



general road rules

SAFELY SHARING OUR ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Road trains are big, heavy and can be over 50 metres long. They will always take longer to stop so don't cut in front of them when they are braking. Be patient and don't compromise on safety.

Speed limits

Speed limit signs tell you the maximum speed you are allowed to drive in good conditions. Where there is no posted speed limit sign, default speed limits apply.

Default speed limits

In the NT, there are different default speed limits depending on where you are driving.

In **built-up areas** a default speed limit of 60 km/h applies, unless the town has gazetted a lower default speed limit. Many towns and communities across the NT have chosen to gazette a default speed limit of 50 km/h or less.

Where a 50 km/h (or other speed limit) default speed limit applies to a built-up area, a sign is placed on each road approaching that locality.

The default speed limit **outside built-up areas** is 110 km/h; however, other speed limits apply in some areas.

Always look for and obey speed limit signs.

Maximum speed limit

You must not drive at a speed that exceeds the maximum speed shown on a speed limit sign for the section of road on which you are travelling. If in doubt, slow down.

No matter what the sign posted speed limit, you must not drive at a speed that is careless, reckless or that could endanger other people.

Drive at a speed to suit:

- the traffic conditions
- the type and condition of the road
- the weather conditions
- the capabilities of your vehicle
- your own driving ability.

The maximum speed limit of 130 km/h applies on some sections of the Barkly, Stuart, Victoria and Arnhem highways as indicated.

Drivers with speed restrictions

Learner licence holders are restricted to a maximum speed of 80 km/h.

Provisional licence holders are restricted to a maximum speed of 100 km/h.

Drivers of **heavy vehicles**, such as buses of more than five tonnes GVM or other heavy vehicles of more than 12 tonnes GVM, must not exceed 100 km/h.

Vehicles travelling under permit conditions can also have a maximum speed limit imposed.

Speed limit signs

There are two types of speed limit signs: regulatory and advisory speed signs.

Regulatory speed limit signs have a white background with the speed limit shown inside a red circle. This is the maximum speed that you are allowed to do on the section of road. It is illegal to drive faster than the posted speed limit.



Advisory speed signs have a yellow background. These signs show the recommended maximum speed in good driving conditions for the average car.

Advisory speed signs are often placed before curves, bends and crests.

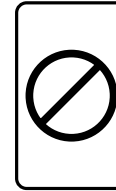


Areas without speed signs

Some roads do not have speed signs, such as unsealed roads and roads in remote areas. On these roads, an end speed limit or speed de-restriction sign indicates you are entering an area without speed signs. In these areas you should drive to the conditions but not exceed the default speed limit that would apply for the area or type of road.



End speed limit sign 60



Speed de-restricted sign

Local traffic areas

A local traffic area is an area of local streets that has a speed limit of 40 km/h. The lower speed limit provides greater safety for all road users and lower noise levels for people living in the area. Look out for cyclists, pedestrians and children.



Local traffic zone sign 40

Shared traffic zone

A shared traffic zone is usually a street where pedestrians, cyclists and other vehicles can share the road safely.

These zones often have a speed limit of 10 km/h. Be sure to keep to the speed limit for the safety of all road users.

When driving in a shared traffic zone you must give way to all pedestrians.



Shared zone sign 10

Work site

Where a road work speed limit sign is displayed, the speed limit is enforceable and must be obeyed.

When approaching road works, pay attention to all signs and obey reduced speed signs.

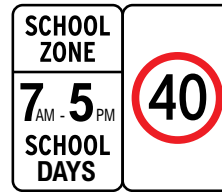


Road Work sign 40

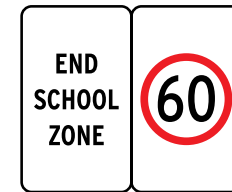
School zone

A school zone is the area around a school with a maximum speed limit of 40 km/h. Between the school zone and end school zone signs you must obey the school zone speed limit.

The school zone limit only applies on gazetted school days and during the times shown on the sign.



School zone sign 40



End school zone sign 60

School buses

Be particularly careful when passing stationary buses from 7am to 9.30am and 2.30pm to 5pm. This is when children are travelling to and from school and there is likely to be children around the bus.

School bus lights

Buses use signs and flashing orange lights to warn you that they are picking up or setting down school children. The lights begin to flash when the bus stops and the doors are opened. They keep flashing for about 30 seconds after the doors close and continue even after the bus moves off.

It is recommended that you do not drive faster than 40 km/h when flashing lights are displaying because there could be children crossing or about to cross the road.

If the bus displays a speed limit sign between the flashing lights, you must not drive past the bus in the same direction at more than the speed shown on the sign while the lights are flashing. Once you have passed the bus, the usual speed limit for that section of road applies.

Speed cameras

Fixed speed cameras are an effective and efficient means of enforcement and a deterrent to speeding on specific high-risk lengths of road.

Safety cameras

Safety cameras use digital technology and are often capable of detecting both speeding and red-light offences.

Speed and red-light cameras are active across the Northern Territory. These cameras are in addition to mobile speed camera vans that operate across the Northern Territory.

Alcohol limits

The laws in the NT limit the amount of alcohol you can consume if you are driving a vehicle.

Legal limits

Your blood/breath alcohol concentration (BAC/BrAC) must be under the limit shown in the table below. Heavy penalties apply for driving with a BAC/BrAC on or over the limit. For more information, please see 'Alcohol, drugs, medications and driving' in section 3 of this handbook.

BAC/BrAC limits

People with a zero BAC/BrAC requirement **must not** have any alcohol in their blood at the time they try to start the engine, set the vehicle in motion or drive the vehicle.

As a learner and provisional driver, you **must not** drive after you have consumed any alcoholic drinks or food containing alcohol.

The following table shows the BAC/BrAC limits for all licence classes. You must stay below the limit for your class of licence.

Licence classification	Zero	Under 0.05
Learner licence	●	
Full licence (car) supervising a learner driver		●
Approved driving instructors who are teaching	●	
Provisional licence	●	
Full licence (car or rider) on Z condition	●	
Full licence (car or rider)		●
Public passenger vehicle drivers (bus, taxi)	●	
Coach or heavy vehicle (over 15 tonnes GVM or GCM) drivers	●	
Dangerous goods vehicle driver	●	
Fully licensed drivers from interstate and overseas		●

Drugs: legal and illegal

It is illegal to drive, attempt to drive or instruct a learner while affected by drugs.

Drug testing

Police can arrest you if they suspect you are driving while impaired by drugs. You will be subject to a roadside drug saliva test and you can be taken to a hospital to give samples of blood and urine for drug testing.

In the event of a crash where someone is admitted to hospital, blood samples are taken, which can be tested for drugs.

Medicines and over-the-counter drugs

Many prescription and some over-the-counter medicines can affect your ability to drive and could make you unfit to drive. As a driver, they can affect your concentration, mood, coordination and reactions.

Do not drive while taking medicines with a warning label that tells you not to drive, and do not drive if any medication has an effect on your ability to control a vehicle.

Some medicines that can affect driving include:

- pain killers
- medicines for blood pressure, nausea, allergies, inflammations and fungal infections
- tranquillisers, sedatives and sleeping pills
- diet pills
- cold and flu medicines.

Seatbelts and child restraints

Everyone in a vehicle—the driver and all passengers—must wear a correctly fitted and adjusted seatbelt. A passenger must move to a seat with a seatbelt rather than sit in one without a seatbelt.

Child restraints

All children under seven years of age must be secured in an approved child restraint or booster seat when travelling in a vehicle. The type of the restraint depends on the age of the child:

- **Babies under six months** of age must be restrained in a rear-facing restraint (baby capsule).
- **Children between six months and under four years** of age must be restrained in a rear-facing or forward-facing restraint.
- **Children from four years to under seven years** of age must be restrained in a forward-facing restraint or booster seat.
- **Children seven years** of age and over must be restrained in an adult seatbelt or a booster seat.

There are also laws about where children can sit in the vehicle:

- **Children under four years** of age must not be in the front row of a vehicle with two or more rows of seats.
- **Children from four to under seven years** of age can only sit in the front row of a vehicle with two or more rows when all other seats are occupied by children of a lesser age in an approved child restraint.

The ages specified above are a guide for the safety of your child. If your child is too small for a restraint specified for their age, they should be kept in their current restraint for as long as necessary.

If your child is too large for a restraint specified for their age, they should move to the next level of restraint.

Approved child restraints must be properly fastened, adjusted and anchored. All child restraints should be fitted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Look in your car manual for the location of anchorage points for child restraints.

What type of child restraint to use?

Child restraints are available in a range of styles to suit children of different sizes.

Restraints are available for children up to 32 kg and/or 10 years old. All child restraints should be fitted according to the manufacturer's instructions. When buying a child restraint, look for the sticker certifying the child restraint meets Australian Standard AS1754.



Never put the seatbelt around both yourself and a child on your lap. The child could be easily crushed, even during heavy braking.

Seatbelts and child restraints in commercial passenger vehicles (taxi, minibuses)

Drivers of commercial passenger vehicles can be fined and given demerit points for every unrestrained passenger they carry under 16 years of age. Unrestrained passengers aged 16 years and over travelling in a taxi will also receive a fine.

Taxi drivers and drivers carrying passengers for hire or reward (commercial vehicle operators) do not have to provide child restraints. However, they must ensure that:

- passengers occupy individual seating positions and are appropriately restrained
- an approved child restraint is used if available
- passengers do not occupy the same seating position as another passenger
- no passenger under four years of age sits in the front seat.

A child between four years and seven years of age should only sit in the front row if all the other seats in the row or rows behind the front row are occupied by passengers who are also under seven years old.

All taxis and commercial passenger vehicles should have an anchorage point that can be used to fit a child restraint; however, not all taxis will have a child restraint, so you may need to provide your own.

Exemptions

A driver reversing a vehicle does not have to wear a seatbelt. A seatbelt must be used as soon as the vehicle is put in forward gear.

Police, fire and emergency services

When you hear a siren or see the flashing blue or red lights of an emergency vehicle (such as a police, fire or ambulance vehicle) you must give way. This means get out of the way so the emergency vehicle has a clear passage through traffic.

Generally, if you hear a siren or see the flashing lights, pull over to the left until the emergency vehicle passes.

If you are pursued by a police vehicle, you must immediately pull over and stop in the nearest safe location.

Police directions

Prepare to be stopped if you see:

- the police
- a police vehicle
- red/blue flashing lights
- the police using signs.

Police often give hand signal directions at intersections and attend many incidents on the road. You must always obey any direction you are given from a police officer.

Funeral processions or authorised processions

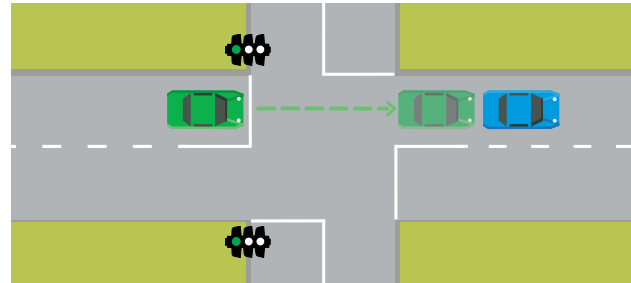
When driving you must not negligently or wilfully interfere with, or interrupt, the free passage along the road of any funeral cortege or authorised procession.

You must not interfere with any vehicle or person apparently forming part of the funeral or procession.

Intersections, give way and turning

It is very important that you approach an intersection at a speed that lets you give way to any vehicles in or approaching the intersection.

Do not get caught in the middle of the intersection when the lights change. You must stay on the approach side of the intersection until you see a space in your lane on the other side of the intersection that is big enough for your vehicle.



Keep intersections clear at all times

Priority for buses

In speed zones of 70 km/h and under, a bus that displays a **Give Way** sign and signals that it is going to pull out from its stopping place, has priority over other traffic travelling in the left lane or left line of traffic.

Giving way to a bus

When driving or riding on a length of road in the left lane or the left line of traffic, you must give way to a bus:

- in speed zones of 70 km/h or below
- if the bus displays a 'give way to buses' sign
- if the indicator lights of the bus are operating
- if the bus is about to enter or proceed in the lane or line of traffic.

The driver of the bus is allowed to enter the lane or line of traffic only if it is safe to do so.



Give way rules where there are no signs

'Give way to the right' rule

The give way to the right rule applies when you are approaching an uncontrolled intersection and there is traffic approaching the intersection from your right.

Some crossroads have no traffic lights or signs. Generally, if you are turning across another vehicle's path, you must give way (the 'give way to the right' rule).

When turning at an intersection, you (car 'A' diagrams on next page) must give way to:

- oncoming vehicles going straight ahead (diagram 1)
- oncoming vehicles turning left (diagram 2)
- any vehicle approaching on your right (diagram 3).

If you and an oncoming vehicle are turning right at an intersection, both cars should pass in front of each other (diagram 4).

If other drivers do not give way to you, do not force them or yourself into a dangerous situation.

You must also give way to any pedestrians at or near the intersection on the road you are entering.

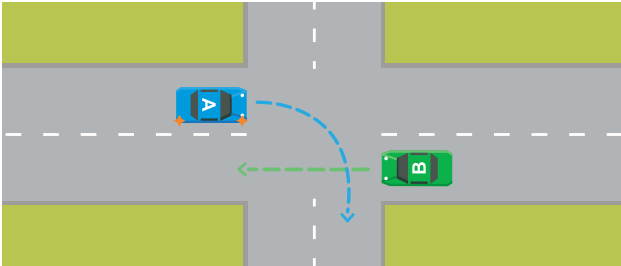


Diagram 1. Car A must give way to car B

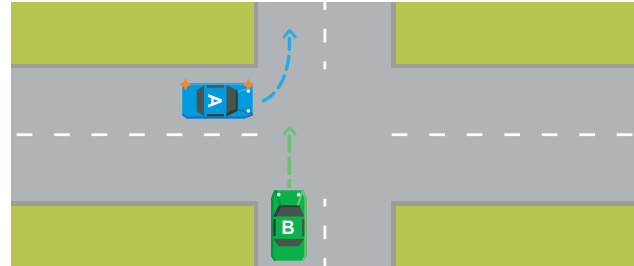


Diagram 3. Car A must give way to car B

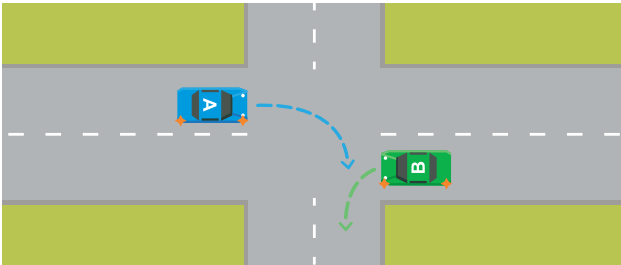


Diagram 2. Car A must give way to car B

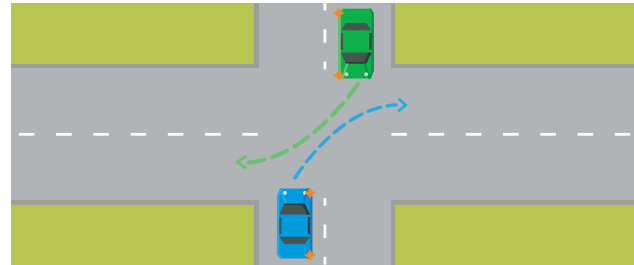


Diagram 4. Turning vehicles pass in front of each other

Stop signs and stop lines

Stop signs and **stop lines** (continuous line that crosses the road at the stop sign) are used at intersections to control traffic.

