

# Young Drivers Guide



## Keeping your licence

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### Keeping it clean

If you have just passed your driving test then remember you are on probation for the first two years. If you clock up 6 or more penalty points during that time you will lose your licence and go back to being a learner driver. You will have to reapply for a provisional licence and take both the theory and the practical test again.



### Drink/drug driving

Unfit through drink or drugs means a person's ability to drive properly is, for the time being, impaired. Drug driving includes any intoxicant other than alcohol.

### Driving with excess alcohol

It's an offence for a person to drive, attempt to drive or be in charge of a motor vehicle on a road or other public place after consuming so much alcohol that the proportion of it in their breath, blood or urine exceeds the prescribed limit.

### Failure to comply with breath test

It's an offence for a person, without reasonable excuse, to fail to co-operate with a breath test.

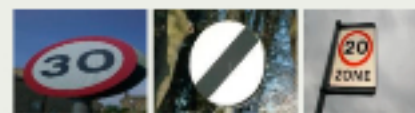
### Vehicle Forfeiture

If you are caught drink or drug driving for the second time your vehicle is likely to be seized and could be forfeited by the court and then sold or destroyed.

### Speed

The speed limit is the legal maximum and does not mean it is safe to drive at that speed irrespective of the conditions. Driving at speeds too fast for the road and traffic conditions is dangerous.

Your stopping distance will be at least double on wet roads and increased still further on icy roads. Therefore it is important to keep a greater gap between you and any vehicle in front.



### Speeding advice

Check your speedometer regularly, especially when leaving high speed roads.

Assume lamp posts mean the limit is 30 mph, until signs say otherwise, but remember it could be 20 mph. 20's plenty when kids are about – and may even be too fast.

Slow down when entering villages.

### Lights

You must not use any lights in a way which would dazzle or cause discomfort to other road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

You must not use front or rear fog lights unless visibility is seriously reduced. You must switch them off when visibility improves to avoid dazzling other road users.

### Tyres

The tread needs to be more than 1.6mm with no lump, bulge, tear, cord or ply exposed.

### Mobile Phones

Research shows that using a mobile phone while driving means you are 4 times more likely to crash.

It is illegal to use a hand held mobile phone whilst driving or while supervising a learner driver.

You can also be prosecuted for using a hands free phone or similar device if you are distracted and not in proper control of the vehicle .

### Seatbelts

Every person travelling in the front or rear seat of any motor vehicle must wear an appropriate restraint. It is estimated that 1 in 3 people who are killed in vehicles are not wearing seatbelts, and half of them could have been saved had they worn them.

### Exhaust

Every exhaust system and silencer shall be maintained in good and efficient working order and shall not, after the date of manufacture, be altered so as to increase the noise made by escape of exhaust gases.

### Tinted windows

There should be 75% light through the windscreen and 70% through the driver and front passenger side window.

### Anti-social behaviour warnings and vehicle seizure

If a police officer has reasonable grounds for believing that a vehicle is being used carelessly or driven off road AND is likely to cause, alarm, distress or annoyance to members of the public, the officer may issue a warning to the driver and vehicle.

If the driver is warned or the vehicle is used in a similar manner within 12 months the vehicle can then be seized.

### Seizure of vehicle

Where a police officer has reasonable grounds for believing that a vehicle is being driven on a road without valid insurance or not in compliance with the conditions of a driving licence, the vehicle can be seized.

If a vehicle is not claimed within 14 days it will be sold or scrapped.

### Number plates

Road Vehicles Registrations 2001 states that characters must not be formed in any of the following ways:

\* Italic script

\* A font in which the curvature or alignment of the line of the stroke is substantially different from the prescribed font

^ Using multiple strokes

\* Using a broken stroke

^ In such a way as to make a character appear like a different character

### Counting the Points

Speeding – 3-6

Traffic light offences - 3

Careless and inconsiderate driving – 3-9

No insurance – 6-8

Failing to stop/report - 5-10

Failing to identify driver of a vehicle - 6

Driving without a licence – 3-6

Mobile phone offences - 3



Useful websites:-

Think Road Safety

[www.think.direct.gov.uk](http://www.think.direct.gov.uk)

Road Safety Scotland

[www.road-safety.org.uk](http://www.road-safety.org.uk)

Pass Plus Scheme

[www.gov.uk/pass-plus](http://www.gov.uk/pass-plus)

[www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)