

BEHIND THE WHEEL

GLOVEBOX GUIDE





CONGRATULATIONS



You've now passed your driving test!

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service has teamed up with 'The Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency' and 'Safer Roads Greater Manchester' to wish you a long and safe driving career and we want you to enjoy the new sense of freedom which you experience as a newly qualified driver. We want you to know exactly how to keep yourself and your passengers safe whilst on the road, and have produced this guide to help you do this.



KEEP LEARNING...

Passing your test is the start of a new journey as you continue to develop skills and experience.

These will include:

- Driving on motorways
- Driving at night
- Driving without a qualified instructor sitting next to you
- Driving on country roads
- Driving with friends in the car



“You will need the confidence to challenge your passengers behaviour at times. Don’t be afraid to do so!”





THE LAW

30

60

20

The Road Traffic (New Drivers) Act introduced a 2 year probationary period for all newly qualified drivers. This means that any new driver collecting six or more penalty points during this time will have their licence revoked, and will have to revert back to learner status. So something as simple as speeding up to get through an amber traffic light could result in you losing your licence and having to pass the two parts of your test all over again.

Depending on the severity of your offence, you could face the following:



STOP

Speeding

Three penalty points (more if you plead not guilty and go to court)
£100 - £2,500 fine

Running a red light

Three penalty points
(more if you cause a collision)
£5,000 fine
Possible disqualification

Failure to stop after an accident

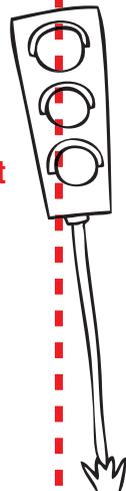
Ten penalty points
Six months imprisonment
£5,000 fine

Using your mobile phone whilst driving

Six penalty points
£200 fine
Discretionary disqualification

Not wearing your seatbelt

(drivers and passengers)
£100 - £500 fine



03

GLOVEBOX
GUIDE



**WIN AN
iPAD
MINI™**



Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service is committed to helping all new drivers stay safe on the roads.

All too often, we are called to rescue young people who are trapped in their vehicles after being involved in a collision, sometimes suffering life changing injuries.

We know that 95% of injury collisions happen because of driver or passenger error, and that many deaths and injuries could be avoided if young people made some small changes to the way they behave behind the wheel or in the passenger seat.

We want to talk to you about your experiences as a new driver, and gather your views on what would help young people to stay safe on the roads.

To win an iPad Mini™ visit our website and enter the competition.

Good Luck!

www.gloveboxguide.co.uk



Did you know?



The majority of young drivers are safe, considerate and attentive, BUT 17 – 25 year olds are still much more at risk of being in a serious collision than other road users, particularly during the first year after passing their test.

40% of all killed or seriously injured passengers were being driven at night by a newly qualified young driver.

Research has shown that young adults' judgement and decision making does not fully develop until around the age of 25 – so young adults tend to take more risks and allow themselves to be influenced by others around them.





**SHARE
THE
ROAD**

SHARING THE ROAD

Cyclists and Motorcyclists

Cyclists and motorcyclists have an equal right to use the roads along with motorists. **THINK BIKE** – make scanning for cyclists and motorcyclists second nature, particularly when turning and at junctions. Give cyclists and motorcyclists plenty of space when passing them. Cyclists may need to take a central position in the lane to avoid hazards such as pot holes. Be prepared to be patient if you can't overtake them for a while. Check your mirror before opening your door – a car door opening by surprise can be deadly to a cyclist.

Large and Heavy Goods Vehicles

These may need extra road space to turn or to deal with a hazard that you are not able to see. Pull back to increase the space between yourself and large vehicles, and be prepared to stop and wait if they need time to manoeuvre. Be aware that the drivers may be unable to see you in their mirrors.

Emergency Vehicles

Look and listen for ambulances, fire engines, police cars and other emergency vehicles. When one approaches don't panic, but indicate and pull over to let it pass without endangering yourself.

Pedestrians

There is a risk of pedestrians, especially children, stepping unexpectedly into the road. Children and older pedestrians may not be able to judge how fast you are going, so lower your speed in all built up areas.