When you come to a stop sign, you must stop completely before reaching the line and as close as possible to the stop (continuous) line. Where there is no stop line, stop before reaching, and as close as possible to, the intersection.

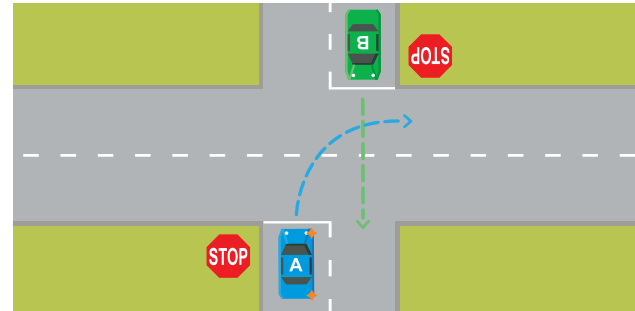


Stop sign

A **stop sign** or a **stop line** means you must give way to all vehicles travelling in, entering or approaching the intersection, whether vehicles are turning left or right, or going straight ahead.

You must give way to any pedestrians crossing the road into which you are turning.

Giving way at a **stop sign** means the driver must remain stopped until it is safe to proceed.



Car A must give way to car B

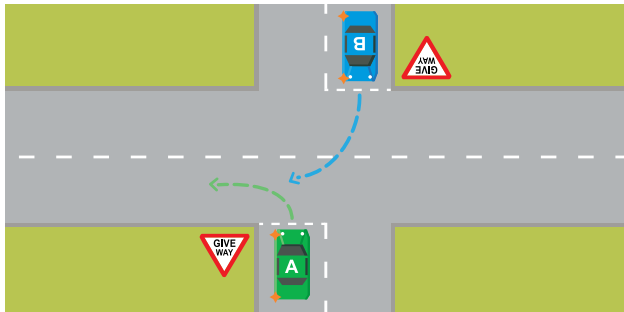
Give way signs and give way lines

Give way signs and **give way lines** (broken line) are used at intersections to control traffic. When you come to a **give way** sign, you must slow down and prepare to stop if necessary.

A **give way sign** or **line** means you must give way to all vehicles travelling in, entering or approaching the intersection, whether they are turning left or right, or going straight ahead. You must give way to any pedestrians crossing the road into which you are turning.

Giving way at a **give way sign** means the driver must slow down and, if necessary, stop to avoid a collision.

Where a **stop** or **give way sign** has been removed, the line marked across the road has the same meaning as the sign.



Car B must give way to car A



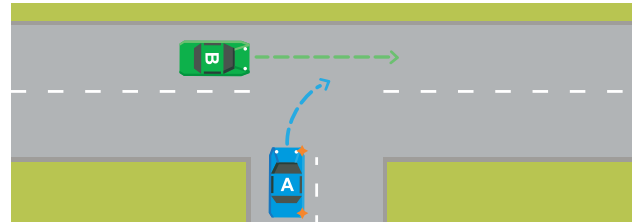
Give way sign

T-intersections

At T-intersections, the vehicle travelling on the road that ends (the terminating road) must give way to any pedestrians crossing or vehicles travelling on the road that continues, unless otherwise signposted.

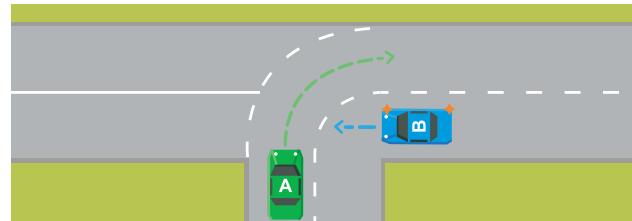


T-intersection sign



Car A must give way to car B

This diagram (below) shows a T-intersection where the continuing road (which is marked with broken white lines) goes around a corner. Car B must signal to leave the continuing road and enter the terminating road.

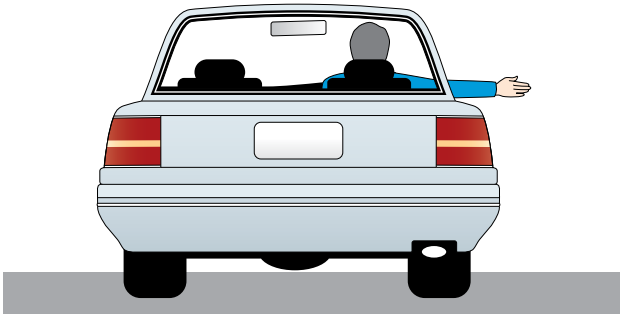


Car B must give way to car A

Signalling (indicating)

Signalling is communicating with other road users using your vehicle's indicators (or 'blinkers'). You should signal early enough to allow other road users to see your signal and act on it if required.

You must signal to let others know what you plan to do. Give plenty of warning by signalling before you turn left or right or change lanes.

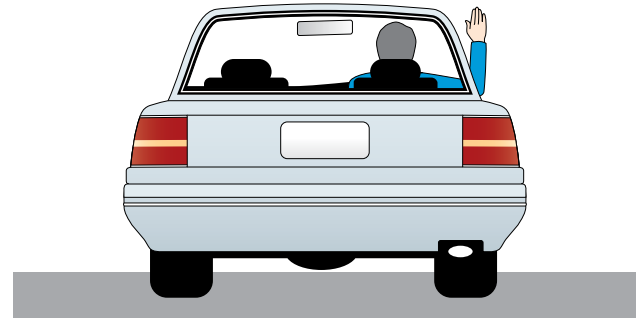


You are turning right.

Giving a signal does not mean that other road users must give way to you or that you can change direction without taking care and giving way.

Make sure your indicator is turned off after each turn or lane change.

If your indicators are not working, not clearly visible or your vehicle does not have indicator lights, you must give a hand signal when turning right or stopping.



You are stopping or slowing down.

Turning

Plan your turns early so that you are in the correct part of the road and have enough time to signal where you want to turn.

Left turns

You must make a left turn from the left side of the road.

When turning left:

- signal left
- move close to the left side of the road
- keep to the left side of the road you are entering
- use a slip lane where one is provided.

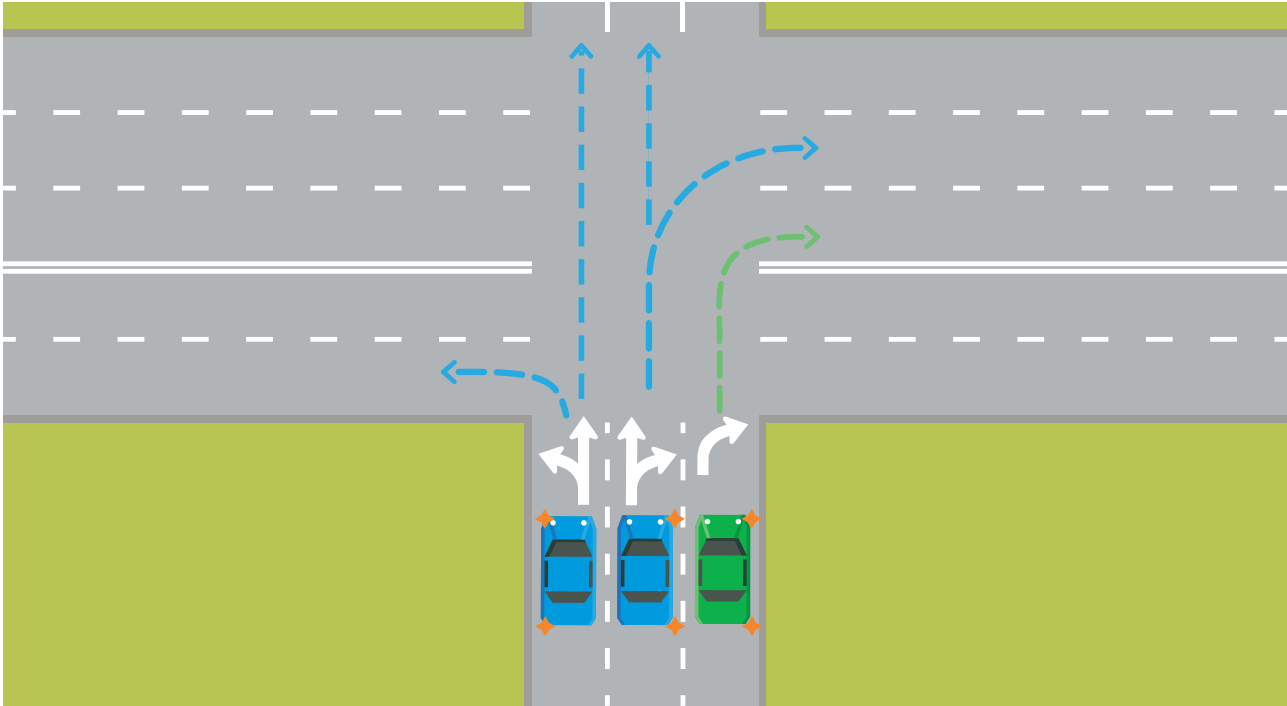
When driving on a multi-lane road, you must turn left from the left lane or from a lane with a pavement arrow pointing left.

Remember: When turning left or right you must give way to any pedestrians crossing the road into which you are turning.

Right turns

When turning right:

- signal right
- move as close to the centre line as possible
- when turning on a multi-lane road, turn right from the right lane or a lane with an arrow pointing right. Turn right only when it is safe
- in marked lanes, you must stay in the same lane as you go from one road to another
- you must give way to pedestrians crossing the road into which you are turning.

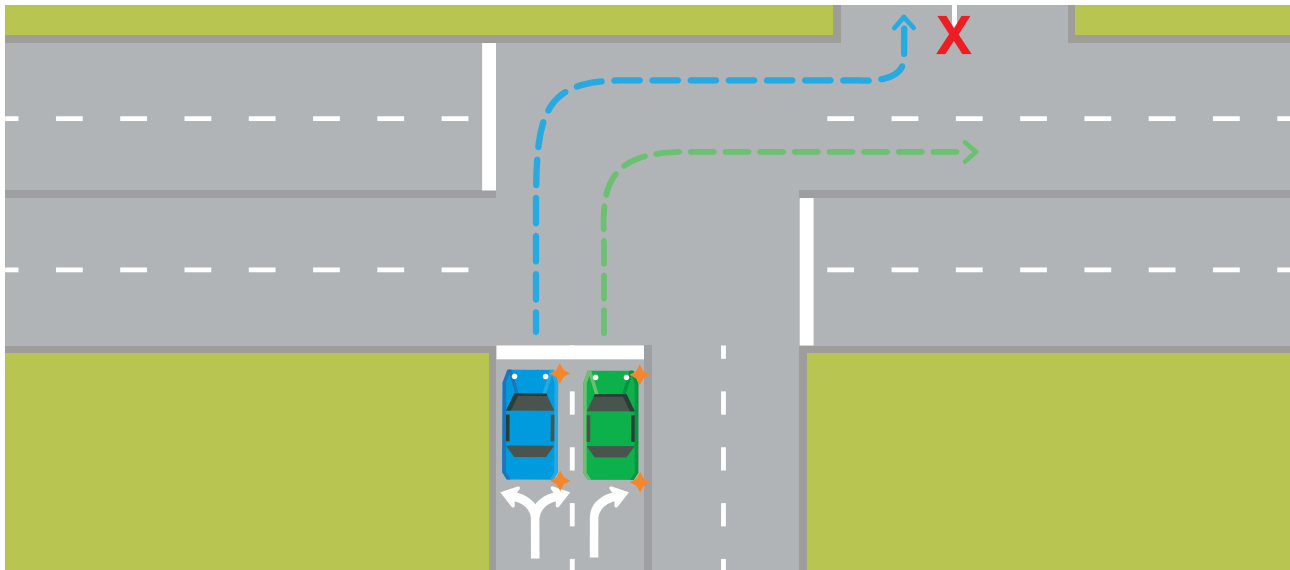


1. Left car can turn left into left lane or continue straight ahead.
2. Middle car can continue straight ahead or turn right in to middle lane.
3. Right car can only turn in to right lane.

Plan ahead

You need to think ahead to stay in the same lane as you drive from one road to another. The diagram below shows a situation that calls for planning ahead.

Car A needs to turn left into the road marked X. It is best to make the first right turn from the left lane to make it easy for the next turn left into road X.



Car A and car B turning right with car A turning left after the first right turn

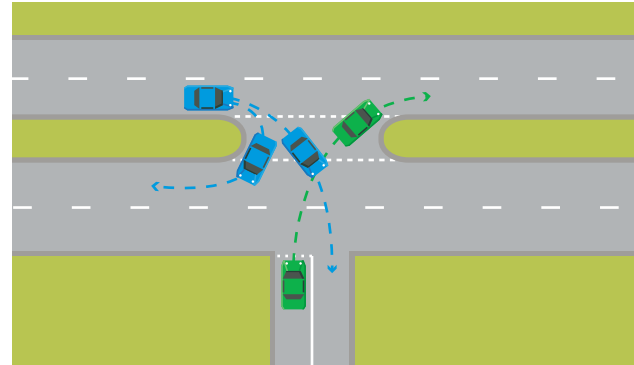
Follow the instruction of any road markings that show how the turn must be made. If there are no road markings, you must make a right turn by passing as near as possible to the right of the centre of the intersection.

Median strips

When making a right turn through a divided road with a median strip, you must:

- wait for a suitable gap in the oncoming traffic
- drive as far as you can into the central dividing part of the road and stop until it is safe to continue
- make sure you obey all **give way** or **stop** signs or traffic lights.

Before moving from a stopped position you must signal for at least five seconds, checking mirrors and blind spots.



