

## Tips for Teens

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Lack of experience puts teenagers at a greater risk of being involved in a car crash. The more you practice, the better you will handle different situations on the road. Here are a few extra tips for safe driving:

- ✓ Drive sober. Any amount of drugs/alcohol in an underage driver's blood stream is dangerous and may lead to DUI penalties.
- ✓ Ride with sober drivers.
- ✓ Always wear your safety belt. It's smart, it's safe, it's the law!
- ✓ Get to know your car.
- ✓ Be a defensive driver.
- ✓ Focus on your driving and avoid distractions. Remember use of cell phones and texting while driving are illegal.
- ✓ Don't load up your car with more passengers than allowed by law. The more passengers the greater the crash risk for teen drivers.
- ✓ Check your rearview mirror before and after you brake.
- ✓ Follow all traffic safety rules.
- ✓ Don't drive faster than you can handle, and don't exceed the posted speed limit.
- ✓ Never let friends drive your car.

## Tips for Parents

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Encourage your teenager to develop safe driving habits and skills. Here are a few guidelines:

- ✓ Take your teenager for driving practice under various conditions and practice different skills.
- ✓ Take your teen to get a license only when you and your teenager feel the time is right.
- ✓ Set a good example when you drive.
- ✓ Provide a safe vehicle for practice sessions.
- ✓ Work with your teen's driver education instructor.
- ✓ Meet with your insurance agent.
- ✓ Establish family driving rules and limits.
- ✓ Create a safe driving contract.
- ✓ Inform your teen what to do in case of a crash.

**Find more tips and information at  
[TeenDriving.AAA.com](http://TeenDriving.AAA.com)**

## Insurance Matters

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Insurance rates for young drivers are high and will remain high until they turn 25 or marry, whichever comes first. The reason is young drivers tend to have more crashes. The already high insurance rates will go even higher if the young driver is involved in a crash or gets points on his or her license. On the other hand, young drivers can help keep insurance costs down by taking driver's education; completing an approved defensive driving course, such as *Alive at 25*; keeping their grades up; and keeping their driving record clean.

## Teen Crash Facts

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Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for people age 15 to 20. According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration data:

- Young drivers are twice as likely as adult drivers to be in a fatal crash.
- Each year, more than 5,000 teens (ages 16-20) are killed in passenger vehicle crashes.
- Sixteen-year-old drivers have crash rates that are three times greater than 17-year-old drivers, five times greater than 18-year-old drivers, and twice the rate of 85-year-old drivers.
- 25 percent of 15- to 20-year-old drivers killed in motor vehicle crashes had been drinking.
- Teen drivers and passengers are among those least likely to wear their seat belts.

**Motor vehicle crashes are the  
number one killer of American  
teenagers.**

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**For additional information, contact:**

Drivers License Division  
North Dakota Department of  
Transportation  
608 East Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0700

[www.dot.nd.gov](http://www.dot.nd.gov)



# North Dakota Teen Licensing



## General Information for Young Drivers





# Ready to Roll!

Getting a driver's permit or license is one of the most exciting events in a teenager's life. But along with this new privilege comes a lot of responsibility.

It should be remembered that receiving a driver's license is a privilege reserved for those who have demonstrated the readiness to take on the responsibility. It is also a privilege that can be cancelled at any time.

## STAGES

Permit: Minimum age 14

Restricted License: Age 15-16

Unrestricted License: 16 and older

## PERMIT

An instruction permit allows you to legally practice driving. Any time you operate with an instruction permit, a person with a valid license for the class of vehicle being driven, who is at least 18 years of age and has had at least three years of driving experience, must ride in the seat beside you. To receive a permit you must first pass the written examination and the visual screen test. All applicants must be at least 14 years of age. Applicants under 18 years of age must have parent or legal guardian sponsorship. As of Jan. 1, 2012, the minimum holding period for the permit depends on your age. While the minimum holding period is six months, teens under the age of 16 are required to hold the permit for 12 months or until they turn 16. During the permit phase teens are required to accumulate at least 50 hours of supervised driving experience in varied conditions, such as winter weather conditions, nighttime, rural and urban roads, and gravel.

## RESTRICTED LICENSE

After completing driver's education (if under age 16) and the required holding period for the permit, you can take the road test for an operators license.

Upon successful completion of the road test, you will be issued a Restricted Class D License (if under age 16) or an Unrestricted Class D License (if 16 or older).

With a restricted license you are limited to driving the vehicle of a parent, legal guardian, grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle. You also cannot have more passengers than the vehicle manufacture's suggested passenger capacity.

Under Graduated Driver Licensing provisions that went into affect Jan. 1, 2012, drivers under the age of 16 are also prohibited from driving between sunset or 9 p.m. (whichever is later) and 5 a.m. There are exceptions for driving to and from work, school and religious activities. All drivers under the age of 18 are prohibited from using a cell phone except in the case of an emergency.

## UNRESTRICTED LICENSE

While there are no restrictions on when and where you can drive on an unrestricted license, there are important rules specific to teens and young adults that can affect your ability to keep your license.

Drivers under the age of 21 with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .02 or greater are considered legally to be under the influence of alcohol. The penalties for driving in this dangerous condition are harsh.

Remember, no matter what your age, you will be assessed points on your record for driving offenses. Points can be assessed for infractions ranging from failing to dim head lamps, 1 point, to fleeing from a law enforcement officer in a motor vehicle, 24 points. Once on your record, points come off slowly--one point is automatically deleted by the Drivers License Division every three months of violation-free driving. Three points can be removed if you successfully complete a North Dakota approved driver improvement course.


The permit or license of a minor under 18 years of age will be cancelled if they accumulate *six or more points* on their driving record or commit an alcohol-related offense while operating a motor vehicle. This includes minor in possession or minor in consumption of alcoholic beverage.

A minor, under 18, whose permit or license has been cancelled in this manner will be considered as never having had a permit or license before. An instruction permit will be issued after successful completion of the written and vision tests.

A road test will be administered after successful completion of driver's education and the required holding period of the permit. In the event of a cancellation, driver's education requirements may be met by completing 30 hours of classroom and 6 hours of behind-the-wheel training through school-based driver education programs, if available in your community; or 6 hours of behind-the-wheel training through a commercial driver training school approved by the North Dakota Highway Patrol; or by completing an approved Internet driver education course and 30 hours of driving supervised by a parent or legal guardian.

It's also important to know state law requires all front-seat occupants to wear safety belts. Certain exemptions apply. Occupants under the age of 18 must be buckled up in both the front- and the rear-seating positions.

Finally, using a cell phone while driving is illegal for anyone under the age of 18. Furthermore, no matter what your age, using an electronic communications device while driving is both dangerous and illegal. Penalties for violations can be severe.



**Graduated Driver Licensing provisions help maximize experience while minimizing risk for young drivers.**