Considerate Parking

Parking fines can be costly, and inconsiderate parking can be just as dangerous as bad driving. Make sure you always park legally, using off street parking areas whenever possible. If you do need to park on the roadside, make sure you are facing the same way as the traffic flow, and as close to the kerb or side of the road as possible.





Accident Checklist

Nobody wants to be involved in a crash, but if you are this checklist may help.

1

If anyone needs medical care call for an ambulance, and offer first aid if you can.

2

Switch on your hazard lights and if possible make sure the vehicles involved are moved to a safe place.

3

If there is any obstruction in the road, if a car involved has failed to stop or if any other driver is aggressive or uncooperative call the police!

General Advice

- Don't admit liability
- Get details of any witnesses
- Don't put yourself in danger to make the area safe
- Take any valuables with you if you have to leave your car
- If you can, take any photo's at the scene
- Record the accident with the police even if it is minor
- Tell you insurance company as soon as possible after the accident





Accident Information

Date: _____ Time: _____

Weather and road conditions: _____

Location: _____

What happened: _____

Your Vehicle Details (fill this section out now and keep it in your car)

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____

Reg Number: _____ Make: _____

Model: _____ Colour: _____ Insurer: _____

Policy Number: _____ Insurer's Contact Number: _____

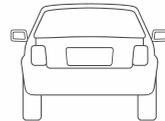
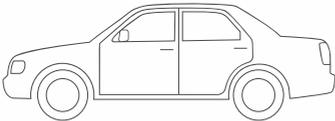
Other Vehicle Details:

Name: _____ Contact Number: _____

Reg Number: _____ Make: _____

Model: _____ Colour: _____ Insurer: _____

Policy Number: _____ Insurer's Contact Number: _____



Damage to vehicles: _____

DRIVE SAFELY

STICKING TO THE FOLLOWING TIPS WILL HELP YOU TO CONTINUE TO BE A GOOD DRIVER.

Stay below the speed limits - Remember speed limits are a **maximum**, not speeds to aim for.

Avoid distractions - A text or call can wreck it all. Keep your phone off and out of reach to avoid temptation!

Changing a CD, looking at back seat passengers, or distractions along the roadside can all steal your attention at that critical moment. Be aware of your distractions and avoid them.

Keep your phone off **or on silent** and out of reach.

Always wear your seatbelt and make sure all of your passengers put theirs on and keep them on. You're twice as likely to die in a crash if you're not wearing a seatbelt. Airbags are designed to work with seatbelts not instead of them. There are **no** excuses for not wearing a seatbelt.

Know your route before you set off and leave plenty of time for the journey. If you are using a SatNav, make sure it's set properly **before** you set off, and place it safely in your car where it doesn't hamper your vision.

Challenge your passengers - if they are encouraging you to take risks don't go along with it. Remember - you have proved your skills in your driving test.





Drink/drug driving - The legal limit is not measured in units, bottles, pints or glasses. You may think you can drink two units and still drive, but **THIS IS NOT TRUE** - the only way to know you are under the limit is to not drink if you are driving.



Even a small amount of alcohol can have a serious effect on driving ability - it affects judgement, co-ordination and reaction times.

Plan for nights out - book taxis or nominate a driver who will not be drinking at all.

The police now have the power to arrest drivers by the roadside if they suspect that the driver might be impaired through illegal or prescription drugs. They do know the signs to look for.

IF CONVICTED OF DRINK
OR DRUG DRIVING, THE
PENALTIES CAN RESULT
IN A £5,000 FINE, 6
MONTHS IN PRISON
AND A TWELVE MONTH
DRIVING BAN.



LOOK AFTER YOUR CAR...

P.O.W.D.E.R Checks

Basic, regular checks on your car will help keep you safe on the road as well as help you avoid huge repair costs.



Petrol

Make sure you have enough for your journey, especially when travelling on the motorway.



Oil

This is the lifeblood of your engine. Without it your engine will grind to an expensive halt – check the levels while your car is cool and on a flat surface.