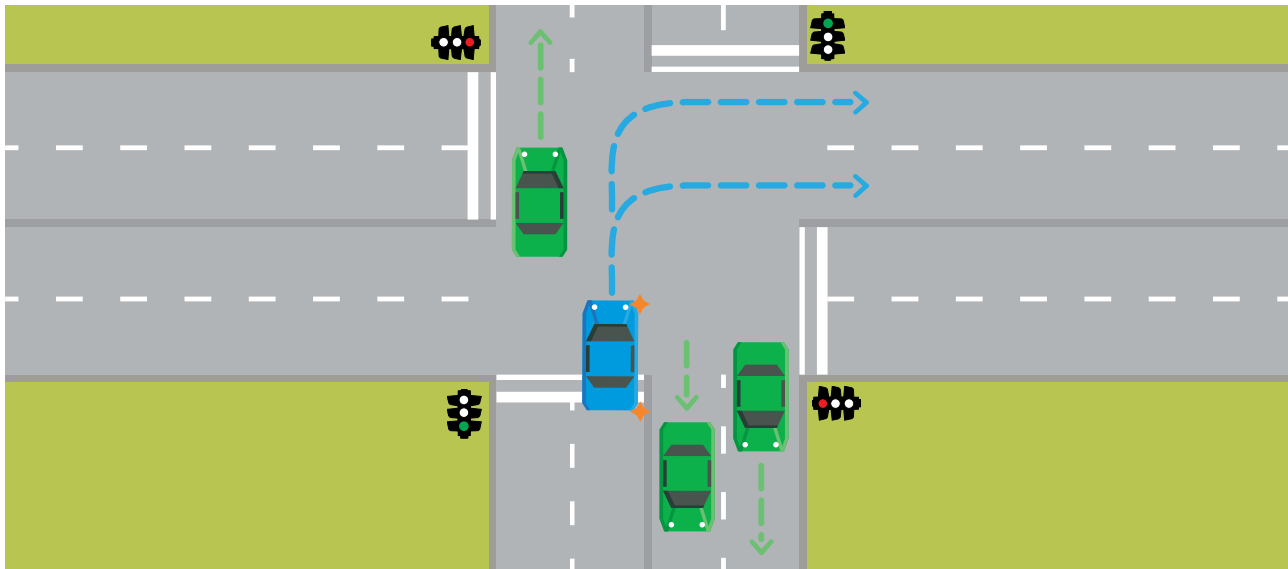
In this diagram the green car gives way as the blue cars on the main road have right of way. The blue cars must still give way to any vehicles approaching from their left along the main road before completing their U-Turn or right hand turn

Traffic lights

When turning right at traffic lights:

- enter the intersection as shown in the diagram below, unless a sign indicates otherwise or there is a red right turn arrow displayed
- wait until oncoming traffic clears or breaks and then turn safely.

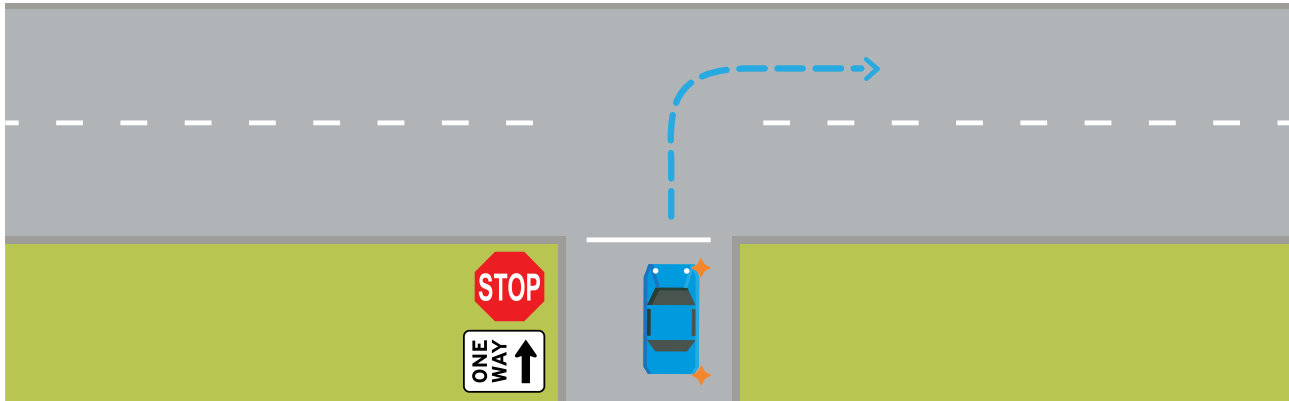
If the lights change to yellow or red while you are in the middle of the intersection, you are allowed continue to turn right. You must turn as soon as it is safe to do so. While you are waiting to turn, be sure your front wheels and car are straight and not blocking the oncoming traffic.



Blue car enters the intersection to turn right

One-way streets

When turning right **into** a one-way street, you must turn as close as possible to the right side of the road you are entering. When turning right **from** a one-way street, you must turn from as close as possible to the right side of the road.



Turning from a one-way street

U-turns

Take extra care when making U-turns because they can be dangerous.

U-turns cannot be made:

- where there is a 'no U-turn' sign
- across any single unbroken (continuous) line or double centre lines, whether or not one line is broken
- at traffic lights, unless you see a 'U-turn permitted' sign at the intersection.

You must start your U-turn from the lane nearest to the centre of the road or, if there are no lane markings, the left of the centre of the road.

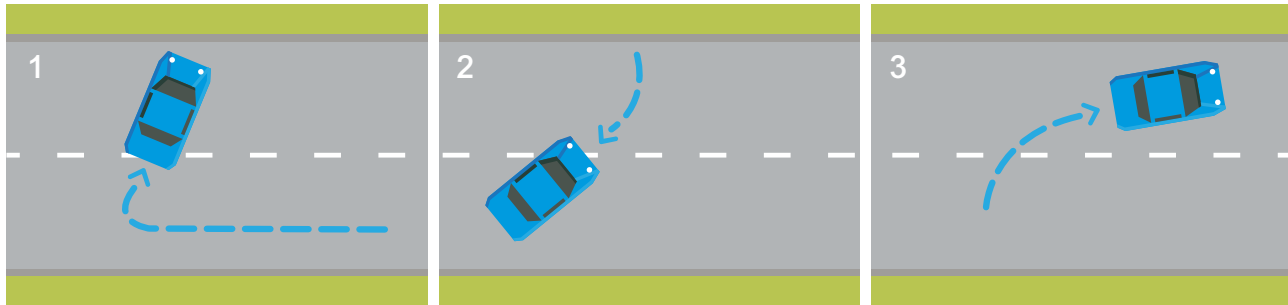
Before starting the U-turn you must make sure it is safe: check mirrors and blind spots and that you have a clear view of any approaching traffic.

You must not start your U-turn unless you can make the turn without obstructing traffic.

Give way to all vehicles and pedestrians and signal before you start to turn.

Three-point turn

Three-point turns are used when a road is not wide enough to do a U-turn.



Because it takes longer to do a three-point turn, in heavy traffic or on busy roads it is often safer to turn around by driving around the block instead.

Before starting a three-point or U-turn, signal, check mirrors and blind spots.

After completing the turn, signal and check mirrors and blind spots, before re-joining the traffic.

Roundabouts

Many intersections have a central roundabout. Roundabouts manage the traffic flow in roads with either a single lane or multiple lanes.

Signs identifying roundabouts

These are the signs that are associated with roundabouts.



There is a roundabout ahead



Give way to vehicles on the roundabout

Do not drive on the central island of a roundabout unless the size of your vehicle means that you cannot avoid the wheels crossing the central kerb.

Making turns and giving way at roundabouts

Please refer to the roundabout diagram on the following page.

Approaching a roundabout: vehicles entering a roundabout must give way to any vehicle already in the roundabout.

Giving way at a roundabout: means the driver must slow down and, if necessary, stop to avoid a collision.

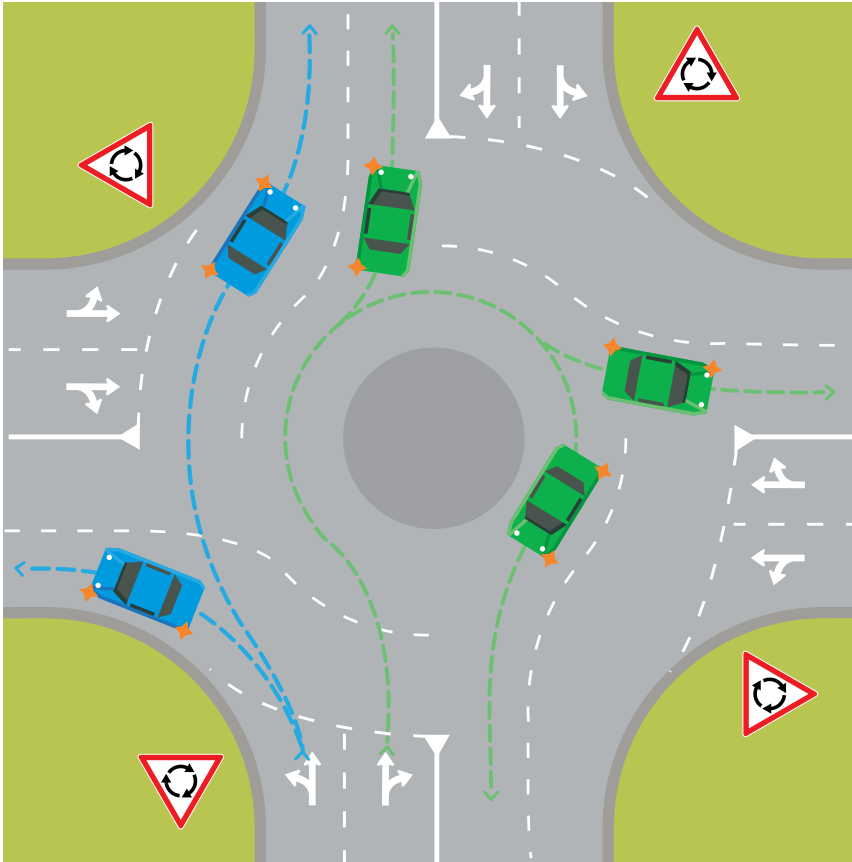
Turning left: you must approach the roundabout in the left lane, signal left, stay in the left lane and exit into the left lane.

Going straight ahead: do not signal when approaching the roundabout. You can approach the roundabout from either left or right lanes (unless there are road markings with other instructions), drive in the same lane through the roundabout and exit in the same lane.

Turning right: you must approach in the right lane, signal right, stay in the right lane and exit into the right lane.

Making a U-turn: when you use the roundabout to make a U-turn you must approach in the right lane, signal right, stay in the right lane and exit into the right lane.

Exiting a roundabout: you must signal left when leaving the roundabout.



Cars entering and exiting a four-lane roundabout

Roundabouts and cyclists

Cyclists are allowed to turn right from the left-hand lane. When passing each exit, the rider must give way to any vehicle leaving the roundabout from that exit.

The rules for slowing down, giving way and signalling when approaching and exiting at roundabouts are the same for single lane and multi-lane roundabouts.

Traffic lights

You can proceed through the intersection or turn, if it is safe to do so, unless:

- a sign or signal such as **no right turn** sign or **no entry** prohibits that movement
- the intersection or the road beyond the intersection is blocked.

If turning right, enter past the stop line and proceed as far as possible without impacting on oncoming vehicles. Wait within the intersection until it is safe to complete the turn.

You must give way to:

- other vehicles and pedestrians in the intersection, including turning traffic
- pedestrians if you are turning to the right or left
- vehicles from the opposite direction, if you are turning right.

Flashing yellow circle or arrow

You can proceed with caution, obeying the 'give way to the right' rule or the T intersection rule, whichever is appropriate.



Red means stop.

Wait behind the stop line.

Do not go through the intersection.



Yellow (amber) means stop.

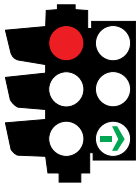
You can only enter the intersection if you are so close that sudden braking might cause a crash.



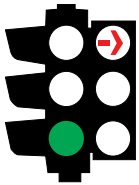
Green means proceed through the intersection carefully.

Turning traffic lights

Some traffic lights have arrows to control traffic turning right or left. If you are in a turning lane, the arrows will tell you when you can go or stop in the same way as a standard traffic light does.



Green arrow means you can only turn in that direction—you must not go straight ahead.



Red arrow means you must wait behind the stop line until the arrow turns green, even if there is no traffic on the road.



Yellow (amber) means stop. You can enter the intersection only if you are so close that sudden braking might cause a crash.

Signs at traffic lights

No right or left turn

Standard or illuminated signs show when either a right or left turn is prohibited. There are some areas that have allowances for certain times of the day when you can and cannot turn.

Where a time period (e.g. 7am to 10am) is displayed on or near the sign, it shows when the sign applies. If there is no time period, the sign applies at all times.



No left turn



No right turn



Illuminated no left turn



Illuminated no right turn

Illuminated signs are regulatory signs that apply when the sign is illuminated and are used during peak traffic periods.

Left turn permitted on red light

You can turn left on a red light after stopping where a **'left turn on red permitted after stopping'** sign is displayed. When turning left you must give way to all traffic approaching from the right.



Left turn on red light is only allowed at intersections where the sign has been placed.

U-turns

You must not make a U-turn at an intersection with traffic lights unless there is a **'U-turn permitted'** sign.



No U-turn



Illuminated no U-turn

Illuminated signs are regulatory signs that apply when the sign is illuminated and are used during peak traffic periods.



U-turn allowed

When making a U-turn you must give way to all other traffic and pedestrians and not unreasonably obstruct traffic approaching from the front or behind.

Early warning signals – ‘Wig Wags’

A ‘Wig Wag’ is an early warning sign with flashing lights to prepare drivers to stop when approaching an intersection.

Wig Wag signs are located before an intersection on either side of the road to warn drivers that the traffic lights ahead will change from green to yellow or red.

It is important to slow down whenever you see the Wig Wags flashing, even if the traffic lights ahead are green.



Wig Wag

Red-light cameras

Red-light cameras are used to photograph vehicles that go through a red light. A penalty notice (fine and demerit points) is then sent to the owner of the vehicle, who has the option to:

- pay the fine
- advise NT Police, in the form of a statutory declaration, of the name and address of the person driving the vehicle at the time of the offence
- advise NT Police that they want to have the case heard by a court.

If you are crossing the intersection as the light changes to yellow and it is not safe to stop, do not panic. Continue driving through the intersection. The camera only takes a photograph if you cross the stop line after the light has turned red. Traffic already in the intersection or entering on a yellow light will not activate the red-light camera.

