

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

IN CASE OF AC MALFUNCTION,
THIS BOOKLET CAN BE USED
AS A FAN.

1. HOLD BOOKLET IN HAND.
2. MOVE TO AND FRO.
3. FAST.



This booklet made
courtesy of the Delaware
Office of Highway Safety—
to help guide you through
the many twists and turns
on the road.

THE STATE OF DELAWARE'S

— *Guide to* —

SAFELY NAVIGATING THE ROAD AHEAD

— *1st Edition* —

**FOR USE ON ALL HIGHWAYS,
BYWAYS, ROADS & STREETS.**



THIS MANUAL
is filled with
**TIPS, TRICKS,
SUGGESTIONS AND
SOME HELPFUL HINTS**

to help you stay safe
and make the most of
your driving experience
on Delaware's highways,
byways, side streets,
cul-de-sacs and
occasional roundabouts.



RULES
— of the —
ROAD

RULES OF THE ROAD

SAFETY TIPS

THE SCENIC ROUTE

CAR MAINTENANCE

DUI LAWS

You probably already know, but drinking and driving is not only socially unacceptable, but also illegal and very dangerous. You could seriously injure—or kill—someone. Remember, Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving.

Delaware's blood alcohol content (BAC) legal limit is .08. Even if you think you are below .08 and okay to drive, here is what could happen to you if you are arrested for driving impaired:

You'll have an
instant
criminal record.

\$6,300

You'll pay an average of \$6,300 in fines, court costs and attorney fees.

\$900

You'll do mandatory alcohol and drug counseling (at a cost of about \$900).

You'll lose your driver's license.



You could possibly do
jail time.

\$480

You could get an Ignition Interlock device (at a cost to you of \$480).

\$7,000

Your second DUI will cost you around \$7,000.

You'll pay significantly higher auto insurance premiums.

\$\$\$

\$10,000

Your third DUI will cost you about \$10,000.

**WOULDN'T YOU AGREE:
A CAB RIDE IS MUCH,
MUCH CHEAPER.**

AGGRESSIVE DRIVING

Aggressive driving happens every day, and almost everyone has driven aggressively. You might not realize you are considered an aggressive driver, but if you have ever done any of the following while driving, law enforcement might consider you an aggressive driver.

Speeding

Tailgating

Running stop signs

Running red lights

Not using turn signals

Unsafe lane changes (cutting off other drivers)

Passing on the right or over double yellow lines or in a no passing zone

Failing to yield to other drivers

Ignoring other traffic signs and signals

If an officer witnesses you committing, in continuous conduct, three or more of those moving violations, he or she can cite you for aggressive driving. That ticket comes with fines up to \$1,000, six points on your driver's license and a mandatory driver behavior course.



DISTRACTED DRIVING, CARELESS/INATTENTIVE DRIVING, AGGRESSIVE/RECKLESS DRIVING

There are all kinds of driving. However, some of them come with fines and penalties, all of which are outlined in Delaware Code Title 21 Chapter 41—Rules of the Road. Anyone who fails to give his/her full attention and maintain a proper lookout while driving can be found guilty of inattentive driving. So if you are doing any of the following while driving, please remember that driving comes first—the rest can wait.



Eating, drinking or smoking

Changing the radio,
CD or MP3

Retrieving unsecured
cargo or objects



Shaving, putting on makeup
or grooming yourself in any way

Engaging in arguments with passengers



Deciphering a road map, reading
a novel or taking notes

Focusing attention on children or pets



Texting on your cell phone

DISTRACTED DRIVING WITH HANDHELD ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES



Delaware's cell phone law bans drivers from using any handheld electronic communication device while driving. You may talk with a hands-free device only. No texting!

Fines and fees are \$106 for the first offense, and up to \$300 for subsequent offenses.

Since the law went into effect on January 2, 2011, Delaware law enforcement officers have issued more than 20,000 cell phone tickets statewide.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:
www.ohs.delaware.gov/cellphone

VULNERABLE USERS LAW

The Vulnerable Users Law increases the penalties for distracted drivers who cause serious physical injury to cyclists, pedestrians, motorcyclists, mopeds or other vulnerable road users. The law's sentencing guidelines include:

- Completion of a traffic safety course
- Up to 100 hours of community service
- Fines up to \$550
- License suspension

CLICK IT OR TICKET

Besides the fact that wearing a seat belt decreases your risk of being seriously injured or killed in a crash by around 50%, it's the law. And a pretty good one at that.

DELAWARE SEAT BELT LAWS

- Everyone in the vehicle, including backseat passengers and children, must wear their seat belts properly.
- Lap and shoulder belts must be worn. Shoulder belts cannot be placed behind the back or under the arm.
- If pulled over, the driver will receive an \$83.50 ticket if anyone in the car is found not properly secured by a seat belt. So make sure everybody buckles up—including kids.

www.ohs.delaware.gov/seatbelt

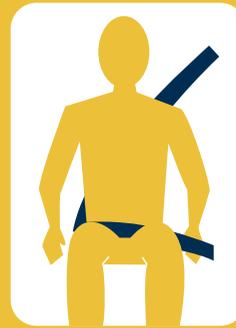
HELMETS

Delaware law requires all motorcycle riders to have a DOT-approved helmet on their bike. So if there are two riders, there must be two helmets on the bike. However, if you're under 19 you have to actually be wearing the helmet. (And eye protection, as well.) But, even if you are over 19, we would prefer that you too wear a helmet.



HOW *not* TO WEAR YOUR SEAT BELT

Seat belts work best (that is, keep you from injury or worse) only when you wear them properly:



**NEVER
BEHIND
THE BACK**



**NEVER
BEHIND
THE ARM**



**NEVER
LAYING
BACK IN
THE SEAT**

SAFETY

tips

SAFETY TIPS

THE SCENIC ROUTE

CAR MAINTENANCE

WHICH CAR SEAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

Well, more specifically, which car seat is right for your child?

UP TO THE
AGE OF

TWO

Children must always ride facing the rear. No exceptions! No matter how cute!

AGES

2-3

Children should continue to ride facing the rear until they reach the height and weight limit for rear-facing use on that seat. This means some kids may ride facing the rear until they're age 2 or older.

AGES

4-7

Keep children in a forward-facing seat with a harness to the maximum height and weight limit allowed by the seat. Then transition them to a booster seat.

AGES

8-12

Keep children in a booster seat until they meet the criteria for fitting appropriately in a seat belt:

- The shoulder belt should lie across the shoulder and chest, not across the neck or face.
- The lap belt must lie across the upper thighs, not the stomach.



USE SHELF LINER

Many parents try to protect their seats by putting a towel under the car seat. This can be dangerous. Not as dangerous as putting vipers or firecrackers beneath the car seat, but a towel creates too much space between the car seat and the vehicle seat, and makes it easier for the car seat to slide out of position.

Instead, try using a sheet of rubber shelf liner from the dollar store. These sheets are extremely thin, and provide a good gripping surface, especially on leather seats.

If you have any questions or concerns about the snugness or fit of your car seat, please consult a Fitting Station tech.

OHS FITTING STATIONS

Frustrated with the instructions that came with your car seat? Well, then just take it to one of our OHS Car Seat Fitting Stations. No charge. We're just happy to help.

WILMINGTON DMV | 2230 Hessler Blvd.
Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Wednesdays from 4 to 8 p.m.
302.434.3234

DOVER DMV | 303 Transportation Circle
Wednesdays from 4 to 8 p.m.
302.744.2749

DSP TROOP 7-LEWES | 18006 Coastal Hwy.
One Saturday each month
302.387.2324

Please call the Fitting Station nearest you for an appointment.

ASSORTED WEATHER DRIVING TIPS

SNOW

Accelerate s-l-o-w-l-y. It's slippery out there. Applying the gas too quickly will only make your tires spin. And spin. And spin. And spin.

Use a light touch on the brakes to prevent skidding into the middle of an intersection.

Approach curves and turns cautiously. Going too fast can send you into a spin or a ditch or—worse—another car.

This may seem obvious, but do not use cruise control on a snowy highway.

Before going up a hill, get some momentum going. Don't stop in the middle! And don't floor it! Flooring it will only make the wheels spin and send you backwards.

All-wheel drive (AWD) does not make you impervious to winter conditions. AWD can help you get going in the snow, but it doesn't help you stop on ice or go around a slippery turn.

RAIN

A lot of the same advice for driving in the snow applies to driving in the rain: Drive slower, use a light touch on the brakes, don't floor it, etc.

The biggest danger when driving in the rain is hydroplaning.

Hydroplaning happens when the tread on a tire encounters more water than it can handle. The resulting water pressure forces water under the tire, causing it to lift off of the road. And that's not good. Not good at all.

So, what do you do?

Slow down.

And no hard braking.

On the highway, try to drive in the tire tracks left by the car in front of you.

And remember to always use your headlights in the rain, day or night.



WHEN TO USE YOUR HEADLIGHTS (BESIDES IN THE DARK OF NIGHT)

Anytime you are using your wipers

In the rain, snow, fog and dusk

During dust storms (true, there aren't a lot of dust storms in Delaware, but if there ever is one, turn on your headlights)

The main reason for using your headlights in these conditions is not so much to help you see, but to help other drivers see you.

Use your low beams in fog. Using your high beams will cause the light from your headlights to reflect off the fog and back at you, making it harder to see.



PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

If you are driving in a neighborhood, slow down and be on the lookout for kids. They tend to dart out from nowhere.

If you are driving in a beach or tourist town, look out for everybody. Because some of them are not paying attention. They're all on vacation and sometimes thinking more of getting to the next attraction than paying attention to traffic.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSING LAW

Motorists must yield to pedestrians within a crosswalk. Pedestrians may not step into a crosswalk if doing so will cause an immediate hazard to traffic. Pedestrians must yield to motorists if crossing the road at an unmarked intersection or unmarked crosswalk.

IF YOU HAPPEN TO BE A PEDESTRIAN

Do not walk under the influence of drugs or alcohol. (You'd be surprised how many people get killed this way.)

Cross only at crosswalks or intersections with signals or traffic signs.

If there isn't a sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far off the road as possible.

Carry a flashlight or other reflective items when walking at night. No ninja costumes.

Don't hitchhike.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER AN AGGRESSIVE DRIVER ON THE ROAD

First and foremost, make every attempt to get out of the driver's way. Do not challenge him or her by speeding up or attempting to hold your own. Don't make eye contact. Ignore gestures.

Call 911 as soon as you can safely do so. The sooner the better.

Provide police dispatchers with a vehicle description (color, make, model, size, number of doors), direction of travel and a license plate number if possible.

If an aggressive driver is involved in a crash farther down the road, stop a safe distance from the crash scene, wait for the police to arrive and report the driving behavior that you witnessed.



LOOK OUT FOR MOTORCYCLES

When driving behind or near a motorcycle, increase your space and following distance around the motorcyclists. Motorcyclists often slow by down-shifting or merely rolling off the throttle, thus not activating the brake light. Allow more following distance, three or four seconds. At intersections, predict a motorcyclist may slow down without visual warning.

Stopping distance for motorcycles is nearly the same as for cars, but slippery pavement makes it difficult to stop quickly. Allow more following distance behind a motorcycle because you can't always stop "on a dime."

www.motorcyclesafetyde.org

PASSING A BICYCLE

Did you know that Delaware is one of the top 10 most bicycle-friendly states in the union? Which means you're likely to encounter a few pedalers on your travels. Which means you'll need these rules to safely pass a cyclist.



- When approaching a bicyclist traveling in the same direction, leave a three-foot (3') passing distance between your motor vehicle and the bicycle.
- If you can't achieve a three-foot (3') passing distance, reduce your speed by at least ten (10) miles per hour below the posted speed limit before attempting to pass the bicycle.



Stay Awake!

DROWSY DRIVING

Never drive while tired. If you find yourself dozing off while driving, pull over to a rest area or parking lot (not on the side of the roadway). Take a quick little catnap to feel refreshed. Or call someone to pick you up and take you home. You'll wind up safely at your destination. Instead of upside-down in a ditch.

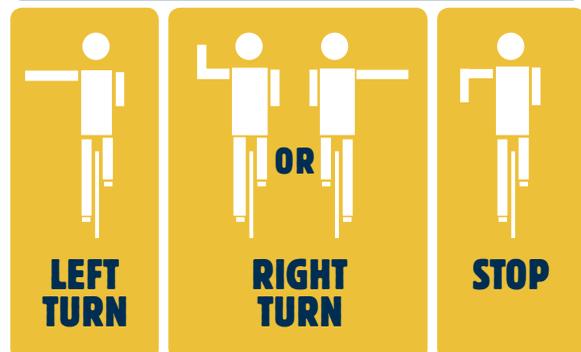
CYCLING SAFETY

Even though you don't need a license to ride a bike, there are still a few rules that go along with operating one.

- Cyclists must ride with traffic and never against traffic and must follow all traffic laws and signals.
- Anyone under the age of 18 must wear a bicycle helmet.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children follow all safety and traffic laws when riding their bikes on the roads.
- Cyclists should indicate with hand signals when making turns. (Please see the hand signal diagram for proper hand signaling technique.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION on cycling in Delaware, please visit the Delaware Bicycle Council at www.deldot.gov/information/community_programs_and_services/bike

BICYCLE HAND SIGNALS



MERGING INTO TRAFFIC

LOOK AROUND. Check your mirrors. Be aware of nearby vehicles, especially those next to you and behind you. If a vehicle is blocking your entrance to the highway, slow down so that you can try to merge in behind it.

SPEED UP. Before merging onto the highway, you need to be driving near highway speed. If the acceleration lane is long enough, accelerate to match the speed of the vehicles on the highway.

SIGNAL. Put on your turn signal to let drivers around you know your intentions. Seeing your signal, the drivers on the highway will adjust their lane position to allow you on the highway.

CHECK YOUR BLIND SPOT. Even though you have checked your mirrors, double-check your blind spot by turning your head toward the highway. Just in case there might be a motorcycle.

ACCELERATE INTO THE OPEN SPACE. When there is space for you on the highway, merge into that space, bringing your vehicle up to highway speed as quickly as possible.

Remember, vehicles already on the highway have the right of way. And big, diesel-smoke-belching 18-wheelers really, really have the right of way.

And if you're already on the highway, don't speed up to pass a vehicle that is trying to merge in front of you. Be nice. Wait until the vehicle merges and then pass it on the left if you absolutely need to. Where are you going in such a hurry anyway?

Useless cocktail party trivia:

The first modern roundabout in the USA was constructed in Summerlin, Nevada, in 1990.



HOW TO DRIVE THROUGH A ROUNDABOUT

While roundabouts may seem confusing, they actually allow you to get where you are going more quickly because they make intersections safer and more efficient.

All vehicles in a roundabout drive counter-clockwise. Right turns going in, right turns going out. So, don't be scared. Here is how to properly execute a roundabout turn:

1. Slow down. Fifteen mph or less is plenty fast for entering the roundabout.
2. Yield to vehicles that are already in the roundabout. And in some cases, you might have to stop and wait your turn.
3. Enter the roundabout. Once inside, do not stop. Now you have the right of way.
4. Ready to exit? Well, then put on your blinker and do so.

THE BRAKES ARE OUT!

This rarely happens, but if it does, immediately start pumping the brake pedal. FAST! This will build up pressure in the brake lines, allowing you to slow down. If that fails, well, that's what the emergency brake is for. Don't yank it up, apply it gradually, especially if you are going 30 mph or more.

EMERGENCY CAR KIT

This list is for a totally spec'd out, grand deluxe emergency kit. Flat tire, stuck in a snowdrift, alien invasion—with this kit you'll be ready for anything.

Jumper cables

Flashlight

Bottled water

Protein or energy bars

AM/FM radio to listen to traffic reports
and emergency messages

Cat litter or sand for better tire traction

Shovel and ice scraper

First aid kit

Warm clothes, gloves, hat, sturdy boots,
jacket and an extra change of clothes

Blanket or sleeping bag

Flares or reflective triangle

Baby formula and diapers
if you have a small child

HOW TO USE JUMPER CABLES

At some point in your life, you will be confronted with a dead battery. And most likely it will happen when you are already running late.

1. Find a car to serve as the booster car.
2. Make sure that the cars do not touch each other.
3. Turn off both engines.
4. Clamp the red jumper cable (the positive cable) to the dead car's positive battery terminal, marked with a "+."
5. Clamp the other end of the red jumper cable to the booster car's positive battery terminal, also marked with a "+."
6. Clamp the black jumper cable (the negative cable) to the booster car's negative battery terminal, marked with a "-."
7. Clamp the other end of the black jumper cable to a bare metal surface on the engine of the dead car. This can be a bolt or a screw. This provides grounding for the jump-start. (If you cannot find a bare metal surface, then clamp the black jumper cable to the dead car's negative battery terminal, also marked with a "-.")
8. Start the booster car's engine and let it idle for a few minutes.
9. Start the dead car's engine and let it idle for a few minutes.
10. Disconnect the black jumper cable from the once-dead engine. Then disconnect the black jumper cable from the booster car.
11. Disconnect the red jumper cable from the booster car. Then disconnect the red jumper cable from the once-dead car.
12. If the dead car still doesn't start, well, the problem isn't the battery. Sorry. Call a tow truck, break out a granola bar from your emergency kit, have a snack and wait.

— the scenic —
ROUTE

THE SCENIC ROUTE

CAR MAINTENANCE

SCENIC DRIVES

WESTERN SUSSEX BYWAY



US 13

The Western Sussex Byway moves through scenic farmlands, wooded areas, historic towns and state parks, and crosses the Nanticoke River on the historic Woodland Ferry. Along the way, opportunities for hiking, biking and boating abound.

Length: About 35 miles

Drive time: About 45 minutes

LEWES BYWAY

Route 9 and Coastal Highway 1

With ocean views and historical sites dating back more than 300 years, The Lewes Byway takes travelers through old Lewes and Cape Henlopen State Park.

Length: 12.35 miles on Pilottown Road/First Street, Gills Neck Road, New Road, Kings Highway, Cape Henlopen Drive and Savannah Road

Drive time: 1 hour

HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD BYWAY

US 13 onto routes 15 and 9



The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway gives travelers an opportunity to visit sites that played a role in Tubman's historic freedom journeys.

Length: Approximately 95 miles (including the loops)

Drive time: About 3 hours

ROUTE 9 COASTAL HERITAGE BYWAY

Route 9

Offering drivers an intimate experience with the largest preserved coastal marshland on the East Coast, Route 9 Coastal Heritage Byway is a scenic, two-lane road that follows along the Delaware River and Bay Estuary.

Length: Approximately 50 miles

Drive time: A little over an hour

RED CLAY VALLEY BYWAY



Northern New Castle County, between routes 52 and 48

Red Clay Valley Byway is a network of 28 roads in New Castle County that affords spectacular views of wooded hillsides and scenic vistas including the Ashland Covered Bridge, Mt. Cuba Center and the Auburn Heights Preserve.

Length: Approximately 27 miles

Drive time: About an hour

BRANDYWINE VALLEY NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY

From Rodney Square in Wilmington traveling on routes 52 and 100 to the DE-PA state line.

The Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway winds its way through rolling hills and past gorgeous historic estates, educational museums and beautiful gardens.

Length: 12.25 miles

Drive time: About an hour

Delaware
**ROADSIDE
ATTRACTIONS**

The Woodland Ferry
World's Largest Frying Pan
The Hollywood Diner, Dover

Air Mobility Command Museum
The Monster at the Monster Mile
World Championship Punkin Chunkin



CAR

— *maintenance* —

OIL IS VERY IMPORTANT



Oil lubricates the moving parts in your engine. Over time, dirt and debris builds up in the oil. And the more dirt, the harder it is for the parts to move. And this will cause the engine to work harder.

If you never changed the oil, so much gunk would build up in the oil that the engine would stop moving altogether. And then you'd have to walk. (Refer to the "Pedestrian Safety" section for tips on how to walk safely if this happens to you.)

But you don't have to change it every 3,000 miles.

Oil chemistry has improved over the years so that you don't have to change your oil every 3,000 miles. Check your car's owner's manual. It will probably say that you only need to change it every 5,000 or 10,000 miles or so.

NEED NEW TIRES?

Tires are what keep you, literally, on the road. It only takes a penny to see if you need a new set.

→ Take a penny and put it face up into the tire tread, starting with the top of Lincoln's head.



→ If you can see Abe's entire head, then you need new tires. *Honest.*

Also, if you see cracks on your sidewalls, that's not patina, that's another sign that you need new tires.

NEED NEW WIPERS?

Do they look cracked or brittle?

Do they leave streaks on the windshield?

Do they hardly make a difference?

Yes? You need new wipers.

FUEL-SAVING TIPS

CHECK YOUR
OWNER'S
MANUAL FOR
PROPER PSI

You can improve your gas mileage by up to 3.3% by keeping your tires properly inflated.

An extra 100 pounds in your car can lower gas mileage by up to 2%.



Keep your windows up on the highway. Open windows increase drag and can lower fuel economy by up to 10%.

Restarting your car uses less fuel than letting it idle for long periods of time. If you think you are going to be stopped for more than a minute, turn your car off.



Slow and steady acceleration and braking can increase fuel economy by up to 2%.

RECORD OF OIL & FILTER CHANGES AND ROUTINE INSPECTIONS

DATE ODOMETER SERVICED BY

SERVICES PERFORMED

WHAT TO DO AFTER YOU'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN A FENDER-BENDER OR WORSE.

- Move to a safe location.
- If you or your car is creating a safety hazard for other drivers, and it's operable, move it to safe location such as the shoulder of the road, a parking lot, the median, etc. You don't want to be in the middle of an intersection if you don't have to be.
- Do not leave the scene of the crash.
- Call the police and follow their instructions.
- Call 911 if there are any injuries.
- Exchange insurance information: company and policy number.
- Document the incident. With your cell phone camera, take pictures from various angles. Your insurance company may want pictures of what happened.
- Stay calm and remember this is temporary. Almost anything can be fixed.



PAPERS, PLEASE

Documentation that should be in your car at all times:

- Proof of insurance
- Current registration (keep your title at home)