Virginia Drivers License Guide
Congratulations on your 60 day membership to our Roadside Assistance.

When out on the road, you will know that you are covered and protected by an organization that cares about the safety of you and your family. Our customer service representatives respond quickly to provide you the best service and protection available anywhere.

**24-Hour Emergency Roadside Assistance Benefits**

Customers are covered for emergency road service throughout the U.S. and Canada.

**24-Hour Towing Service**

Customers are entitled to emergency towing service at no out-of-pocket cost for any tow up to 75 dollars. One service per seven days, two services per contract. Extended distance will be an additional expense covered by the customer.

**24-Hour Mechanical First Aid**

Customers are entitled to any service requiring minor adjustments (exclusive of parts) to enable a disabled vehicle to proceed under its own power, where available.

**24-Hour Tire Change Service**

Customers may have their tire changed with their inflated and functional spare tire.
24-Hour Emergency Delivery
A service truck will deliver emergency supplies of gasoline, water, oil or other necessary supplies. Customers pay only for the cost of the supplies.

24-Hour Lost Key Service
If keys are locked inside a customer’s vehicle, the customer will be assisted in gaining entry to the vehicle’s passenger compartment only. Locksmith services may be dispatched as needed at the customer’s expense for labor and key making.

24-Hour Emergency Battery Service
Customers are covered for battery boosts and minor adjustments to alternators, starters, etc. while on the road.

Rental Car Discounts
Customers are entitled to take advantage of our rental car discount codes and pre-negotiated group rates, which are honored at thousands of locations throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Map Routing Service
We will, at no charge, provide customers with a four-color mapping and travel route information to destinations they specify.

Theft And Hit & Run Protection
A $500 reward is offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone responsible for Hit & Run damages or stealing customers’ vehicles. Whenever you travel, you will like the secure and confident feeling of knowing that you are protected by NSD’s Roadside Assistance. Fast response and excellent service are just two reasons why millions of motorists rely on NSD’s Roadside Assistance for on-the-road protection.
Keeping You Safe Mile After Mile

Once your purchase is processed, you will receive an email with the information you will need to start your 60-day Roadside Assistance membership.

Congratulations!
Redeem Your $25 Gas Card Online

Follow the link in your confirmation email to start redeeming your $25 Gas Coupon.

*PLEASE SAVE ALL THE INFORMATION FOR YOUR RECORDS. You will use your log in information throughout the course of your complimentary gas membership.
## Table Of Contents

- Starting the Journey
  - Page 6
- Getting Your First Virginia License
  - Page 14
- Renewing Your License
  - Page 16
- Updating Your License Information
  - Page 18
- Replacing Your License
  - Page 20
- Reinstating Your Driver's License
  - Page 21
- Getting a Virginia ID Card
  - Page 23
- Vehicle Safety Tips
  - Page 24
- Official Forms
  - Page 28
- DMV Hours and Locations
  - Page 29
Welcome to the world of driving in Virginia. Obtaining your license is one of the most gratifying moments in your life. Our purpose through this guide is to make sure you get to that moment with as little stress or complications as possible.

Getting your driver’s license in Virginia is a smooth-sailing process, which only requires you to prepare slightly before embarking on the adventure. That is where we come in; we are here to help you learn exactly what it is you need to prepare, and how to prepare properly.

This is a process that will only take a small amount of your time; in fact, our guide is specifically organized to ensure that you are able to get through things as quickly as possible. Our handy eBook is jam-packed with information regarding everything from obtaining your learner’s permit, driver’s license or ID card, all the way to how to renew, replace or update these items. We will make getting ready to drive on the friendly Virginia roads fast and easy. So, sit back and review our comprehensive guide, as we make life a bit less complicated.
You must remember that the roads aren't always safe; therefore, it is in your best interest to fully prepare for whatever may come your way before you begin driving. When you begin driving, you not only take on the responsibility of your own safety, but you also take on the responsibility of the safety of your passengers, and all passengers in the vehicles around you. So, in order to best prepare yourself to take on that responsibility, it is always wise to first obtain your learner’s permit, which will aid in learning how to drive properly. If you would like to understand how to obtain your learner’s permit, review the sections below.