Safety cameras

Safety cameras use digital technology that is capable of detecting both red-light and speeding offences.

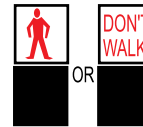
Pedestrian signals

When making a turn at an intersection, you must give way to pedestrians on the road into which you are turning.

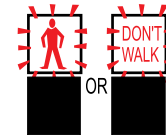
Where the traffic at the intersection is controlled by traffic lights, there could be signals for pedestrians that show them when to cross. Pedestrians must follow these signals.

A pedestrian must press the button to activate the lights and must cross only when the green pedestrian light shows.

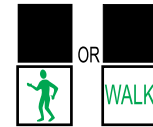
Pedestrians must not cross when the red pedestrian light shows and must not start to cross when the red pedestrian light starts flashing.



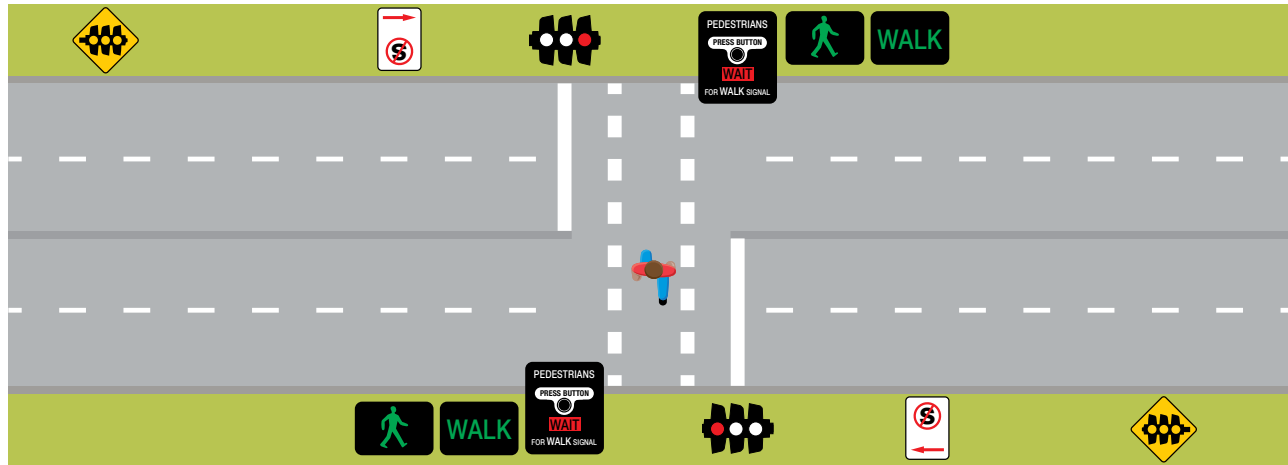
Pedestrians must not start to cross.



Pedestrians must not start to cross but can finish crossing.



Pedestrians can start to cross.



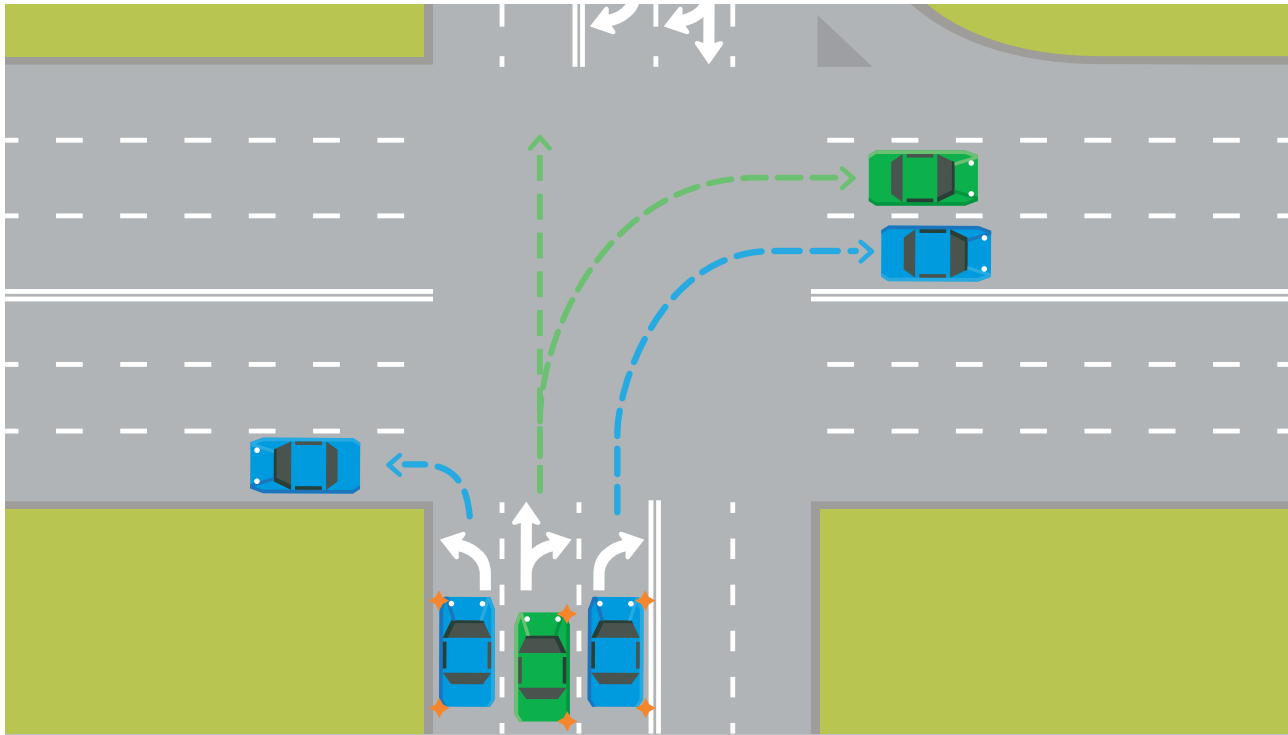
Pedestrian crossing at traffic lights

Road markings

Painted arrows

Arrows are painted on the road to tell you which direction must be taken by traffic in each lane. When more than one direction is shown, you can go in the direction of either arrow.

You must signal that you are going to turn even if the lane you are in is only allowed to turn in one direction. When you turn, stay in the same lane as you move from one road to the other.

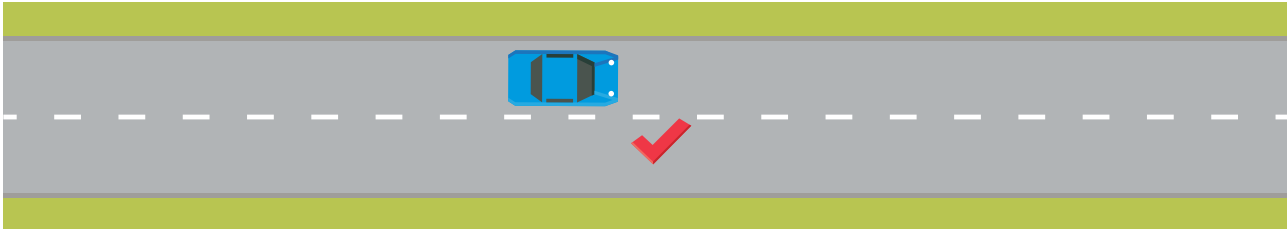


Dividing lines

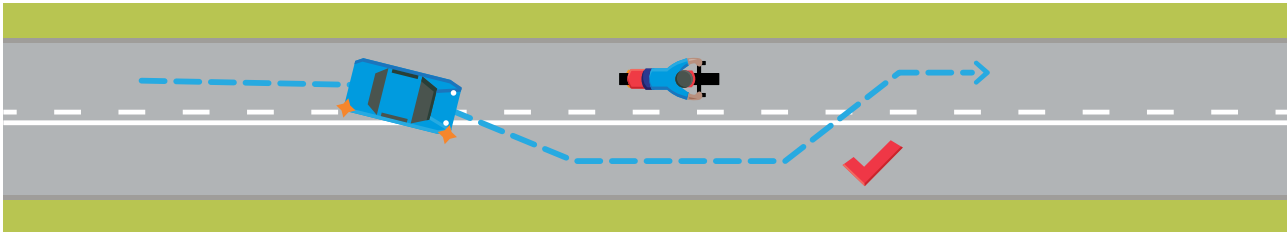
Unless a sign tells you otherwise, you can cross any type of dividing line when turning right at an intersection. You can also turn to the right across a dividing line to enter or leave a property (e.g. home or shops) by the shortest route.

When overtaking you must follow these rules:

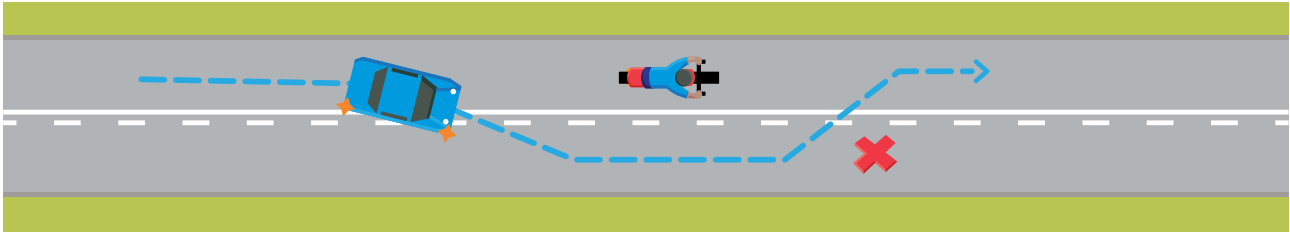
Do not make a U-turn across any **single unbroken (continuous) line**, or **double dividing lines**.



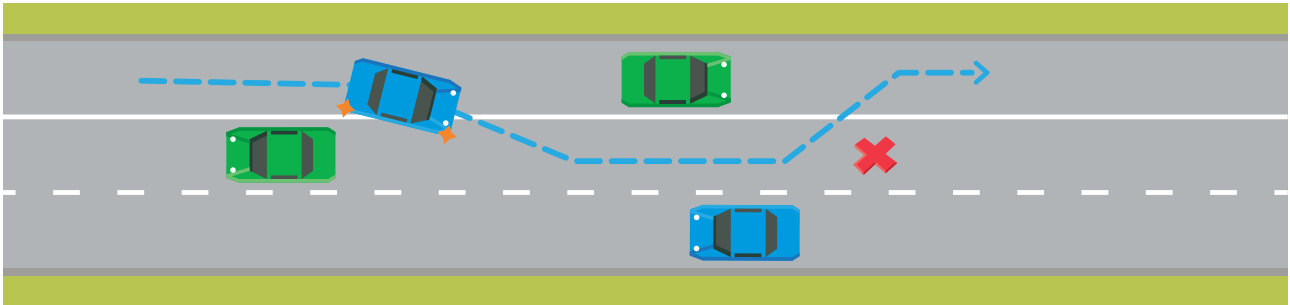
Broken white dividing lines: can be crossed to overtake if the road ahead is clear.



Double white lines with a broken line closer to you: you can cross the lines to overtake if the road ahead is clear.



Double white lines with an unbroken (continuous) line closer to you: you cannot overtake across these lines.



Single white unbroken (continuous) line: you cannot overtake across this line.

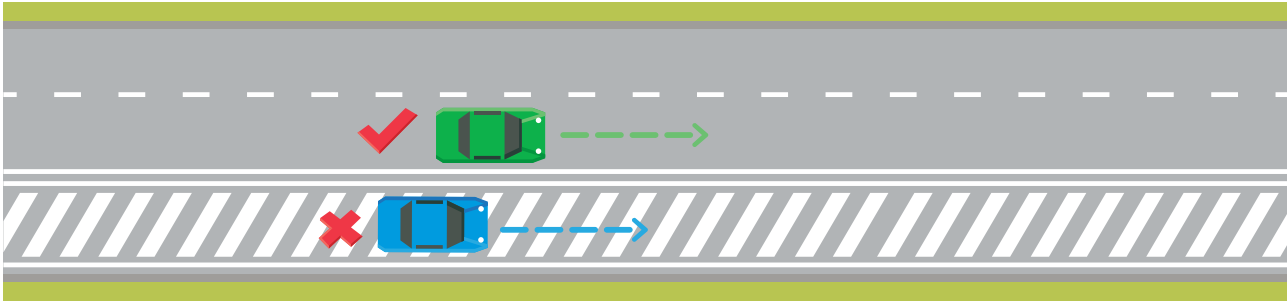


Double white unbroken (continuous) lines: you cannot overtake across these lines.

Painted islands

You must not drive on a section of painted road that is surrounded by double lines.

You can drive on a painted island that is surrounded by single continuous or broken lines for up to 50 metres to enter or leave the road, or to enter a turning lane that begins immediately after the painted island.

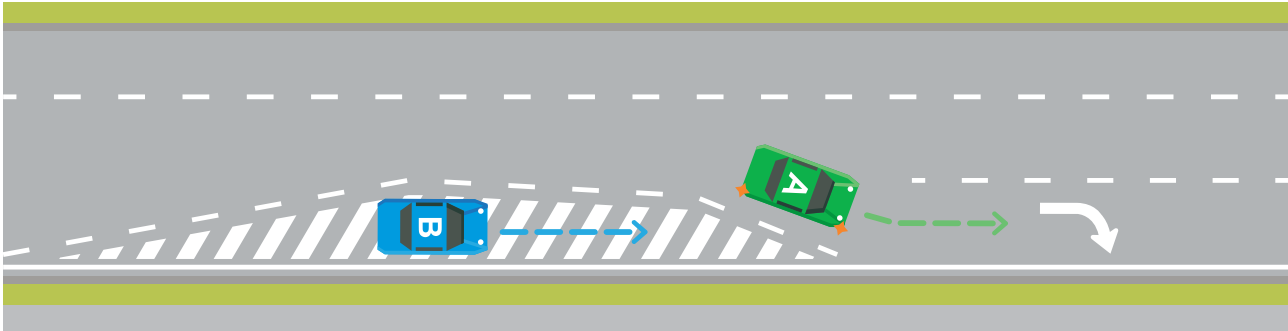


You must **not** drive on areas surrounded by double lines.

When you enter a turning lane from a painted island, you must give way to any vehicle already in the turning lane or entering the turning lane from another marked lane.

You must not stop on a painted island.

In some instances, such as giving way to emergency vehicles or when avoiding an obstruction, you can drive on a painted island regardless of the type of lines around the island.



Car B must give way to car A (giving way to a vehicle already in the turning lane or entering from another marked lane).

'Keep clear' pavement marking

'Keep clear' pavement markings are used in certain places, such as outside ambulance and fire station exits, to make sure vehicles are not obstructed when leaving on an emergency call.

