

# The Road To Getting Your License

If you're under 18 and getting your license for the first time, here's what you need to do.

**Starting Off in the Right Direction**  
Learning to drive? Cool. Oregon's teen driving law is designed to keep you safe in the process. The fact is, as a young driver, you're more likely to be involved in a fatal crash within the first six months of getting your license than at any other time.

And nobody wants to see that happen. The new law lets you ease into driving, with plenty of time for practice so you can learn how to do it right — without wrapping yourself around a tree.

To get started down the road to your license, just follow these directions. And learn how to drive safely — for life.

## 1 The First Leg of the Trip

**GET YOUR OREGON INSTRUCTION PERMIT.** You have to have your permit for at least six months before you can get a license. (To get your permit — if you haven't already — you need to be at least 15 years old and pass a written test.)

For the first six months, you can't drive with a passenger under the age of 20 who isn't a member of your immediate family.

Why? You still need time to get used to driving solo, without a lot of distractions. It's hard to focus on the road if your friends are bugging you to change the radio station or stop and get nachos. For right now, concentrate on getting into safe driving habits.

## 2 Practice, Practice, Practice

### 3 And Practice Some More

DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Complete a driver education course that's approved by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

OR  
Complete an additional 50 HOURS of driving practice with a supervising driver.

Both you and a parent or guardian will need to certify your hours of supervised driving and/or your driver education course completion.

\* Your supervising driver needs to be someone who's at least 21 years old and who's had a valid license for at least three years. (Hint: Like Mom or Dad. Believe it or not, it's pretty likely that they actually know more about driving than you think. Besides, it's a chance to do that whole bonding thing. Humor them — you may need to borrow money someday.)

## 4 The Big Test

PASS THE DRIVING TEST AND GET YOUR PROVISIONAL LICENSE.  
(This is where all that practice starts to pay off.)

## 5 Entering the Restricted Zone

YOU'RE OFF AND ROLLING. But there are still some restrictions after you get your provisional license. These are designed to keep you safe (and alive) during that crucial first year of licensed driving.



ONE WAY

## 6 Covering New Territory — the First Six Months After You Get Your License

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Why? You still need time to get used to driving solo, without a lot of distractions. It's hard to focus on the road if your friends are bugging you to change the radio station or stop and get nachos. For right now, concentrate on getting into safe driving habits.

## 7 Getting Comfortable — The Second Six Months After You Get Your License

For the second six months, you can't drive with more than three passengers who are under the age of 20 who are not members of your immediate family.

Makes sense. At this point, you're still getting comfortable handling the car safely and following traffic rules. Besides — how big is your car anyway?

## 8 The Home Stretch

For the first year, you can't drive between midnight and 5:00 a.m. unless you are:

- driving between home and work.
- driving between home and a school event for which there is no other transportation available.

c) driving for employment purposes.  
d) accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least 25 years old.

The reason for this is simple. As a young driver, your greatest risk of being involved in a fatal or injury crash is at night.



Passenger restrictions do not apply while driving with an instructor, as part of a certified driver education course or with a parent or step-parent who has valid driving privileges (per ORS 807.122(3) a & b).