

Quick Start Guide: Residential Driving

The Ohio State University Driver Rehabilitation Program

QR codes take you to a video about that skill.



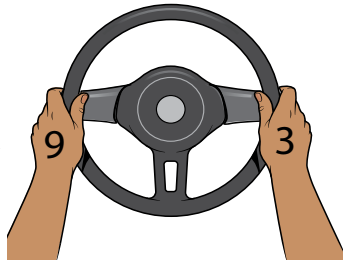
Driving straight

Residential areas are places that have mostly homes. In residential areas, always drive on the right side of the road. Only move to the middle of the road when passing a parked car, a person walking or biking, or other hazards on the right side of the road.



Wheel at 9 and 3

Hold the wheel with hands at 9 and 3 o'clock to balance the wheel.



Visual markers

Use visual markers to line up the car in the lane. From the drivers seat, line up the middle of the dashboard with the curb or right edge of the lane.



Making turns

- **Stay in the lane** until turning to avoid hitting the curb or crossing into the opposite lane.
- **Turn your head** to look down the road at where you want the car to end up.
- **Turning from a stopped position:** Start moving forward and then turn the wheel. This helps to judge how much you need to turn the wheel as you move.
- **Making a moving turn:** Brake before the turn, coast through the turn, and then increase your speed (accelerate) out of the turn.
 - Moving turns should be made at about 10 to 12 mph. If you are hitting a curb or turning too wide, try slowing the car down more.

Look before your turn

Before making a turn, scan the intersection and sidewalks for:



- Stop signs
- Traffic lights
- People walking or biking
- Other cars



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What is right of way?



“Right of way” means who gets to go first through an intersection.

1. People walking or biking always have the right of way.
2. Generally, the car that arrives first at an intersection has the right of way (see below for specific types of intersections).
3. If 2 cars arrive at the same time, the car to your right has the right of way.
4. Emergency vehicles always have the right of way. Pull to the right side of the road and wait for them to pass.
5. Do not assume you have the right of way! Be ready to slow down or stop if another driver is not giving you the right of way.

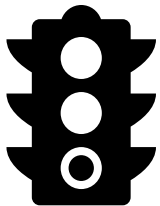
Understand right of way at types of intersections



Stop Signs



- As you approach the intersection, count how many stop signs there are and look for other cars. To decide who should have the right of way as you are making your stop:
 - 4-way stop: The person who gets there first has the right of way.
 - 1-way or 2-way stop: Check for cross traffic that does not stop, which would have the right of way. After that, follow the rules above.
- Check that you have the right of way before driving through the intersection.



Traffic Lights

- Be prepared for stale green lights (lights that have been green for a while and might change to yellow).
- Think about the point of no return (when there is not room to make a safe stop if the light changed to yellow). If the light changes to yellow, plan to stop unless you are past the point of no return.
- If the light is green, you have the right of way. Before you start to move, check left and right to look for people walking or cars that are not slowing down.

Bonus Tip! Commentary Driving: Focus on Hazards



With the new driver riding in the front passenger seat, drive a route and talk about possible hazards. Hazards are things you might need to slow down for while driving. Example are bushes or fences blocking your view, people walking, or curves you cannot see around (blind curves).

This handout is a quick guide for use with The Teen Driving Plan from Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. For the full resource, visit: teendriversource.research.chop.edu

