

An Garda Síochána



Office of the Minister for Integration
Oifig an Aire Lánpháiríochta



Road Safety Information.



In Ireland Traffic drives on the LEFT.

Before driving a vehicle on the road in Ireland you must ensure that the vehicle is insured, taxed and the NCT test or DOE test are completed and all discs are displayed on the windscreen as required by law. You must also hold a driving licence for the vehicle.

As a learner driver in Ireland, from 4th April 2011, you must undergo 12 hours of instruction by a qualified driving instructor as part of learning to drive a car or for a motorcycle from 6th December 2010 you must undergo 16 hours instruction. You are not allowed as a learner to use motorways, you must display “L” plates and you must be accompanied by a driver of at least 2 years experience since passing their driving test.

Speed is a major factor in most fatal and serious injury collisions in Ireland.

The maximum speed limits in Ireland (in kilometres per hour) are:

30kph Areas with vulnerable road users (pedestrians, Cyclists and motorcyclists)

50kph built up urban areas

60kph Major approaches or through routes in cities and towns

80kph Secondary or regional roads

100kph National primary routes (not motorways)

120kph Motorways

Speed limits are not targets they are simply the maximum speed you are legally entitled to drive at on a stretch of road in good conditions. You must drive at a speed appropriate to road and weather conditions, volumes of traffic present and likelihood of hazards.

Slowing down can save lives.

Never Ever Drink and Drive.

How alcohol affects driving.

Alcohol affects judgement, vision, co-ordination and reaction time.

It can cause serious driving errors such as :

Driving too fast or too slow

Driving in the wrong lane or straddling lanes

Running stop signs or red lights

Improper overtaking



The Law.

The drink driving limit in Ireland is 50mg per 100 ml of blood, however for “specified drivers”, a lower limit of 20mg per 100ml of blood applies. A “specified driver” includes learner drivers, novice drivers, professional and commercial drivers.

It is an offence to drive, attempt to drive or be in charge of a vehicle in Ireland if you don't have proper control of the vehicle due to the consumption of alcohol or drugs. Remember it takes about 1 hour for each unit of alcohol to pass through the average person system 1 unit = half a pint of beer , a small measure of spirits or a small glass of wine. An Garda Síochána conduct random breath testing on drivers at various times of the day - you have been warned!

Belt Up Every Trip.

Every occupant of a vehicle is required by law to wear a seatbelt. It's the drivers' responsibility to ensure that persons under 17 yrs of age wear their seatbelt. Children must be carried in appropriate child seats.

Seat belts save lives

Fatigue.

Fatigue is believed to be a factor in as many as 1 in 5 of fatal collisions in Ireland.

Don't ignore fatigue.

If you feel tired take a break from driving – a nap of 15 to 20 mins can help

If planning a long drive get a good night's sleep the night before

Avoid alcohol or medicines that can cause drowsiness

Consider sharing the driving

Mobile Phones.

It is an offence to use a hand held mobile phone while driving.

Be careful of using other electronic devices while driving – any distraction that takes your attention from the road can be dangerous.

Issued by the Garda Road Safety Unit for the National Community
Policing Office, Garda Community Relations and Community Policing
Division, Harcourt Square, Dublin 2.

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Road Safety Information.



Your Vehicle.

On a regular basis :

Check your tyres for pressure and tread depth.

Check oil, water and other fluid levels

Check for cuts or damage.

Check all lights and indicators

Keep your windscreen clean and free from anything that might obstruct your vision

Top up your windscreen washer

Check to make sure your horn is working

Have your vehicle serviced at recommended intervals



Weather.

When visibility is poor use your dipped headlights to see and be seen

When weather conditions deteriorate – slow down

Only use fog lights when there is fog or falling snow and don't forget to switch them off when conditions improve.

Remember in snow or icy conditions or in heavy rain slow down and extend your distance from the vehicle in front to allow more time to stop.

Penalty points.

If a driver accumulates 12 penalty points in a 3 year period they automatically lose their driving licence for a period of 6 months. There are a number of different offences that carry penalty points including: Speeding, not wearing a seat belt, careless driving, breaking red lights failing to comply with stop / yield signs. See www.penaltypoints.ie for a full list.

Vulnerable Road Users

Pedestrians.

Wear bright clothing when walking during the hours of darkness and consider carrying a torch.

Always use pedestrian crossing to cross the road when available.

When there is no footpath walk facing traffic (on the right).

Never cross the road in close proximity to a heavy goods vehicle

Don't stand close to the edge of the footpath where HGV's are turning

Stop look and listen before crossing the road



Cyclists.

See and be seen. (Wear bright clothing and/or a fluorescent bib, belt or jacket)

Always wear a helmet

You must show a white light to the front and a red light to the rear as well as a red reflector to the rear during the hours of darkness.

Never cycle close to a HGV especially approaching a junction.

Obey the Rules of the Road – especially red lights and stop signs.

You must use cycle lanes where provided.

Motorcyclists / Pillion.

Motorcycles account for about 1.5% of vehicles in Ireland but account for about 12% of fatalities.

Motorcyclists/pillion MUST wear an approved helmet.

Motorcyclists / pillion should make themselves visible (wear bright reflective or high viz clothing and drive with dipped headlight on) at all times.

Motorcyclists / pillion should wear protective clothing for their own safety.

Motorcyclists should be aware of their vulnerability and drive accordingly.

Motorcyclists should check their bikes regularly especially brakes, tyres (tread depth and pressure), lights, horn.