Water

Water is essential to keep your engine from overheating – keep coolant water and windscreen wash topped up.



Damage

Have a quick look around your car to check it's still in the condition you left it in.



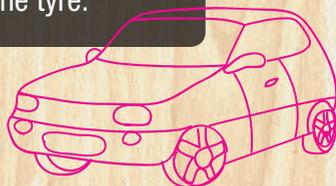
Electrics

Check your lights regularly – ask someone to help check that your indicators and brake lights are all working properly.



Rubber

Your tyres are your link to the road – check the tread depth and pressure regularly and make sure there are no bulges or cuts on the sides of the tyre.



MOTORWAY DRIVING TIPS

- Remember that concentration and frequent use of mirrors are doubly important on motorways because of high speed and traffic volumes.
- Take extra care when approaching junctions where other vehicles will be joining the motorway.
- Look out for motorway signals warning you of dangers ahead.
- Keep your distance and observe speed restrictions. On a dry road and in good weather conditions leave at least a two second gap between your vehicle and the one in front.
- On wet, slippery roads, or in poor visibility leave at least a four second gap. Switch on dipped headlights when visibility is reduced.
- Be prepared to anticipate the unexpected actions of other drivers.
- Always use the left hand lane where possible. Remember lanes two and three are overtaking lanes not "middle" and "fast" lanes. Always indicate when changing lanes.
- Overtake only on the right. Never move into a lane on your left to overtake and never use the hard shoulder to overtake.
- Take special care when joining a motorway. You must give way to motorway traffic. Beware of the 'blindspot' factor.
- Take regular breaks at service areas - if you feel sleepy, get off the motorway at the first opportunity.

HARD SHOULDER ADVICE...



Never stop on a hard shoulder except in an emergency. If an emergency forces you to stop, then follow the top five personal safety tips to stay safe:

- Pull onto the hard shoulder as far left as possible, near an emergency roadside telephone if you can, and switch on your hazard warning lights.
- Leave the vehicle via the door on the left and make sure your passengers do.
- Wait well away from the carriageway and hard shoulder until help arrives.
- If possible, contact the Highways Agency, preferably via the emergency roadside telephone as they will know exactly where you are.
- If you feel at risk from another person, return to your vehicle via the left hand door, and lock all the doors. Leave your vehicle again as soon as you feel the risk has passed.

TOP TIPS

- Ask your driving instructor if they offer further lessons for newly qualified drivers – your insurance could go down!
- Ask an experienced driver you trust to accompany you on practice runs such as country roads, motorway driving and night driving
- Practise regular routes in different conditions



INSURANCE

Insurance premiums are higher for new young drivers because you are classed as being in a “high risk group”. But there are some things you can do to help keep them down:

- Having telematics, a “black box” fitted to your car to demonstrate that you are a low risk driver
- Improving your car security
- Gaining additional driving qualifications such as Pass Plus
- Buying a lower risk car
- Driving safely to gain your No Claims Bonus
- Keeping your mileage down

You must be honest about who the main driver of the vehicle is – being a named driver on someone else’s insurance will not cover you if you are the main driver of the car.



SAFE DRIVING FOR LIFE PLEDGE

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE BY TICKING THE BOXES BELOW...

SLOW DOWN

- I Pledge to drive at an appropriate speed for the conditions I'm driving in and I will not break the speed limits.

DRINK & DRUGS

- I Pledge never to drive whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

MOBILE PHONES

- I pledge to switch off my mobile phone or put it on silent and out of reach.

SEATBELTS

- I Pledge to always wear a seat belt and ensure my passengers of all ages always wear a seatbelt or the appropriate child restraint.

PEER PRESSURE

- I Pledge not to be influenced by my passengers to drive dangerously.



WEBLINKS

www.gov.uk/browse/driving Advice and information for new drivers on insurance, pass plus courses and the New Drivers Act.

TO WIN AN IPAD MINI PLEASE VISIT -

www.manchesterfire.gov.uk/gloveboxguide

Produced by:



**GREATER MANCHESTER
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

**SAFER
ROADS
GM**



Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency