

SAFE DRIVER CHECKLIST

Locate the Controls

Your teen should be able to locate the following controls and explain how they work:

- Hazard warning lights.
- Emergency and parking brakes.
- Headlights.
- Heater/defroster.
- Horn.
- Windshield wipers.

Before Starting the Vehicle

- Adjust the mirrors.
- Fasten safety belt(s).

Starting the Vehicle

- Vehicle is in "Park" or "Neutral."
- Foot is on the brake pedal.
- Start the vehicle smoothly. Do not overturn the ignition.

Moving Forward

- Signal.
- Look over the shoulder before pulling into traffic.

Stopping

- Stops when necessary behind crosswalks or limit lines.

Turns

- Signal and slow for turns.
- Begin and end turns in the correct lane.
- Yield right-of-way, when necessary.
- Accept the legal right-of-way, when safe.
- See and react to hazards.

Backing

- Before moving, survey surroundings for possible obstacles.
- Look over the right shoulder when backing.

- Check the mirrors and look quickly to the side while backing.

Changing Lanes

- Signal.
- Check the mirrors.
- Check over the shoulder.
- Change lanes safely.

Parking on Hills

- Signal.
- Curb the wheels properly.
- Set the parking brake.

Parallel Parking

- Signal.
- Look over the shoulder while backing.
- Yield to other vehicles, when necessary.

Entering the Freeway

- Check traffic flow.
- Signal.
- Time entry onto the freeway.
- Check over the shoulder when accelerating into a space in traffic.
- Signal early and slow down on the exit ramp to the posted speed limit.
- Adjust speed to road conditions.

Defensive Driving Techniques

- Check the mirrors frequently and before braking.
- Check the cross streets before entering intersections.
- Check the traffic signal lights and signs.
- Keep eyes "moving" (watching the sides and middle of the road).
- Allow plenty of room around the vehicle.
- Follow at a safe distance.