You must not stop between the lines marked across the road.

'Keep clear' pavement markings are also used at some T-intersections to prevent queuing across the intersection.

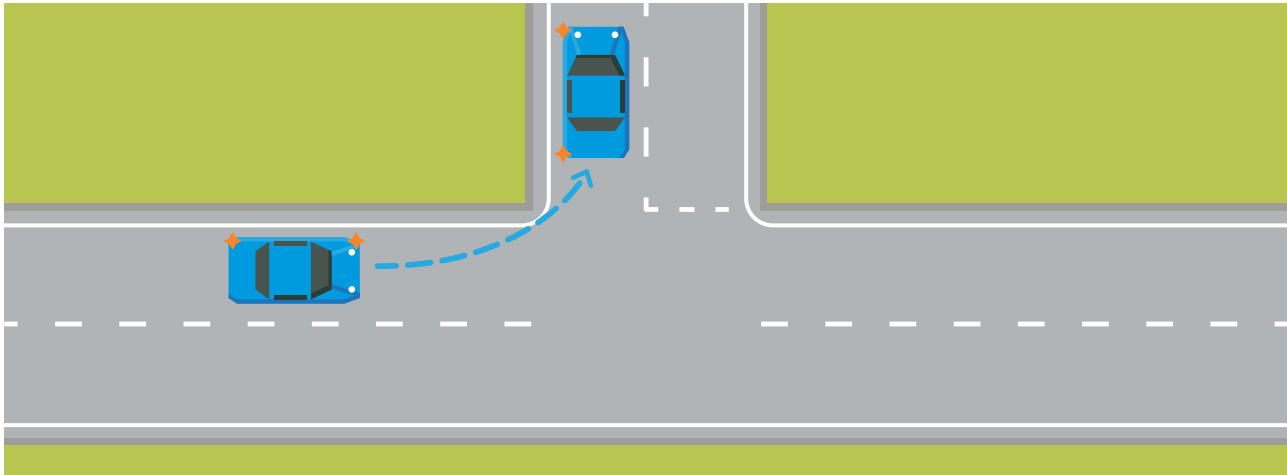


Edge lines

Edge lines can be broken or unbroken (continuous) and are marked to keep traffic away from soft road edges and breakdown lanes. They also help you see where you are going.

You can drive on, across or outside edge lines for up to 100 metres only if you are:

- stopping
- overtaking on the inside of vehicles turning right or, in a one-way street, overtaking vehicles turning left
- turning off or onto the road by the shortest route
- turning left or right at intersections
- driving a slow-moving vehicle.



Audible lines

Audible lines are lines composed of a series of raised pieces of material that create a noise or vibration if driven on by a motor vehicle.

These lines are used to warn drivers who veer over the line that they have travelled outside their lane.

Kerb lines

Yellow lines painted near the edge of the road show that there are stopping restrictions and tell you what rules apply to that particular section of road.

Broken yellow kerb line

A broken yellow kerb line is a 'Clearway' line.

You must not stop at the edge of the road between the hours shown on the Clearway sign except in a medical or similar emergency.

Buses, taxis and hire cars can only stop on broken yellow kerb lines to pick up or set down passengers.

Unbroken (continuous) yellow kerb line

An unbroken yellow kerb line is a 'no stopping' line.

You must not stop for any reason except a medical or similar emergency.

Pedestrian crossings and refuges

You must share the road with pedestrians. Special markings on the road show where pedestrians have special rights.

You must give way to pedestrians crossing the road into which you are turning.

You must give way to pedestrians, even if there is no marked pedestrian crossing or intersection, if there is any danger of colliding with them.

Pedestrian crossings

Pedestrian crossings allow people to cross the road safely. These crossings are usually marked by white stripes on the road and are also known as zebra crossings.

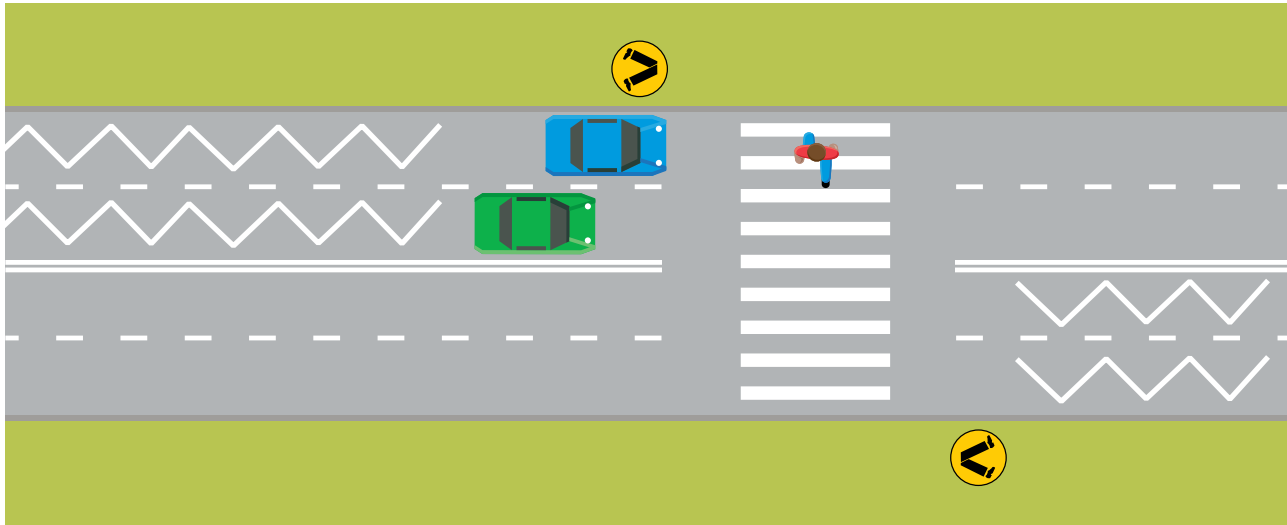
Some pedestrian crossings have zigzag lines marked on the road before the crossing. Take extra care when you see a zigzag line on the road because this means you are approaching a crossing you may not be able to see because of a curve, crest or dip in the road.

You must not stop on or within 20 metres before or 10 metres after a pedestrian crossing.

Do not overtake any vehicle that is stopping or has stopped at a crossing.

Pedestrian refuges

A pedestrian refuge is an island in the middle of the road. The island allows pedestrians to cross the road in two stages. Approaches to pedestrian refuges are signposted. When you are approaching a pedestrian refuge you should always look out for pedestrians.



Do not overtake any vehicle that is stopping or has stopped at a crossing.

Pelican crossings

A pelican crossing is a special kind of pedestrian crossing controlled by traffic lights.

The traffic lights for drivers have a different colour sequence to other situations.

After the red light, the traffic lights for drivers start to flash yellow. At the same time, the pedestrians see a flashing red **'don't walk'** sign. When the flashing yellow signal starts you can drive carefully through the crossing if there is no risk of hitting a pedestrian.

Children's crossings

These crossings operate before, during and after school hours on school days. They are highlighted by red flags with the words **'children crossing'** on them.

When the flags are displayed you must slow down and stop before the stop line if a pedestrian is on or entering the crossing. You must not proceed until all pedestrians have left the crossing.

You must not stop on or within 20 metres before or 10 metres after a children's crossing.

Combined children's and pedestrian crossing

Some pedestrian crossings are used as children's crossings at some times during the day.

When '**children crossing**' flags are displayed, this means that the children's crossing is operating and the rules for a children's crossing apply.

When the flags are not displayed, the crossing operates as a normal pedestrian crossing.

School Crossing Supervisors

As you approach a pedestrian crossing or children's crossing where a School Crossing Supervisor is displaying a '**Stop, children crossing**' sign, you must slow down and stop.

You can proceed when the School Crossing Supervisor no longer displays the sign in your direction or has indicated it is safe for you to proceed.

If the road beyond a children's crossing or a pedestrian crossing is blocked you must not drive onto the crossing.

Never overtake a vehicle that is stopped at a crossing.

Traffic signs

Traffic signs warn you of possible dangers and provide information. They tell you what the rules are and what the road conditions are like.

Regulatory signs

Regulatory signs inform road users of traffic laws or regulations. It is illegal not to obey a regulatory sign.

Regulatory signs are normally placed at the point or beginning of the section where the regulation applies.

Some of the most common regulatory signs are shown in this handbook. Except for **stop**, **give way** and **roundabout** signs, most regulatory signs are rectangles.

Regulatory signs are usually black on a white background, but they are sometimes other colours, like red. Some parking signs are green on white.



Wrong way sign (turn around and go back)



Keep left sign (keep to the left of the sign)



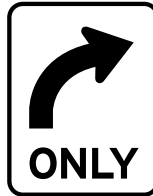
Keep right sign (keep to the right of the sign)



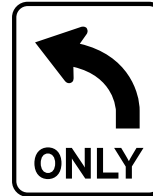
One way sign (only travel in the direction shown by the arrow)



Two way sign (this road now has two lanes of traffic travelling in opposite directions)



Right lane must turn right sign (all traffic in the right lane must turn right)



Left lane must turn left sign (all traffic in the left lane must turn left)



No entry sign (do not drive beyond this sign)

Warning signs

Warning signs or advisory signs are used to warn traffic of potentially hazardous conditions on or near the road.

Warning signs let road users know about conditions that might warrant extra care and that could call for a reduction in speed to help keep the driver and other road users safe.

Warning signs are usually black on a yellow background and are mostly diamond shaped.

Pictures, diagrams and symbols are used to alert you to danger. Some of the more common signs are shown here.



Yellow diamond cross sign (crossroads ahead)



Yellow diamond 'T' sign (the road you are travelling on ends; you must give way to all traffic)



Yellow diamond lane change sign (road conditions will change ahead to two lanes of oncoming traffic)



Yellow diamond side-on 'T' sign (a side road meets the road you are travelling on)



Yellow diamond arrow sign (the road ahead curves to the right)



Yellow diamond arrow sign (there is a sharp right turn in the road ahead)



Yellow diamond hook arrow sign (sharp bend to the left ahead)



Yellow diamond bendy arrow sign (winding road ahead)



Yellow diamond 'Y' sign (road divides ahead)



Yellow diamond merging sign (divided road ends ahead)



Yellow diamond bottle neck sign (road narrows ahead)



Yellow diamond with red triangle sign (give way sign ahead)



Yellow diamond with red hexagon sign (stop sign ahead)



Yellow diamond with arrow and walking legs sign (pedestrian crossing ahead)



Yellow diamond with walking people sign (pedestrians might be crossing ahead)



Yellow diamond with walking children sign (children might be crossing ahead)



Yellow diamond with the word 'hospital' sign (hospital ahead-drive carefully)



Yellow diamond with a bicycle sign (look out for cyclists)



Yellow diamond with a swerving car sign (road is slippery when wet)



Yellow diamond with car on a hill sign (steep descent ahead)



Yellow diamond with a truck sign (beware of slow moving vehicles entering traffic)



Yellow rectangle with the words '**traffic hazard ahead**' sign (this sign is used where there is a temporary emergency situation, such as an oil spill, fallen tree or landslide, on the road ahead)



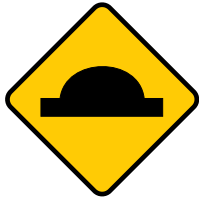
Yellow diamond with two parallel indented lines sign (narrow bridge ahead, slow down and be prepared to give way or stop)



Yellow diamond with '**narrow bridge**' sign (narrow bridge)



Yellow diamond with the word '**dip**' sign (the road ahead dips. A dip is a sudden slope down then up)



Yellow diamond with a bump sign (there is a hump in the road ahead. A hump is a sudden slope up and then down)



Yellow diamond with a kangaroo sign (look out for kangaroos)



Yellow diamond with the word '**crest**' sign (as you approach the hill you might not be able to see a safe distance in front of you, so drive carefully)



Yellow diamond with the word '**grid**' sign (a grid is ahead. A grid is a row of metal lengths across the road used instead of a gate to contain livestock)



Yellow diamond with the word '**causeway**' sign (a causeway is a raised road that has been built across a low or wet place or a body of water)



Yellow diamond with a pole, cross and circle symbols (railway crossing flashing signal ahead)



Yellow diamond with a train sign (look out for trains)

Advisory signs

Advisory speed signs are sometimes used in combination with other signs at certain places.

Yellow diamond sign with arrow and speed limit sign underneath shows the maximum speed that is safe in good conditions (road bends to right. 55 km/h maximum speed is recommended in good conditions).

Sometimes other signs are used with warning signs to advise on how long you should look out for a particular hazard. These signs are placed where a driver is likely to come across that hazard on the road or surrounding areas, they also give an indication of the distance that the hazard is likely. For example a 'Kangaroos Next 40 km' sign indicates that there is an increased chance of kangaroos being on or near the road for approximately the next 40 kilometres.



Warning triangles and safety vests for crashes and breakdowns

A warning triangle gives approaching traffic an advanced notice to a breakdown or crash ahead; you may see a triangle placed on a curve or bend in the road before you see the actual incident, so proceed with caution when you first see the warning triangle.

Place the warning triangle 50 to 150 metres behind your vehicle either to the side of the road, or on the edge of a traffic lane. When walking to place the triangle, hold it in front of you to alert drivers to the hazard. Hold it behind you when you collect it and return to your vehicle.

Vehicles with a GVM over 12 tonnes must place a minimum of three warning triangles in breakdown situations.

It is suggested that you carry in your vehicle at least one high-visibility safety vest and wear it by the roadside when attending a breakdown or crash scene, to aid in your personal safety.

Stock signs

When you see any of the following signs you could be approaching animals on or near the road.

You must slow down or stop to avoid hitting them. Fines apply if you do not obey these signs.



Yellow diamond sign with image of cattle (stock could be crossing ahead)



Yellow diamond sign with the words 'stock crossing' (stock could be crossing ahead)

Injured animals

If you hit a domestic animal, contact the owner, police or the RSPCA. If possible, injured domestic animals should be taken to the nearest vet or animal shelter.

If you injure or kill a native or wild animal, try to remove it from the road, but take care because some animals carry young in their pouches.

For help and advice on what to do, follow the basic information below and contact a vet or Wildcare NT, or the local wildlife rescue service .

As a general guide:

- make sure it is safe to stop and get out of your vehicle (you might need to walk back to the animal)
- approach any injured animal with extreme care; they could be frightened and lash out or bite
- minimise noise, handling and stress
- keep pets and children away from wildlife
- do not offer food to wildlife, especially not cow's milk
- move road kill at least 10 metres off the road.
- check dead kangaroo and possum pouches for joeys
- contact your local wildlife rescue organisation
- remember, your safety always comes first.

