

New residents of Washington

Drivers 16 or 17 years of age with an out-of-state driver license or instruction permit must meet the intermediate license requirements. The license or permit may count toward the requirement to have a permit for six months.

Check with us for information on driver training and the license application process.

Instruction permit information

You must be at least 15-1/2 years old, pass a vision and knowledge test, and pay the appropriate fees. Or, if you are 15, you can show proof of enrollment in a driver training course that has started, or will start within 10 days. Schools can now report your enrollment to DOL electronically. Until you are 18, your parent or guardian must show proof of their own identity and relationship to you (a birth certificate is usually sufficient), and must sign the application.

Logbooks for supervised driving

To apply for an intermediate license, you must have completed 50 hours of supervised driving with a driver who has been licensed for five years or more (10 of the 50 hours must be night driving). Logbooks for keeping track of supervised driving time are provided in the Parent Guide to Teen Driving (www.dol.wa.gov/driverslicense/docs/parentguide.pdf).



Q. What's an intermediate driver license?

A. It's a license issued to a driver under the age of 18. Certain restrictions apply (see inside) and there are tough penalties if an intermediate driver violates the restrictions or is convicted of traffic offenses.

Q. What happens if I let my friends ride in the car with me before I have my license for six months?

A. Except for family members, driving with passengers under age 20 before you have been licensed for six months is a violation of restrictions. A police officer could issue you a traffic citation. If it's the first violation a warning letter is sent to your parent. If you get a second violation your license will be suspended.

Q. I was ticketed for minor in possession (MIP). Can I get an intermediate license?

A. If the MIP was settled with the court before you were issued an instruction permit you may be eligible to get an intermediate license. However, if you had an instruction permit on or before the date of conviction, you will not be eligible for a license until age 18.

Q. Can I get a ticket/violation for using a cell phone while driving?

A. Yes. You may not talk or text on your cell phone, even with a hands-free device, unless you are reporting an emergency. The fine is \$124 and the violation will be reported to your parent/guardian. Your passenger/nighttime restrictions can be extended and further tickets could result in your license being suspended.

For more information on the intermediate license, please visit our web site at: www.dol.wa.gov.

Washington State
Department of Licensing

Your intermediate driver license

Driver licensing requirements designed to improve the safety and ability of drivers ages 15-17



We are committed to providing equal access to our services.
If you need accommodation, please call (360) 902-3900
or TTY (360) 664-0116.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
DOL LICENSING



Like most teens, you're probably looking forward to getting your first driver license. It's a step toward independence, even if it's only an opportunity to drive to school or run errands for your family.

Why an intermediate license? The state legislature recognized that young, less-experienced drivers were involved in more traffic collisions and fatalities than all other groups of drivers. The intermediate license law increases safety for young drivers and everyone else on the road. Other states with similar laws have shown a drop of 25 to 30 percent in the number of teenage car crashes.

So keep reading to learn more about the intermediate license. Safe driving!

Things to know about the intermediate license

Getting an intermediate license

To get an intermediate license, new drivers under age 18 must:

- Be at least 16 years of age
- Have an instruction permit for six months
- Successfully complete an approved traffic safety education course. Schools can now report your course completion to DOL electronically.
- Meet identification requirements including providing proof of parental relationship (for example, a certified birth certificate)
- Have a parent or guardian sign parental authorization and certify that you've had at least 50 hours of supervised driving including 10 hours at night with someone who has been licensed for five years or more
- Have a parent or guardian sign that no traffic citation has been issued or is pending for the prior six month period
- Pass the written and driving tests
- Disclose your Social Security number or, if you don't have one, sign a declaration
- Have not been convicted of or found to have committed an offense involving alcohol or drugs while holding an instruction permit.

Restrictions

Once an intermediate license is issued:

- For the first six months of driving, teens can't have passengers under the age of 20 except for family members
- After six months, in addition to family members, up to three passengers under age 20 can also ride in the car
- No late-night driving between 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. The intermediate driver may only drive if a parent, guardian, or other driver, who is at least 25 years old, rides along.
- You are not permitted to use wireless devices while driving, even with a hands-free device. This includes talking on cell phones or sending/receiving TXT messages. You may only use a wireless device if you are reporting an emergency.



Text. Talk. Ticket.

Distracted driving can kill

- *On the road. Off the phone.* Eyes off the road can change lives forever.
- At 55 mph, in the time it takes to look down at a cell phone for a call or message, you've traveled more than the length of a football field
- Drivers talking on cell phones are at least half a second slower to hit the brakes in emergencies — that can mean the difference between life and death.

Tough penalties in the first year

- First violation — the passenger and nighttime restrictions are extended until age 18 and a warning letter is sent to you and your parent or guardian if you receive a ticket for violating the restrictions or any other traffic law or you are involved in an accident where:
 - You receive a ticket
 - You are determined to have caused the accident
 - Only your car was involved in the accident
 - Second violation—you are suspended for six months (or until age 18, whichever comes first)
 - Third violation—you are suspended until age 18
- You and your parent or guardian are notified before any suspension action is taken.
- When you turn 18, your intermediate license becomes a regular driver license and no new license is required.