**Identification Documents**

Whenever you go to the DMV to get a permit, a license or an ID card, you will be required to provide documents to prove your identification, Social Security, legal presence and Virginia residency. This helps the DMV avoid identity theft and any form of illegal use of your identity. Therefore, before taking a trip to the DMV, make sure you have the following documents with you.

**Proof of Identity and Legal Presence**

Any proof of identity documents submitted must show your full legal name and your date of birth. All of the below documents also serve as proof of legal presence. Documents include the following:

- An official birth document issued by a U.S. state, jurisdiction or territory
- A valid, unexpired U.S. passport or U.S. passport card
- An unexpired foreign passport
- A Consular Report of Birth Abroad
- A Certificate of Birth Abroad
- A Certification of Report of Birth of a U.S. Citizen
- A U.S. Certificate of Naturalization
- A U.S. Certificate of Citizenship
- A valid, unexpired Permanent Resident Card
- A REAL ID-compliant driver’s license or ID card

If the name on your legal presence document does not match up with the name you plan to use on your DMV credential, prepare legal name change documents, as well.
Primary Proof of Residency:

- A deed, mortgage, monthly mortgage statement or residential rental/lease agreement
- A U.S. Postal Service change of address confirmation form
- Postmarked U.S. mail with a forwarding address label
- A Virginia voter registration card
- A Virginia driver’s license, commercial driver’s license, learner’s permit or DMV-issued ID card displaying the applicant’s current Virginia address (unexpired or expired for no more than one year)
- A canceled check not more than two months old
- A certified copy of school records/transcript/official report card issued within the last year
Secondary Proof of Residency:

- Postmarked mail displaying the applicant’s name and current address
- Official correspondence from a federal, state or local government agency
- A billing statement or another official document from a recognizable business or government agency

Proof of Social Security
You will have to provide your Social Security Number (SSN) at the DMV, but it will not show on your permit, license or ID. Make sure all of your information matches with Social Security Administration (SSA) records. If you have recently changed your name or address, you should first change it with the SSA before applying for your permit, license or ID. Documents that prove your SSN are:

- Your Social Security card.
- A W-2 form.
- A 1099 tax form from the IRS or a non-SSA 1099 form.
- A paycheck stub.

Note
You can use two primary documents for proof of residency, or one primary and one secondary document, if needed.
Testing

Along with your identification documents, you will need to pass several DMV tests prior to obtaining your desired credential. However, these tests are not required of those applying for ID cards in Virginia. The main objective of these exams is to verify that you are able to drive safely without risking your life – or the lives of others.

Vision Exam

The DMV must know if you meet Virginia standards in regard to visual acuity. The day you go to apply for your DMV permit or driver's license, make sure you take the appropriate documentation and request to have your vision screened. A DMV representative will ask you to look into a machine and read the letters and numbers that come up on screen. You need to have at least 20/40 visual acuity in one or both eyes to pass the test. You also need to have 110 degrees or better horizontal vision in one or both eyes.

If you don't pass your vision exam, you will be required to go to an eye doctor to determine if you could be driving with some type of vision correction, such as glasses, or bi-optic telescopic lenses. You may also get a restricted license for daytime driving after your vision screening if the test determines you have at least 20/70 visual acuity in one or both eyes, with a minimum of 70 degrees horizontal vision on both eyes, or at least 40 degrees temporal and 30 degrees or more nasal, if you only have vision in one eye.

If you underwent corrective eye surgery recently and need to remove your license restriction, you will have to go to the DMV and pass the vision test again or submit by mail a completed Driver's License and Identification Card Application and a Vision Screening Report. Mail these two documents to:

Department of Motor Vehicles
Driver's License and ID Card Work Center

P.O. Box 27412
Richmond, VA 23269-0001

In both cases, you must prepare the $20 fee for a replacement license.

