route 440 and 1347 Kennedy Blvd, Family Dollar Plaza, Bayonne, NJ 07002
Jersey City	X								438 Summit Ave, Jersey City, NJ 07307
North Bergen	X		X				X		8901 Park Plaza, 90th and Bergenline Ave, North Bergen, NJ 07407
Secaucus (W)				X					County Ave and Secaucus Rd, Secaucus, NJ 07094
HUNTERDON COUNTY									
Flemington	X								Rte 31, Cinema Plaza, Flemington, NJ 08822
Flemington (Th)				X					181 Routes 31 & 202, Ringoes, NJ 08551
MERCER COUNTY									
Bakers Basin (Tu)	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	3200 Brunswick Pike, Rte 1, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648
Trenton	X		X			X	X		120 South Stockton Street, Trenton, NJ 08666
MIDDLESEX COUNTY									
East Brunswick	X								271 Rte 18, East Brunswick, NJ 08816
Edison	X		X				X		45 Kilmer Rd, Edison, NJ 08817
Kilmer (Th)				X			X	X	33 Kilmer Rd, Edison, NJ 08817

Please check www.njmvc.gov for the most up-to-date facilities information.

TITLES, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS
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MIDDLESEX COUNTY

South Brunswick (T)	X											2236 Rte 31 North, Dayton, NJ 08810
South Plainfield	X					X						698 Oak Tree Ave, South Plainfield, NJ 07080

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Asbury Park */**	X												1010 Comstock St, Asbury Park, NJ 07712
Eatontown (Tu)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	109 Rte 36, Eatontown, NJ 07724
Freehold	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	811 Okerson Rd, Freehold, NJ 07728
Freehold VIS (M)		X											801 Okerson Rd, Freehold, NJ 07728
Hazlet	X												1374 Hiwy 36, Airport Plaza, Hazlet, NJ 07730

MORRIS COUNTY

Morristown	X												186 Speedwell Ave, Morristown, NJ 07960
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Morristown VIS */** (n/a)																			101 Ridgedale Ave, Morristown, NJ 07960
Randolph																			160 Canfield Avenue, Randolph, NJ 07869
Randolph																			1572 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869
OCEAN COUNTY																			
Lakewood																			1195 Rte 70, Leisure Center, Store 9, Lakewood, NJ 08701
Lakewood VIS (W)																			1145 Rte 70, Lakewood, NJ 08701
Manahawkin																			712 East Bay Ave, Manahawkin Plaza, Manahawkin, NJ 08050
Manahawkin VIS (M)																			220 Recovery Rd, Ocean County Resource Ctr, Manahawkin, NJ 08050
Miller Air Park																			Rte 530 and Mule Rd, Berkeley Township, NJ 08757
Toms River																			1861 Hooper Ave, Village Square, Toms River, NJ 08753
PASSAIC COUNTY																			
Wayne (M)																			481 Rte 46 West, Wayne, NJ 07470
Paterson																			125 Broadway, Suite 201, Paterson, NJ 07505
SALEM COUNTY																			
Salem (W)																			185 Woodstown Rd, Salem, NJ 08079

Please check www.njmvc.gov for the most up-to-date facilities information.

TITLES, LICENSES, REGISTRATIONS
 DRIVER CONFERENCES
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 WALK-IN (RESTORATION/SURCHARGE)

* Specialty Site
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 () Indicates inspection late evening

SALEM COUNTY										
Salem VIS **	X			X				X		5 Woodstown Rd, Salem, NJ 08079
SOMERSET COUNTY										
Somerville	X									10 Roosevelt Place, Somerville, NJ 08876
SUSSEX COUNTY										
Newton	X									51 Sparta Ave, Newton, NJ 07860
Newton VIS (Th)										90 Moran St, Newton, NJ 07860
UNION COUNTY										
Elizabeth	X									65 Jefferson Ave, Elizabeth, NJ 07201
Plainfield (Th)										1600 South Second St, Plainfield, NJ 07063
Rahway (M)	X									1140 Woodbridge Rd and East Hazelwood Ave, Rahway, NJ 07065

Springfield	X										34 Center St, Springfield, NJ 07081
Westfield** (Tu)											410 South Ave East, Westfield, NJ 07090
WARREN COUNTY											
Washington	X									X	404 E Washington Ave, Washington, NJ 07882
Washington VIS** (W)											Rte 31 North, Washington, NJ 07882

Please check www.njmvc.gov for the most up-to-date facilities information.

▼ MVC CONTACT INFORMATION

▼ BY PHONE:

General customer information

(888) 486-3339 toll-free in New Jersey
(609) 292-6500 out of state
(609) 292-5120 TTY

Customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Detailed recorded information is available after-hours, seven days a week, including holidays.

License suspensions and restorations

(609) 292-7500

Vehicle inspection information

(888) NJMOTOR (888-656-6867) toll-free in New Jersey (609) 895-6886 out of state

Customer service representatives are available Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. to noon.

▼ BY MAIL:

To return passenger registration renewal applications:

Motor Vehicle Commission
P.O. Box 009
Trenton, NJ 08666-0009

To return commercial registration renewal applications:

Motor Vehicle Commission
P.O. Box 008
Trenton, NJ 08666-0008

To report changes or corrections to registrations and titles:

Motor Vehicle Commission

Database Correction Unit
P.O. Box 141
Trenton, NJ 08666-0141

To pay a surcharge bill:

NJ-AISC
P.O. Box 4850
Trenton, NJ 08650-4850

To return license plates:

Motor Vehicle Commission
P.O. Box 403
Trenton, NJ 08666-0403

For questions relating to suspensions, violations and restorations:

Motor Vehicle Commission
P.O. Box 134
Trenton, NJ 08666-0403

For all other MVC inquiries:

Motor Vehicle Commission
P.O. Box 403
Trenton, NJ 08666-0403

Online

www.njmvc.gov



