

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CHECKLIST

Foresight and a safety-conscious attitude will get you where you need to be.

When you're behind the wheel of a vehicle, defensive driving is your full-time job. Your ability to anticipate road conditions and look out for other drivers determines your safety and theirs. Practicing defensive driving daily will get you where you need to go. It will give you confidence to drive through the worst of weather or the wisdom not to. Take the challenge to develop good driving habits. Anyone can drive perfectly for 10 feet, 100 feet, or even 1 mile. It's up to you to go the distance.

Preventing accidents can be easy

Many accidents can be prevented through defensive driving. Here are a few common errors:

1. Not adjusting drive time and speed for bad weather.
2. Tailgating the vehicle ahead of you.
3. Being in a rush and speeding.
4. Allowing yourself to get distracted.
5. Driving with fatigue.

Anticipating potential driving hazards and how to avoid them is the key to driving safely. You can't trust other drivers to do it right. Foresight will get you and your passengers to your destination.

Checklist for Drivers

1. Do you adjust your driving time and habits for bad weather (rain, snow, ice)?
2. Do you respect traffic laws? Are you courteous to other drivers?
3. Are you a safe distance from the vehicle ahead of you? (One vehicle length for each 10 mph is appropriate.)
4. Do you gradually apply your brakes as soon as you see a potential accident ahead?
5. Are distracted by the passengers in your vehicle?
6. Are you aware of your vehicle's limitations?
7. Do you inspect your vehicle before trips?

Thought Provokers

1. What habits do you need to break or make to arrive safely?
2. If you've been in an accident before, what caused it?
3. Are there any specific points or problems you wish to discuss?