



# Hitting the Road: Driver licensing in Wisconsin

*Being a new driver can be challenging. Knowing and following the laws is one of the first steps to develop safe driving habits to rely on for life.*

## Instruction Permit

This type of permit is given to individuals learning to drive and is required prior to behind the wheel practice.

### How to get a permit:

- Must be 15 ½ years old
- Be enrolled in school (Graduation and GED acceptable)
- Enrolled in Drivers Education
- Parent and Instructor signatures required
- Written knowledge test and vision screening

### Once you have an instruction permit, it is important to remember:

- Under 18, a qualified adult must accompany you in the front seat while you drive
- Qualified adult must have a valid regular license and two years experience
- At 16, you may not drive with non family members under the age of 25
- 30 hours of behind the wheel practice, 10 hours being at night are required

## Probationary License

This type of license is given to drivers who have completed their behind the wheel test and will be used until a drivers first renewal. (About 2-3 years).

### Once you have a probationary license, it is important to remember:

- There are restrictions for individuals under the age of 18 for the first 9 month
- You may not drive alone between the hours of 12 am to 5 am unless returning home from work or a qualified adult is in the passenger seat

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- Between the hours of 5am-midnight you may drive alone, with any family members and ONE non-family member
- Restrictions can be extended six months if you are convicted of a moving violation
- Demerit points are doubled for moving violations after the first offense
- If you receive 12 points, your license can be suspended

### Regular License

The last type of license is a regular license. In order to obtain a regular license, a person needs to be at least 19 years old. A regular license is issued when a driver completes their first renewal, generally two to three years after receiving their probationary license.

### Driving laws

No matter what type of license a driver has, they are responsible for understanding and following all the driving laws. Wisconsin has additional traffic safety laws on:

- texting and cell phone use
- distracted driving
- seat belt use
- impaired driving
- work zones
- child passenger safety

There may also be local laws that are more restrictive than the state laws. And, laws vary between states. Every driver is responsible for knowing and following the laws where they drive.

For more information about safe driving visit us at [crossroadsteendriving.org](http://crossroadsteendriving.org) or find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

