

Safe Driving Checklist

Is your driving road-worthy?

Are you wondering if your driving skills, abilities and knowledge are as good as they could be? Are others concerned about your driving?

Use this tool to identify areas you need to brush up on. **The categories are the same as those in a real BC driver's road test.** Use this tool with an observer – a friend or family member. Take turns observing each other's driving. We can all benefit from some constructive criticism about our driving..

Your results are intended to provide you with some general guidelines to help you refresh your driving skills and habits and drive more safely. Only professional driving examiners and instructors are qualified to do a thorough assessment of your driving skills and habits. Nevertheless, you can use this tool to help you identify some areas where you might need to improve.

Getting started

- Ask a trusted friend or family member to be your observer.
- Pick a section to concentrate on for your current observation session. This will allow you and your observer to concentrate on a few skills at a time.
- Make several copies so you can use this tool over and over.
- Before you go out in the car, plan a route that reflects the type of driving you typically do (e.g., if you stay off the freeway or never drive at night, then plan to avoid those situations.)
- Ask your observer:
 - to watch your driving and check the best response for each item (if an item does not apply to you or your vehicle, leave that line blank)
 - to record specific comments in the comments section (e.g., "Didn't signal turn at corner of Jarvis and 2nd.")
 - to hold their comments or discussion until you are finished driving and out of your car

You can also use this tool on your own as a safe driving checklist. Check the responses that most accurately describe your driving. Use the "Comments" section to record any thoughts or questions you have regarding your driving behaviours or habits.

If you are uncertain regarding correct procedures or maneuvers, refer to [*Road Sense for Drivers*](#) and [*Tuning Up for Drivers*](#). Both are available from your local driver licensing office.

Scoring

The best response, in every case, is "Always". The more times your observer checked "Always," the better. Try to increase the total number of checks under "Always" each time you go out on the road with your observer. It's interesting to see how well you do, but the real purpose of this checklist is to help you identify and address areas of concern so you can become a safer driver.

Pre-trip Checklist (each time you drive)	Yes	No
The vehicle is in good repair (Ask driver about maintenance schedule.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Driver considers if he/she is fit to drive. Decides NOT to drive if he/she has consumed alcohol, has a medical condition or takes medications that affect driving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Driver considers driving, weather and road conditions. Decides NOT to drive if unsafe. Driver has planned a route with safety in mind	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Checks behind and in front of vehicle before getting in	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Checks head rest height; adjusts if necessary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Checks side and rear-view mirrors; adjusts if necessary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ensures that the windshield, rear and side windows are clean and offer good visibility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckles up seat belt before starting car	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sits at least 10 in. (25 cm) from air bag unit in steering wheel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safety comments:		

Driver Behaviour and Abilities	Always	Sometimes	Never
Can reach and easily operate all of the vehicle driving controls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Follows all traffic laws, road markings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maneuvers through complex intersections and busy traffic without unnecessary hesitation (e.g., left turns at busy intersections, merging, traffic circles, rush hour traffic, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Concentrates on driving (e.g., does not eat, use cell phone, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remains calm and confident when driving	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wears glasses or lenses as prescribed by eye doctor (Ask driver if these have been prescribed.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Driver Behaviour and Abilities comments:			

Space Margins	Always	Sometimes	Never
Leaves safe gap between car and vehicle ahead (at least 2 - 4 seconds, depending on road and driving conditions)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slows down slightly if driver behind is tailgating	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drives in centre of lane	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Leaves at least one metre on each side of car	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Avoids driving in other drivers' blind spots	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stops so that the wheels of car in front are visible	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stops just before the stop line or crosswalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses proper procedures at different types of intersections (e.g., four-way stops, traffic circles, controlled and uncontrolled intersections, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Space Margins (continued)	Always	Sometimes	Never
Merges into the flow of traffic so as not to disrupt other drivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks within 12 in. (30 cm) of curb and applies parking brake. On a hill, parks with wheels turned so car will roll into the curb	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Space Margins comments:			

Observation	Always	Sometimes	Never
Turns head and does a full shoulder check at every turn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turns head and does a full shoulder check at every lane change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scans rear-view and side mirrors every few seconds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scans rear-view mirror before and after slowing down or stopping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scans to left and right when entering all intersections, even if driving through	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scans side mirrors when changing lanes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scans well ahead for hazards (up to ½ km on highways and two blocks in city)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does 360° check before backing up (looks all around vehicle, using shoulder and mirror checks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Turns around and looks out back window when backing up	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stops for pedestrians in crosswalk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hears and reacts appropriately to horns and emergency vehicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Observation comments:			

Speed Control	Always	Sometimes	Never
Keeps a steady speed, using brake and accelerator smoothly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Avoids jerky starts and stops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Can easily move foot from the gas to the brake and can easily press the pedals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses the vehicle's anti-lock brakes (ABS) correctly in an emergency stop (i.e., applies continuous, hard pressure on the brakes until vehicle comes to a stop). Note: Check for an indicator on the vehicle's dash to see if the car has ABS; not all cars do.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maintains legal speed limit or appropriate speed, depending on conditions (i.e., does not exceed the speed limit and does not drive consistently below the speed limit unless conditions warrant)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slows down going into a curve and accelerates coming out of it	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fully stops at all stop signs and red lights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stops at amber lights unless it is unsafe to do so	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Speed Control comments:			

Steering	Always	Sometimes	Never
Keeps both hands on the wheel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keeps hands on the outside of the wheel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Positions hands correctly on the steering wheel (clock hand positions 9 and 3 or 10 and 2, but if there is an air bag, 9 and 3 or 8 and 4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steers straight down the road without weaving from side to side	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steering comments:			

Communication and Signalling	Always	Sometimes	Never
Uses turn signals before turning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses turn signals before changing lanes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signals well ahead of turn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After the turn, ensures that signals are off	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Makes eye contact with pedestrians in a cross walk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Makes eye contact with other drivers at a four-way stop	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uses the horn appropriately (i.e., only to signal a warning to other road users)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication comments:			

Hazard Perception	Always	Sometimes	Never
Scans ahead for people in parked cars, opening car doors, children by the roadside, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slows down or increases the gap when vision blocked (e.g., when there is a large truck ahead)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drives at speed appropriate for conditions (e.g., slows speed in bad weather)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slows speed on a hill or sharp curve when visibility is limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Slows speed in poor road conditions (e.g., gravel, puddles or ruts)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Practices naming hazards out loud (can be done in each session)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazard Perception comments:			

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