There are volunteer organisations that care for injured or orphaned animals and then release them back into the wild. They will collect the animal where possible, so if you find an injured animal, please call Wildcare NT. Alternatively, some local vets are affiliated with care networks and you may be able to drop the animal off during business hours with no charge.

For more information, visit www.wildcarent.org.au or phone your local vet.

Variable message signs

Variable message signs are large electronic signs placed on the side of some roads.

They display messages to warn motorists of changes in normal traffic conditions on the road ahead, such as fog, crashes, road works, congestion and road closures.

These early warnings help ensure a safe and efficient traffic flow.



Temporary roadwork signs

Temporary roadwork signs are used on roads to warn drivers and riders to slow down, look out for any hazards and be prepared to stop. They also show the travel path through, around or past work sites.

Roadwork signs are usually rectangular and have a reflective background, black border and a symbol or words explaining the hazard. They are usually red and black or yellow and black.

You must obey any signal from a traffic controller and give way to any worker.



Rectangular sign with an image of a person holding a sign (traffic controller ahead, be prepared to stop)



Rectangular sign with an image of a person digging (workers ahead)



Yellow rectangular sign with the words '**roadwork ahead**' (approaching roadwork, slow down and prepare to stop)



Yellow rectangular sign with the words '**end roadwork**' (end of roadwork)



Hand-held lollipop signs marked '**stop**' and '**slow**' (these signs are held by traffic controllers; you must obey them)



Red square sign with the words '**prepare to stop**' (slow down and prepare to stop)



Lit arrow sign on vehicle or at the side of the road (road hazard ahead, merge into another lane)



Mobile traffic signal device (temporary traffic lights sometimes used on roadwork. The same rules apply for these as normal traffic lights)



Yellow sign with the words '**no lines, do not overtake unless safe**' (no lines are marked on the road, take care if overtaking)



Closed lane ahead



Yellow rectangular sign with cars and rocks (watch out for loose stones)



40 km/h speed limit for road work

Speed limit signs at work zones are enforceable and must be obeyed.

Lanes

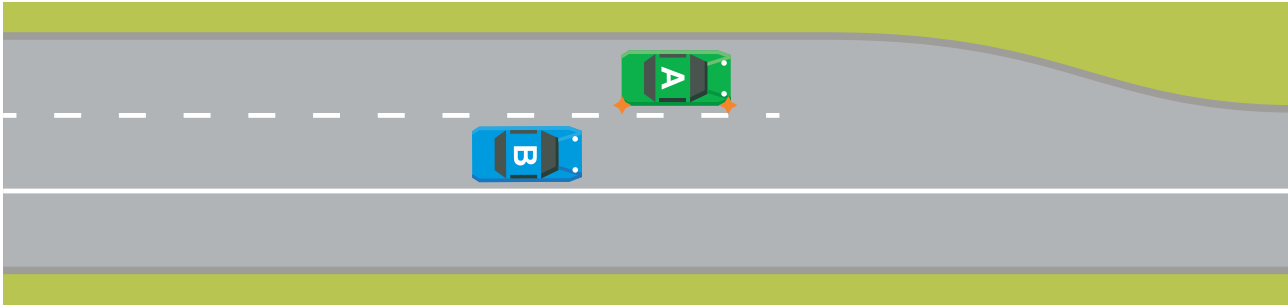
You should stay in the middle of the lane you are driving in. If there are no lanes marked on the road, drive near the left side of the road.

Before changing lanes, signal in plenty of time to warn other road users and check for other vehicles by looking in your mirrors and your blind spot (look over your shoulder).

You must give way to vehicles in the lane you are moving into.

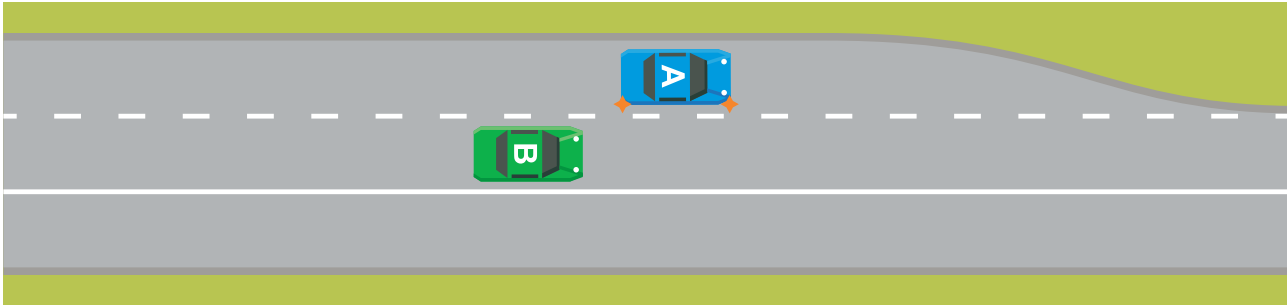
Merging lanes

Sometimes the lane line ends before the lanes merge, as shown below. When merging in this situation, **the vehicle that is behind gives way to the vehicle ahead**. Use caution when merging.



Car B gives way to car A

Where the lane you are driving in ends and you have to cross lane lines to merge with the traffic in another lane, **you must give way to all traffic in the lane you are merging into.**



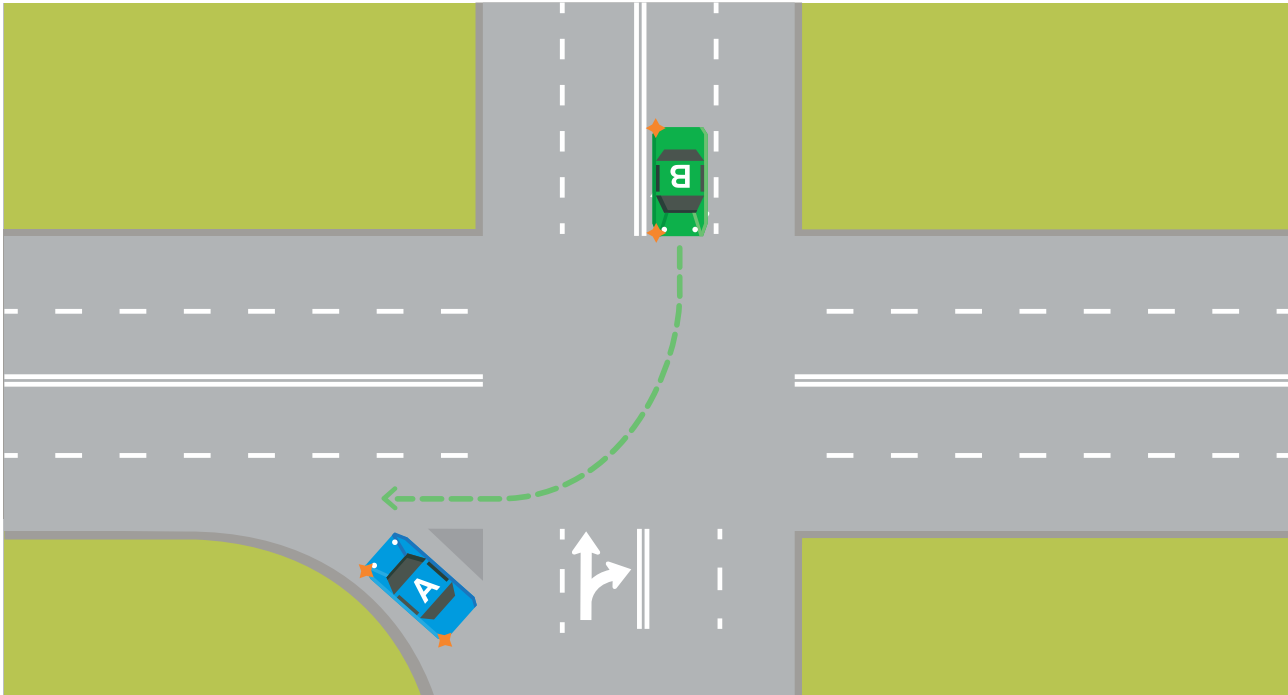
Car A gives way to car B

Slip lanes

Slip lanes are used to improve safety and traffic flow for vehicles turning left.

Unless there are signs to indicate parking, you should not stop in a slip lane.

Slip lanes can be marked by a painted island or traffic island. You must use a slip lane where one is provided.



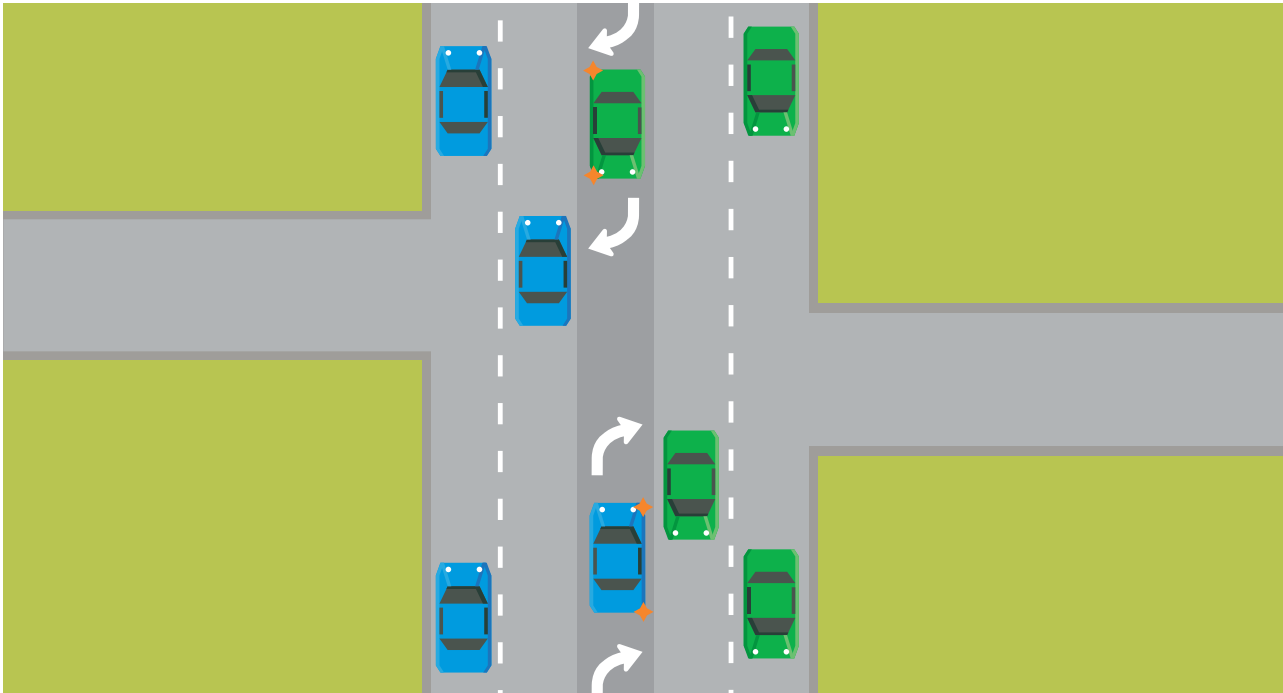
Car A (in the slip lane) must give way to the vehicle turning right at the intersection

Median turning lanes

Vehicles travelling in either direction can use a median turning lane to enter or leave the road at a driveway, property access or intersection.

Median turning lanes have signposts or markings on the road and are a shared part of the road.

Vehicles using median turning lanes must give way to all other vehicles.



Median turning lanes

Truck lanes

Where a 'trucks, use left lane' sign appears, trucks must use the left lane until a sign indicates otherwise.

There is an identical sign for buses.

Any other vehicles can also use this lane.



Bicycle lanes

When a bicycle lane is marked on the road, cyclists must use it.

Bicycle lanes can only be used by bicycles, but you can drive in these lanes for less than 50 metres to enter or leave the road at a driveway or intersection.



Overtaking

Overtaking other vehicles can be dangerous because it can be difficult to judge the space and distance required to overtake safely.

Both single-lane and multi-lane overtaking manoeuvres involve risk and require extreme care. If you have any doubts, it is best not to overtake and to wait until it is safer.

You must overtake on the right unless:

- the vehicle you are overtaking is waiting to turn right
- the vehicle you are overtaking is stationary
- both you and the other vehicle are travelling in marked lanes on a multi-lane road.

In these instances you can overtake on the left side if it is safe.

When overtaking you must:

- not go over the speed limit
- make sure the road ahead is clear and there is enough space ahead for you to overtake safely and return to the line of traffic (check side streets and other lanes to make sure nothing will enter this space while you are overtaking)
- check mirrors
- signal each change in position long enough to give sufficient warning to others
- check blind spots for motorcycles and other vehicles before changing your lane position
- pass the vehicle with enough space to avoid a collision (you should be able to see the vehicle you have overtaken in your rear vision mirror before you move in front of it)
- give way to traffic already in the lane you are moving to.

You must not overtake:

- unless you have a clear view of any approaching traffic and you can complete the manoeuvre safely (do not commence an overtaking manoeuvre when approaching a crest, curve or any limited vision situation)
- another vehicle that is stopping or has stopped at a pedestrian crossing, intersection or railway crossing
- across an unbroken (continuous) line, unless the line closest to you is broken.
- where a road narrows.

On roads with a speed limit of more than 80 km/h, or a **'keep left unless overtaking'** sign, you must drive in the left lane unless you want to overtake or turn right.

When being overtaken you must:

- not increase your speed
- keep left and allow enough space for the overtaking vehicle to pass and move back into the lane
- stay within your lane.

You must not overtake or pass other vehicles on pedestrian or school crossings.

Oversize vehicles

If you see this sign, the vehicle ahead is wider and/or longer than normal.



OVERSIZE

Sometimes an oversize vehicle will be accompanied by police or a pilot vehicle (vehicle with flashing lights) to warn traffic that the load following is very wide or long.

You must follow any directions given by police. You should also follow any reasonable directions given by the occupants of the pilot vehicle, provided you do not break the law.

When approaching an oncoming oversize vehicle you should:

- be careful and reduce speed
- keep to the left of the centre line
- be prepared to move to the left side of the road if necessary.

You should use extreme care when overtaking an oversize vehicle.

When you overtake an oversize vehicle, you can briefly flash high beam immediately before starting the overtaking manoeuvre. This sends a message to the driver of the oversize vehicle that you are about to overtake them.

Large, heavy turning vehicles

Be careful of large, heavy vehicles displaying a 'do not overtake turning vehicle' sign.

A long vehicle can use two lanes to turn left or right if it displays this sign.

When a long vehicle is turning and displays this sign you must not pass on the left if it is turning left or on the right if it is turning right.