Knowledge Exam

Before getting your learner’s permit or your first driver’s license, you will have to take a knowledge test, which is divided into two parts. The first part has to do with traffic signs. You must correctly identify 10 traffic signs before moving on to the second part. For the second part of the test, you will have to answer questions about motor vehicle laws and safe driving. You must score an 80 percent on the second part of the exam to pass.
Taking a driving test is necessary in order for the DMV to determine your driving skills level. You have to take a driving test before getting your first Virginia driver’s license. The first part of the exam, which includes a safety check, will show the examiner that you have an acceptable level of knowledge regarding your vehicle. When you go to take your driving test, you are required to provide a vehicle that is both insured, and passes the safety requirements.

You can take the driving test at any of the DMV locations across the state, except for the Fair Oaks Mall and the Arlington DMV Metro at Virginia Square locations. If you are under 18 years of age, you have to take the driving test as part of a DMV approved driver’s education course. If you are 18 or older, you will have to provide an acceptable driver’s education certificate of completion or fill out a behind-the-wheel-checklist certifying that you have practiced all tasks required for a learner’s permit. This checklist must be signed by the licensed driver that supervised your practice. You must also present your learner’s permit issued at least 60 days before the road test.

When taking the driving test, a DMV representative will accompany you and request that you perform a series of maneuvers. Review the Final Road Skills Evaluation to get an idea of what you can expect on your road skills test.

At the end of the exam, the DMV representative will let you know if you made any mistakes and if you passed the test or not. If you fail the road exam, you will have to wait two days before retaking it. You can retake the road test three times, only. If you fail your third time, you will be required to go back to driver’s education and complete the behind-the-wheel-portion before being allowed to retake the test.

**Tip**

If you fail, you can retake the test 15 days later. If you are over 18 years old, you will have to pay a $2 fee to retake your exam.

You have three chances to pass the knowledge exam. If you fail three times, you will be required to go back to driver’s education classes.

Knowledge exams are available in many languages, including American Sign Language. If you need to take the test in a different language, ask a DMV representative. You may not request the services of a translator for the exam.
Teen Drivers

As a teenager in Virginia, obtaining your first-ever credential to drive can be both exciting and nerve-racking. Fortunately, we are here to guide you seamlessly through the process. In each step leading toward obtaining your license, we will outline and help you to better understand each procedure you must complete. As a new driver, it is important that you carefully read through each step and fully understand how everything operates. This is to ensure that you avoid any complications, but also to confirm that you are well-prepared to handle your on-the-road responsibilities. By completing these steps and obtaining your license, you will take those first steps toward proving you are ready to drive.

Step 1: Driver’s Education

You have to pass an approved driver’s education course before getting a learner’s permit in Virginia. You must be at least 15 years and 6 months old to be eligible for a permit, and 16 years and 3 months of age to apply for a driver’s license. Click here to find a list of approved Driver’s Education providers.

Driver’s education has two phases: classroom and behind-the-wheel. You will have to attend to 36 classes to learn basic safety practices when driving. The behind-the-wheel portion of the course consists of 14 periods: seven periods of driving and seven periods of observation.

You will have to take the knowledge and road tests during your driver’s education course. At the end, you will get a certificate of completion. Your instructor will send a copy of your certificate of completion to the DMV in lieu of applying for your permanent driver’s license.

Step 2: Learner’s Permit

When you are ready to get your learner’s permit, you will have to go to a DMV agency and pass a vision screening and the two-part knowledge test, and provide one proof of completion of an approved driver’s education course. At the DMV office, you will also have to present required documents to prove your identity, legal presence, Virginia residency and Social Security Number. You will also have
to fill out a Virginia driver’s license application and have your parent/guardian sign it. In addition, prepare the fees for your permit and license, both. The total amount will be $3, plus $4 per year of license validity. Your first license will be valid for three to eight years, depending on your age on the date of issuance, and it will expire on your birthday. For those under 18, your learner’s permit will expire when you turn 20 years old. With your learner’s permit, you will be allowed to practice with a licensed 21-year-old driver seated beside you, or 18 if he or she is a legal guardian, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, stepbrother or stepsister.

Step 3: Driver’s License

After nine months from the date you were issued your learner’s permit, and if you are at least 16 years and 3 months of age and haven’t had your permit suspended or revoked, you will be requested to attend a juvenile licensing ceremony at a court location. You must be accompanied by your parents or guardians if you are under 18. Those over the age of 18 will have their licenses mailed to them, and do not have to attend the licensing ceremony.

Restrictions

All drivers under 18 years of age must abide by certain restrictions while holding their permits or licenses. You won’t be allowed to drive past midnight and before 4 a.m., except when going to or returning from work, school, church or activities hosted by public organizations. The curfew does not apply if you are accompanied by a licensed spouse, parent or adult acting in loco parentis, or in case of emergency. Also, you won’t be allowed to carry more than one passenger under 21 years old, unless you are accompanied by a licensed parent in the front passenger seat. After you have held your license for one year, you will be allowed to transport up to three passengers under 21 if you are attending school or a school-sponsored activity, or while accompanied by a licensed driver 21 years of age or older seated in the front passenger seat. This case also applies to emergencies.

At no time are you allowed to use mobile devices, such as telephones and tablets. You can only use them in case of emergency, for example, if you need to call 9-1-1, and the car must be lawfully parked or stopped.

Tip

Remember, you need to pass knowledge and driving tests before getting your license. Click here to access practice exams to prepare for your knowledge test.
Getting Your First Virginia License

Congratulations! If you have gone through the steps of getting your learner’s permit in Virginia, you are now only one step away from obtaining your driver’s license. All that is required at this point is that you follow the steps below that best fit your situation to officially take hold of your brand-new license to drive.

**Adult Drivers: First Time Licenses**

If you have never had a license and are now looking to obtaining one, you have come to the right place. Getting a license for first-time drivers is a very simple process through the state of Virginia by following the steps on how to apply. To get a driver’s license in Virginia, whether you are older or younger than 19, you must apply in person at a DMV agency. When you apply, you will be asked to provide:

- ONE proof of identification.
- ONE proof of Social Security Number.
- ONE proof of legal presence.
- TWO proofs of Virginia residency.

You can find examples of the documents you may present in the first section of this guide.

---

**Fees**

**License and learner’s permit**: $3, plus $4 per year of validity

**License only**: $4 per year of validity
If you are 18 or older and haven’t completed a driver’s education course yet, you will need to apply for a learner’s permit before getting your license. You must hold your permit for at least 60 days before getting your driver’s license. If you are under 18, you must hold a learner’s permit for nine months, complete driver’s education and finish 45 hours of driving practice (15 of which must be at night). When you have completed all the requirements, you will be issued a driver’s license that will be valid for five or eight years.

**Adult Drivers: New Resident**

If you already hold a license from another state and have become a new resident of Virginia, you will need to obtain a Virginia license within 30 days. It is very important to make sure that you obtain a valid driver’s license within this term. Let’s begin, so you can obtain your Virginia license as soon as possible! Since you already hold a valid driver’s license from another state, you will not be required to take the knowledge and road tests again, as long as you meet Virginia’s driver’s education requirements. You will only have to go to a DMV agency, surrender your out-of-state license and present:

- **ONE proof of identification.**

- **ONE proof of Social Security Number.**

- **ONE proof of Virginia residency.**

- **ONE proof of legal presence.**

Virginia licenses are valid for eight years, typically, and you will have to pay $4 for each year of validity.
Renewing
Your License

If your license is set to expire, it is vital to take the steps to renew your driving credential as soon as possible. Without a valid license, you will lose your freedom to drive, and will risk getting a ticket that can affect your future privileges. So, it is best to renew your license as soon as you notice the expiration date approaching. But, before you renew your license, it is best that you thoroughly comprehend the process so that you can avoid any errors or issues that may occur. To begin, you must remember that a Virginia driver’s license expires on your birthday every eight years. You can renew your license up to one year before it expires. On every other renewal, you can use one of the “preferred methods” to renew: either online or by mail. The DMV will send you a renewal notice before your license expiration date letting you know the type of renewal methods available to you. (You can also sign up for an electronic renewal reminder.) If your notice indicates that you must use one of the preferred methods to renew but you choose to renew in person, you will be charged a $5 fee, unless you need to request another service that requires your physical presence – then, that fee will be waived.

Renew in Person
To renew your license in person, go to a DMV office to have your vision tested and a new photograph taken. You also have the option to renew your license to drive at a DMV 2 Go or a DMV Connect mobile office, if you so choose. Make sure to check the DMV mobile office calendar, first.

Renew Online
You will be allowed to renew online if your last renewal was requested in person and your renewal notice indicates you are eligible to use a preferred method. You can click here, enter your driver’s license number and date of birth and follow the prompts on screen. Before renewing, make sure you have an active DMV Now account with a valid PIN. If you don’t, you will have to activate your account, first, and then proceed with the renewal process. Double-check your personal information, since your renewed license will be sent to the mailing address registered with the DMV within 15 days of your renewal.

If your license does not arrive within 15 days, call 804-497-7100 and talk to a DMV representative to inquire about the status of your renewal.
Renew by Mail

Whenever you are eligible to renew by mail, the DMV will send you a pre-filled application with your renewal notice. Review the application, and if there are any mistakes, call 804-497-7100 and ask an agent to correct the information. Then, fill out the application, sign it, and return it with your payment to:

**Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles**

P.O. Box 26506
Richmond, VA 23260-6506

Fees

To renew your driver’s license, you will have to pay $4 per year of license validity. Licenses are usually valid for eight years, but in some cases, they are valid for five years. The fee for renewal includes the following:

- **Eight-year license**: $32
- **Five-year license**: $20
Updating Your License Information

New life milestones are accompanied by factors such as permanently changing your name and moving neighborhoods. Either way, this information is essential to your identification, which includes your driver’s license. So, how can you ensure that these changes are made to your driver’s license when necessary? Simply inform the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. To better understand the procedures, follow the steps below that best fit your situation.

Changing Your Name

Changing your legal name is not only a big personal decision, but it will also greatly affect your documents and general information in regard to your identity. If you have officially changed your name, then, you will surely be required to change your name on all of your identification documents and cards, including your driver’s license. You can only process a name change at a DMV agency. Before making the trip, gather the following documents:

- A completed Driver’s License and Identification Card Application
- Your current driver’s license
- ONE proof of your name change, such as a marriage certificate, a divorce decree or a court order

Present the documentation at the DMV, and then follow the procedure to replace your license to reflect the change. The replacement fee is $20.
Changing Your Address

In the case that you may have recently moved to a new address, you must notify the DMV within 30 days. All you must do is follow the steps below that outline the process. And, once you have completed every step properly, your address will be updated in the system. Now, simply follow the steps that best apply to you below.

- **Online**
  You can change your address online through your personal DMV Now account. You will just need to have your driver’s license information. There is no charge to change your address. If you wish to have your actual driver’s license updated, then you must follow the procedure to replace your license, and pay the applicable fees.

- **By Phone**
  Call 804-497-7100 to change your address with the help of a phone representative.

- **In Person**
  Go to a [DMV office in your area](#), and provide your new residential address. If you wish to purchase an updated license, the fee is $20.

- **By Mail**
  To change your address by mail, fill out an [Address Change Request](#) and mail it to:

  **Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles**

  P.O. Box 27412
  Richmond, VA 23269
Replacing Your License

Incidents involving the loss or destruction of your license can happen, but the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles is ready to help you obtain a new driver’s license as soon as possible. In any case, you can effortlessly replace your driver’s license with a new duplicate license in just a few easy steps. You can replace your license in person or online.

Online
You can only renew online if you don’t have to make any changes to your license and the DMV has your updated records on file. You will need to have a PIN. You can get it on DMV Now. Follow the prompts to replace your license after getting your PIN. Allow 15 days for your license to arrive in the mail.

In Person
To replace your license in person, just go to a DMV agency and provide:

- A completed Driver’s License and Identification Card Application.
- TWO documents to prove your ID.
- ONE proof of legal presence.

At the office you will need to have your photo retaken.

Fees
The replacement fee is $20 on all methods. To renew online, you will need a valid credit or debit card.
Reinstating
Your License

In order to qualify to reinstate your license, you must first comply with the penalties and pay the required fees associated with your offense. In Virginia, you can have your license suspended or revoked, based on different circumstances.

When you get suspended, you lose your driving privileges temporarily. Suspensions occur mainly from failure to: pay court fines, properly insure vehicles, pay uninsured motorist fees, complete driver improvement clinics, pay child support and pay jail fees.

When your license is revoked, your driving privilege is completely terminated, and you have to reapply for your license and take the road and knowledge tests again. When dealing with revocation, you will be required to pay all applicable fees, serve penalties and complete all required courses or jail time, if applicable. A revoked license is usually the result of a serious violation, such as driving under the influence or committing a felony. If you need any information or clarification regarding your suspended or revoked license or under what condition it falls, contact the DMV at 804-497-7100 during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs is dangerous and illegal. Virginia has very strict laws regarding drinking and driving. DUI offenders get their licenses revoked and must pay high fines to get them back, and even serve jail time. The best way to avoid this is to never drink and drive, and to never get in a vehicle driven by an intoxicated driver.

In Virginia, the legal Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is less than 0.08 percent. The police may ask you to take a breath test at any moment in order to determine if you are driving under the influence. Refusing to take the breath test is also considered a DUI violation. If you refuse to take the test, your license will get suspended for a year, and you are not allowed to request a restricted license. Refusing to take the breath test on repeated occasions will result in misdemeanor charges and the suspension of your license for three years.

If your breath test shows more than a 0.08 percent BAC, your license will get revoked for a year, and you will have to pay at least $250 in fines. For a second offense, you will be fined $500, and your driving privilege will get suspended for three years; you may have to serve at least one year in jail. For more than three offenses, you will have to go to jail, pay a minimum $1,000 fine, have your license revoked for an indefinite amount of time and you will be prosecuted with a Class 6 felony.

Reinstating Your License

The process to reinstate your license in Virginia varies, depending on your offense. However, you can expect to fulfill the following, applicable general obligations:

- Provide proof of payment for court fines and costs.
- Provide the DMV with an SR22 or an FR44 (Certification of Insurance).
- Attend a driver improvement clinic.
- Supply medical and/or vision report(s) from a physician, nurse practitioner or physician’s assistant.
- Provide proof of enrollment/completion in a Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP).
- Attend/complete an intervention interview with VASAP.
- Comply with child support orders.
- Provide proof of jail fees paid.
- Supply the DMV with requested motor vehicle insurance policy information.
- Submit proof of a judgment satisfied in full, payment agreement, creditor’s consent or bankruptcy filing to the DMV.
Getting Your
Virginia ID Card

If you are not interested in taking up driving and obtaining your driver’s license, it is important that you consider getting an ID card, instead.

An ID card is essential, because it is the easiest manner in which someone else can identify you whenever necessary, whether it be by law enforcement, or if you need to provide proof of your identity when traveling outside of Virginia. To get a Virginia ID card, visit a DMV agency and provide:

- A completed Driver’s License and Identification Card Application.
- Proofs of identity, legal presence, residency and Social Security.

Review the required document section to gather the necessary items.

ID Card Renewal

Your Virginia ID card will expire on your birthday on the end-year of issuance. The maximum issuance is up to eight years. You will receive a renewal application in the mail prior to the expiration date. You can renew your Virginia ID card up to six months prior to expiration. The fees are the same as when you apply for your first ID, and are dependent on the total years for which you plan to renew. You can also renew your ID card online, if applicable, or in person, at a customer service center.

Fees

An ID card in Virginia costs $2 per year, with a minimum of $10 (five years) and a maximum of $16 (eight years). Fees can be paid with cash, money orders, checks, check cards or major credit cards.
Vehicle

Safety Tips

Before getting behind the wheel, it’s important that your vehicle is prepared for any trip. This means checking the safety features and making any needed changes to your vehicle to guarantee a safe drive.

Emergency Kit

One of the essentials to safe driving is having a basic emergency kit available in your vehicle at all times. This kit should include items such as water, extra batteries, rope, a First-Aid kit, matches and a whistle. During the winter months, it is also important to carry items such as blankets, non-perishable foods, extra gloves and socks and a shovel.

Winter Driving

One of the most dangerous times to drive is during the winter months, especially if you live in an area where it snows and is prone to icy roads. Consider these tips below to drive safely during the winter:
Don’t Rush!
Roads are often covered in snow and ice after it snows. Instead of driving fast and risking an accident as you hurry to get to your destination, try leaving a few minutes earlier than usual. This will allow you to drive slower and to avoid other dangerous drivers without being late for wherever you need to be.

Don’t Panic if You Skid or Slip
In the event that your vehicle does skid or slip while driving, make sure you do not panic or slam down on your brakes. Instead, apply slow and even pressure on your brakes until you stop. This will prevent you from spinning further out of control.

Check Your Vehicle
Before you leave your house, make sure your vehicle’s controls, brakes, tank, tires, antifreeze and exhaust are all in working order. It is also important that you remove any ice and snow from your car before you begin driving; this prevents the snow from blocking your view while you drive, or worse, flying off and hitting someone while in motion!
Drinking and Driving

Every year, thousands are killed as a result of drinking and driving. These events can be prevented; it only requires that you plan ahead of time by taking certain steps.

Before you begin drinking, arrange for someone else to be the designated driver. If he or she also becomes intoxicated, it is important that you take a taxi. Never allow someone drunk to drive; instead, take away the keys, and call for alternative transportation.

If you see someone who you suspect is drunk and showing signs of intoxication while driving – such as making wide turns, weaving, swerving, braking erratically or turning abruptly – call 9-1-1 and contact authorities immediately. Also, make sure to avoid that driver on the road to ensure your own safety. This could mean you pulling over until that driver is at a safe distance from your car.

Using Your Phone

Driving while using your phone is one of the most dangerous things you can do. During those few seconds that your attention is diverted to your phone, a major accident could occur. Make sure you don’t text, use the internet on your phone or receive calls while you drive to prevent accidents as best as possible.
Things to Avoid

Driving isn't always a relaxing experience. There are certain actions that can be both an annoyance and dangerous to you while driving on the road. These things are often avoidable if you make sure to take the necessary steps toward preventing them, as well as stopping them after you make the discovery.

When you encounter a frustrating situation on the road, instead of becoming aggressive, take a moment, breathe, and then continue moving.

Car Accidents

One way to avoid car accidents is to ensure that your vehicle is safe to drive, and will not cause you any problems. To do this, regularly check that your brakes are functioning properly, your tires are inflated and not worn out, and that the steering and suspensions are checked by a mechanic.

Wasting Gas

If you drive often, start looking for ways to save on those expensive trips to the pump. Saving on gas is something that is possible if you take a few steps toward ensuring you hold on to some money in the long run.

Some of the ways that you can start saving gas are by turning off the air conditioning, not leaving your engine running or speeding above 60 mph. These things are preventable and are not necessary in order for you to drive; therefore, you can quickly reduce the amount of gas you waste.

Another way to save on gas is to make sure that your vehicle is functioning properly. You can do this by checking that your tires are properly inflated, your engine is well-tuned and that your octane level is the correct amount for your vehicle.

Aggressive Driving

Aggressive driving and drivers are both things that should be avoided to prevent on-road aggression or accidents. Aggressive driving is categorized as exhibiting behaviors such as aggressive tailgating, verbal or physical harassment toward another driver or preventing another driver from merging or passing on the road.

If you are an aggressive driver, you are putting others at risk every time you perform any of the above behaviors.
Official Forms

- Driver’s License and ID Card Application [Here]
- Virginia Veteran Identification Card Application [Here]
- Gender Change Request [Here]
- Address Change Request [Here]
- Consent for Learner’s Permit Knowledge Examination [Here]
- Vision Screening Report [Here]
DMV

Hours and Locations

The DMV has offices located throughout the state. Find the most convenient location using the online office locator. Just enter your address or ZIP code to find agencies in your area. You can contact the call center at 804-497-7100. Those that are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call 800-272-9268 (TTY). Service hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

You can also conduct some transactions online and avoid going to the DMV in person. If you are eligible to handle your license services online, by phone or by mail, and you still go to a DMV office in person, you may be assessed with an additional fee.

For correspondence by mail use the following address:

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles

P.O. Box 27412
Richmond, VA 23269