You need to be careful of all large, heavy vehicles that are turning. If you put your vehicle in the path of a turning vehicle you could be crushed.

- Figure 1 – 'do not overtake turning vehicle' sign
- Figures 2 & 3 show examples of oversized vehicles turning at an intersection.



DO NOT OVERTAKE TURNING VEHICLE

Figure 1

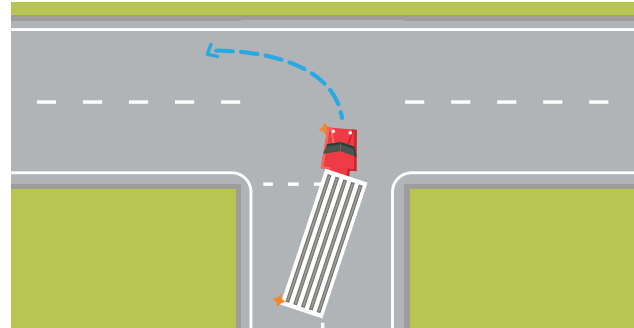


Figure 2

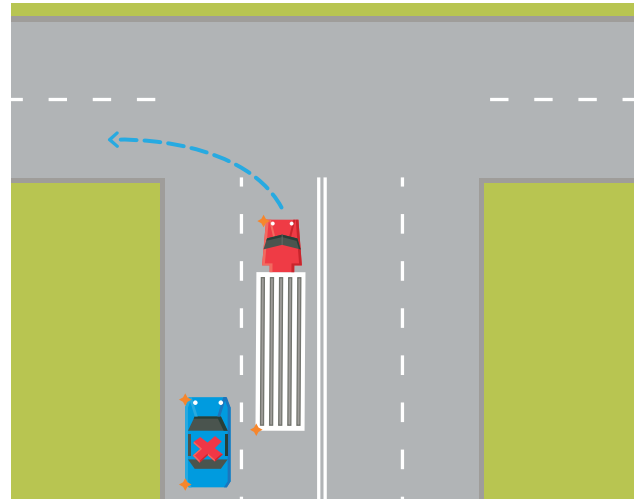


Figure 3

Bridges

Approach bridges with care because they are often narrow. If you think two vehicles cannot fit on a narrow bridge, give way to the other driver.

When you come to a bridge that is only wide enough for two vehicles, slow down and drive carefully.

Sometimes you are not allowed to overtake a vehicle going in the same direction or to pass a vehicle coming towards you.

If there is a **'give way'** sign you must give way to any vehicle travelling in the opposite direction on the bridge.



If there is a **'no overtaking or passing'** sign you must not overtake any vehicle travelling in the same direction.



Parking

Parking rules are designed to stop vehicles from parking where it could be dangerous or inconvenient for others.

Things to check when parking

Before getting out of your vehicle you must check your mirrors and blind spots for pedestrians, bicycles or other vehicles.

Before leaving your parked vehicle you must make sure that:

- the parking brake is on
- the gears are engaged either in first gear if you are parking on a downhill slope, or reverse if you are parking on an uphill slope. Automatic vehicles should be left **in park**.

If you are going more than three metres from your vehicle you must:

- take the key out of the ignition
- lock all doors and windows if there is no one in the vehicle.

Before opening your door on a roadway you must:

- make sure that you do not endanger road users or obstruct traffic.

General parking rules

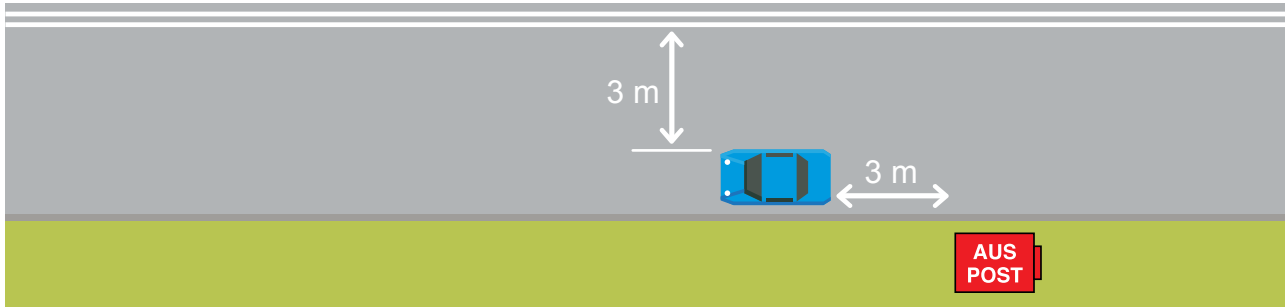
You must not stop your vehicle (bring it to a stop and either stay with the vehicle or leave it parked) in the following circumstances:

- double parked (in the road alongside a car that is parked)
- across a driveway
- on a median strip or traffic island
- in a clearway
- on footpaths and nature strips
- between 'bus stop', 'bus zone', 'taxi stand' or 'taxi zone' signs
- in a safety zone or within 10 metres before or after a safety zone
- within an intersection
- in a slip lane
- within 20 metres of an intersection with traffic lights, unless a sign allows you to park there
- within one metre of another vehicle parked in front or behind (does not apply when angle parking)
- within 10 metres of an intersection without traffic lights, unless a sign allows you to park there.

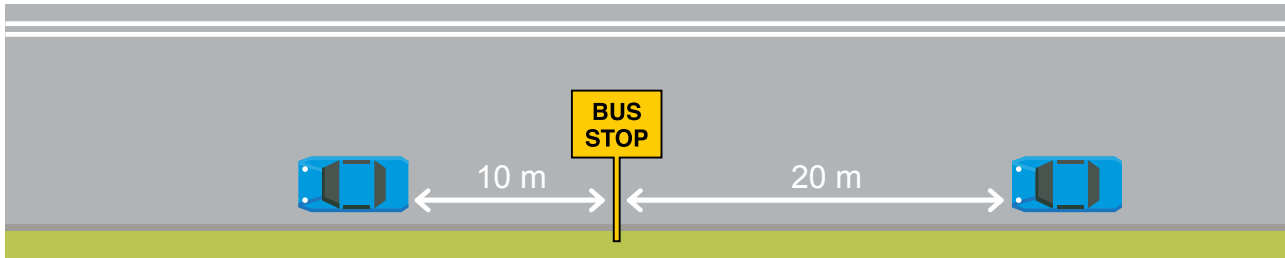


Remember, before opening your door, check your mirrors and blind spots for pedestrians, bicycles or other vehicles.

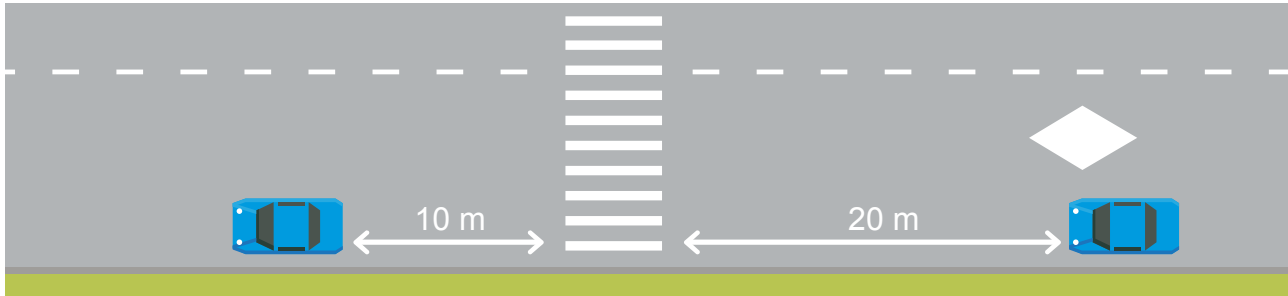
- within three metres of any double centre lines
- within three metres of an Australia Post letter box unless dropping off or picking up passengers or mail



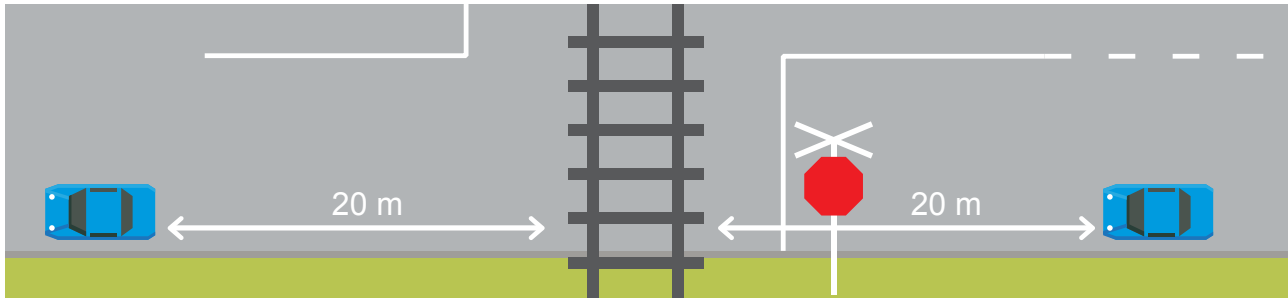
- within 20 metres before and 10 metres after a bus stop



- on or within 20 metres before and 10 metres after a children's crossing or pedestrian crossing



- within 10 metres before and three metres after a marked foot crossing with traffic signals
- within one metre of a fire hydrant, fire hydrant indicator or fire plug indicator
- on a railway level crossing
- within 20 metres before and after a railway level crossing.



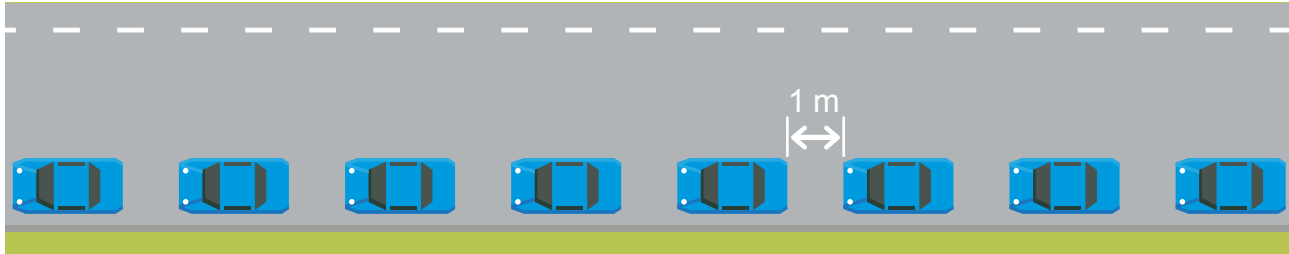
When you are parking on a hill or a curve outside a built up area, make sure that someone coming over the hill or around the bend can see your car from at least 100 metres away.

Parallel parking

This is the usual way to park unless signs tell you otherwise.

You must park in the same direction as the adjacent traffic and parallel and as close as possible to the kerb.

You should be entirely within any marking lines and at least one metre from any other parked vehicle.

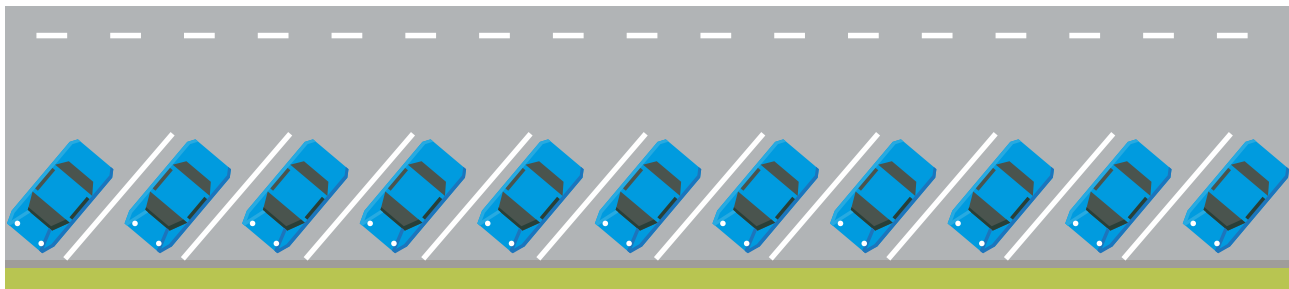


Angle parking

Angle park at the kerb if indicated by signs or marking lines.

Park at an angle of 90 or 45 degrees unless a sign or road marking indicates differently.

Always park your vehicle in the same direction as shown on the sign. When a sign does not give a direction you must park front to kerb.



Never leave children in a parked vehicle. Children left in a car will very quickly overheat, dehydrate and they could even die.

A toddler can release the handbrake, or set fire to things with the lighter.

Do not leave your pets in a closed car; they can suffer or die just as a child can.

Parking restrictions

Parking in clearways or no parking zones restricts the traffic flow and creates danger for other road users. You must obey all parking signs.

Motorcycle parking

If your vehicle is **not** a motorcycle, you must not park between these signs. You can stop to drop off or pick up passengers, only.



Accessible parking

Only vehicles driven by or carrying a current disabled parking permit can park in areas displaying a disabled parking sign.

The disabled parking permit must be displayed in the parked vehicle.

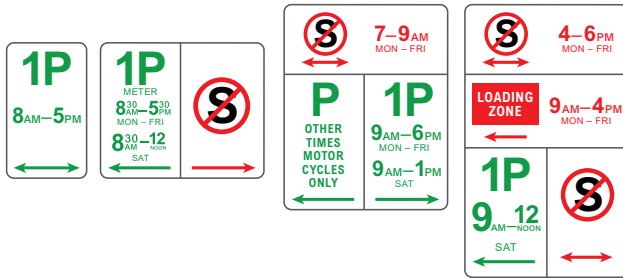
Disabled parking permit holders must comply with the conditions of use of the permit.



Motorcycles can angle park anywhere it is legal to park, even if a sign shows parallel parking. Make sure that your motorcycle does not stick out further than any parallel-parked vehicle.

Hourly parking

These signs mean that in that area you can park at the kerb for the time shown on the sign, between certain hours and on particular days.



No parking

You must not stop for more than two minutes in a 'no parking' area.

You must remain in the vehicle or within three metres of the vehicle.

Hours of operation can apply to some signs. This means restrictions apply for those times only.

Disabled parking permit holders are allowed to park for up to five minutes in a no parking area.



No stopping or no standing

These signs mean that you must not stop your vehicle at any point on the road or kerb in the area in the direction of the arrow, unless there is a medical or other emergency.

Sometimes a 'no stopping' area is shown by a solid yellow edge line.

Hours of operation can apply to some signs. This means restrictions apply for those times only.



Arrester bed and safety ramp

Safety ramp and arrester bed areas are used by heavy vehicles in cases of emergency, such as brake failure. They are usually located where there are steep gradients. Drivers must not drive on these areas unless necessary for safety.



Pay parking

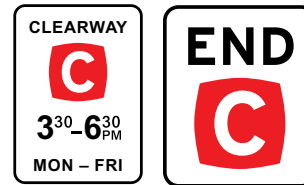
Parking signs show **meter**, **ticket** or **coupon** parking areas.

You can park at the kerb for the length of time shown on the sign, provided you pay the required charge.

You cannot park for longer than the length of time shown on the sign.

Clearway

A clearway is used to improve traffic flow and safety during peak periods.



You must not stop your vehicle at the kerb between these signs during the times shown, unless there is a medical emergency. Buses, taxis and private hire cars can stop at the kerb to pick up or set down passengers.

A broken yellow edge line is also used to indicate a clearway.

Taxi zone

This sign means that you are not allowed to stop your vehicle in the direction of the arrow or arrows unless it is a taxi.

Some taxi zones have times shown on the sign. This means restrictions apply for those times only.



When you hail a taxi, make sure you are not in a 'no stopping' or a bus zone because taxis must not stop in these places.

Bus zone

This sign means that you are not allowed to stop your vehicle in the direction of the arrow or arrows unless it is a bus.

Hours of operation can apply to some signs. This means restrictions apply for those times only.



Loading zone

Only drivers of vehicles principally constructed for carrying goods can park their vehicle in a loading zone. These vehicles can stop for up to 30 minutes if they are being loaded or unloaded.



If you are driving any other sort of vehicle you can only stop to pick up or set down passengers at the kerb. Exceptions may apply to disabled parking permit holders.

Hours of operation can apply to some signs. This means restrictions apply for those times only.

Works zone

A driver must not stop in a 'works zone' unless the vehicle is actually involved in construction work in or near the zone. Any vehicle can stop to pick up or set down passengers.

Hours of operation can apply to some signs. This means restrictions apply for those times only.



Truck zone

You must not park or stop at the kerb during the hours shown on the sign unless driving a truck over 4.5 tonnes GVM that is dropping off or picking up goods. Any type of vehicle can stop to set down or pick up passengers at the kerb.

Hours of operation can apply to some signs. This means restrictions apply for those times only.



Lights and horns

About a third of car crashes occur at night. Pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists are harder to see at night than they are during the day.

At night or when driving in hazardous weather conditions with reduced visibility, your vehicle must have clearly visible:

- headlights
- tail lights
- number plate lights
- clearance lights and side marker lights if these are fitted to your vehicle.

Headlights

Even in the daytime, driving with your vehicle's headlights turned on can improve the chance that other road users will see you.

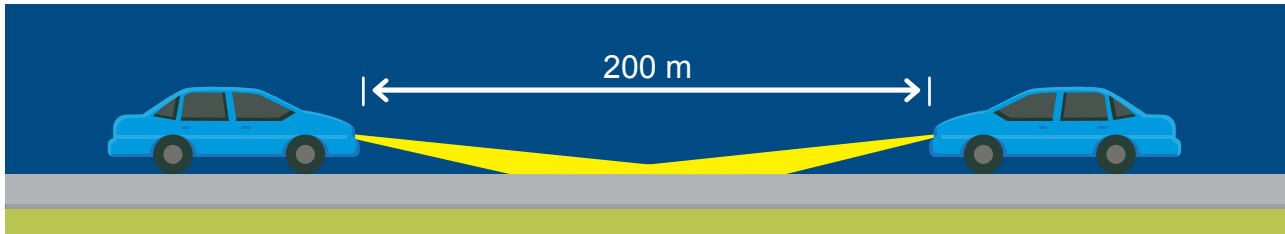
Your headlights must be on when:

- driving between sunset and sunrise
- at any other time when there is not enough light to be able to see a person wearing dark clothing from 100 metres away.

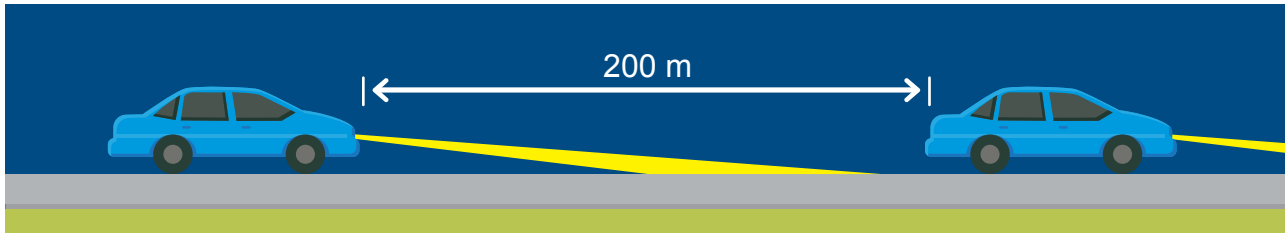
High beam

Use your headlights on high beam to see further ahead on any road, even if there are street lights.

You must dip your headlights to low beam:



- when a vehicle coming towards you is within 200 metres of your vehicle



- when driving 200 metres or less behind another vehicle.

When you overtake another vehicle, you can briefly flash high beam immediately before starting the overtaking manoeuvre.

Avoid lights that could dazzle

Do not use or allow any light fitted to your vehicle to dazzle another road user.

Avoid looking at the headlights of oncoming vehicles. If you are dazzled by glare or high beam lights, look to the left side of the road and drive to the left of your lane, slow down or pull over until your eyes recover.

Parking lights

Make sure that other road users can see your parked vehicle. Leave your parking or hazard lights on if necessary.

Fog lights

Front and rear fog lights must only be used in fog or rain, or when conditions such as smoke and dust limit your vision.

It is a legal requirement that once conditions improve and you can see more clearly, the front and rear fog lights are switched off.

If your vehicle is not fitted with fog lights you can use your headlights during the day in these conditions.

Hazard warning lights

Your vehicle's hazard warning lights must not be used unless the vehicle is:

- stopped and obstructing the path of other vehicles or pedestrians
- slow-moving and obstructing other road users
- stopped in an emergency lane
- driving in hazardous weather conditions
- fitted with hazard lights as part of an anti-theft or alcohol interlock device.

Horns and other warning devices

Your vehicle's horn and other warning devices are for warning other road users of a hazard. Your horn is not a way to greet other road users or for you to tell another driver you do not like their driving. Never use your horn out of frustration with another driver.

You must not use the horn or any other warning device unless:

- you need to warn other road users that your vehicle is approaching
- you need to warn animals to get off the road
- the horn is being used as part of an anti-theft or alcohol interlock device fitted to your vehicle.

Emergency vehicles

In the Northern Territory, an emergency vehicle is a vehicle that is the property of Police, Fire and Emergency Services, an ambulance, or an Australian Protective Services vehicle.

Give way when you hear a siren or see the flashing blue or red lights of an emergency vehicle such as police, fire or ambulance. The siren means you need to get out of the way so the emergency vehicle has a clear passage through traffic.

It is an offence to obstruct an emergency vehicle with the warning siren sounding or flashing red or red and blue lights.

Drivers must give way to emergency vehicles, and they must also drive with due care.

Use your indicators when giving way or pulling off the road. This tells the driver of the emergency vehicle that you know they are there.

Do not slam on your brakes or stop in front of an emergency vehicle. Stopping suddenly could cause a crash. Keep driving until it is safe to pull over to the left.

Do not block an intersection. Blocking intersections, even when attempting to give way to an emergency vehicle, is dangerous.

Railway level crossings

There are more than 200 level rail crossings in the Northern Territory. Some crossings have boom gates and some have flashing lights.

Trains stop very slowly, so it is important to obey the road rules and give way to trains.

A freight train travelling at 60 km/h can take up to 800 metres to stop, while a car takes 58 metres to stop.

Level crossings can be dangerous, especially when there are no gates, booms or flashing lights.

When approaching a crossing, look and listen for trains. Slow down to a speed that allows you to stop quickly.



Yellow diamond sign with black cross and red triangle on top



Red sign with the words 'railway crossing' crossed together

Gates, booms or lights

At gates, booms, or flashing lights, only cross when signals have stopped flashing, and when the gates or booms are fully open.



Railway crossing with traffic lights ahead

Stop signals

Stop signals at railway crossings must be obeyed because trains are fast and heavy and cannot stop quickly. Check for trains even if the lights are not flashing.

When the traffic on the other side of the railway crossing is stopped, stay behind the **stop** line until there is room for you to get all the way across safely.



Stop before crossing

Crossings without signals

Take extra care where there are no gates, booms or flashing lights. Slow down, look and listen for trains in both directions. There are usually warning signs placed ahead of the crossings.

Never try to cross a railway line where there is no crossing provided.

Even four-wheel drives can get stuck across the tracks, with disastrous consequences.

Check for other trains

If you have stopped for a train, always check that another one is not approaching the crossing before you move off. You must not drive onto a level crossing while a train is approaching.

You must stop at a crossing if:

- there is a stop sign
- there is a gate or boom across the road
- red lights are flashing
- a railway employee signals you to do so
- you are carrying flammable, explosive or dangerous goods. You must stop between three and 15 metres before the crossing.

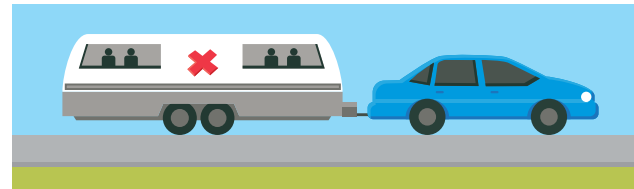
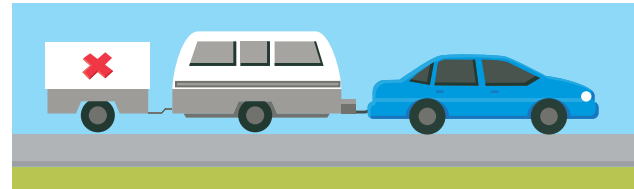
You must not drive onto a level crossing while a train is approaching.

Towing

Towing a trailer or a caravan can be dangerous and difficult and takes more knowledge and skill than normal driving.

Rules for towing

- The trailer or caravan must be registered and roadworthy.
- You must not tow more than one trailer or one other vehicle.
- No-one is allowed to ride in a trailer or caravan while it is being towed.
- Signal lights must be fitted to the trailer and be in working order.
- Safety chains (breakaway chains) must securely attach the trailer to the vehicle.
- When towing a caravan and driving on a road without street lights, you must drive at least 60 metres behind heavy vehicles or other vehicles towing caravans, unless overtaking.
- Tow fittings on vehicles are rated for a particular weight. The trailer's Gross Vehicle Mass (the weight) should not exceed the rated towing limits of the vehicle (see your vehicle manual or compliance plates for details of the towing limit for your vehicle).
- If learner or provisional licence holders are driving you must display your L or P signs on the back of the trailer.
- Loads must be secured (ref page 54).



What to do after a crash

If you are involved in a crash you must stop immediately and give as much help as possible to anyone involved in the crash.

If anyone is injured or killed, you should call the police and ambulance – dial **000**.

You should make the area as safe and as visible as possible to other road users to make sure that another crash does not occur. This could be achieved by placing another vehicle, warning triangles or lights at a safe distance from the scene of the crash to warn approaching road users.

Remove anything that falls from or out of crashed vehicles that could endanger the safety of others, such as debris or broken glass.

If you need to clear debris from the road it is important that you ensure your personal safety at all times.

Following a crash:

- switch off the ignition of the immobilised vehicle to reduce the risk of fire
- switch on hazard warning lights.

The police may attend and investigate crashes where:

- a person is killed or injured
- a vehicle needs to be towed away
- there is damage to property or animals
- a person fails to stop or exchange information
- a driver is believed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

If police do not attend the crash scene, you must report the crash as soon as possible within 24 hours (unless in exceptional circumstances) where:

- you are in a crash and either your vehicle or another vehicle needs to be towed away
- there is damage to property or injured animals
- you are unable to provide the details of the drivers, vehicles and witnesses to the crash to the owner of any damaged property.

You must give police that attend the crash scene details of the crash, vehicles involved, your name, address and, if known, information about any witnesses or the drivers of other vehicles involved. You must always show police your driver licence.

Regardless of damage, if you are asked to, you must provide the owner/driver of any other vehicle involved in the crash with the following information:

- your name, address and licence details
- your vehicle registration number
- the name and address of the vehicle owner, if you do not own it.

You can ask the other driver(s) for similar information.

If you are involved in a crash with a truck carrying a dangerous load:

- call the police or fire brigade on **000**
- do not touch spilled chemicals or breathe the fumes or dust
- warn people away from the crash.

An Emergency Procedures Guide will be in a holder attached to the truck driver's door. Follow these procedures if it is safe to do so.

Needing a tow truck

If you need the assistance of a tow truck after being involved in a crash, you have the right to:

- decide where your vehicle will be towed
- decide who will tow your vehicle.

Animals and vehicles

There are things you should know about travelling with animals in vehicles and what to do following an incident with an animal.

Animals on or near road areas are a common occurrence in the Northern Territory. In most situations roaming or grazing wildlife and livestock are not usually a high risk to road users as long as caution is used. Slow down and be prepared to stop for wildlife or livestock on or near the road.

Occasionally livestock or wildlife will be encountered in built-up areas where the risk to road users (and the animal) is much greater. If you see an animal that is likely to cause a hazard to road users in a built up area contact Police or the RSPCA.

If you see an animal on the road (alive or dead), do not swerve violently to avoid the animal. This can cause you to lose control of your vehicle or to hit oncoming traffic. Stop, if you can do so safely, or slow down and steer around the animal in a controlled manner.

If you cannot avoid the animal safely you might have to hit it to avoid injury or death to yourself and others.

If you hit an animal with an identification tag, contact the owner, police or the RSPCA. If possible, injured domestic animals should be taken to the nearest vet or animal shelter.

If you injure or kill a native or wild animal, try to remove it from the road, but take care because some animals carry young in their pouches. For help and advice contact a vet or Wildcare NT, or the local wildlife rescue service.

Rules around animals

A driver, motorcycle rider, bicycle rider or passenger must not lead an animal, including by tethering, while the vehicle is moving. Animals should be seated or housed and secured in appropriate areas of the vehicle.

You must not transport a dog in or on a vehicle (including in the back of a ute) unless the dog is restrained or enclosed in a way that prevents the dog from interfering with the driver or falling from the vehicle.

Animals can be unpredictable, and it is recommended that all animals travelling inside or on a vehicle are restrained to prevent distraction to the driver.

You must not drive with an animal in your lap.

A motorcycle rider must not ride with an animal between the handlebars and the rider.