

Road rules refresher for seniors

A refresher on core road code knowledge



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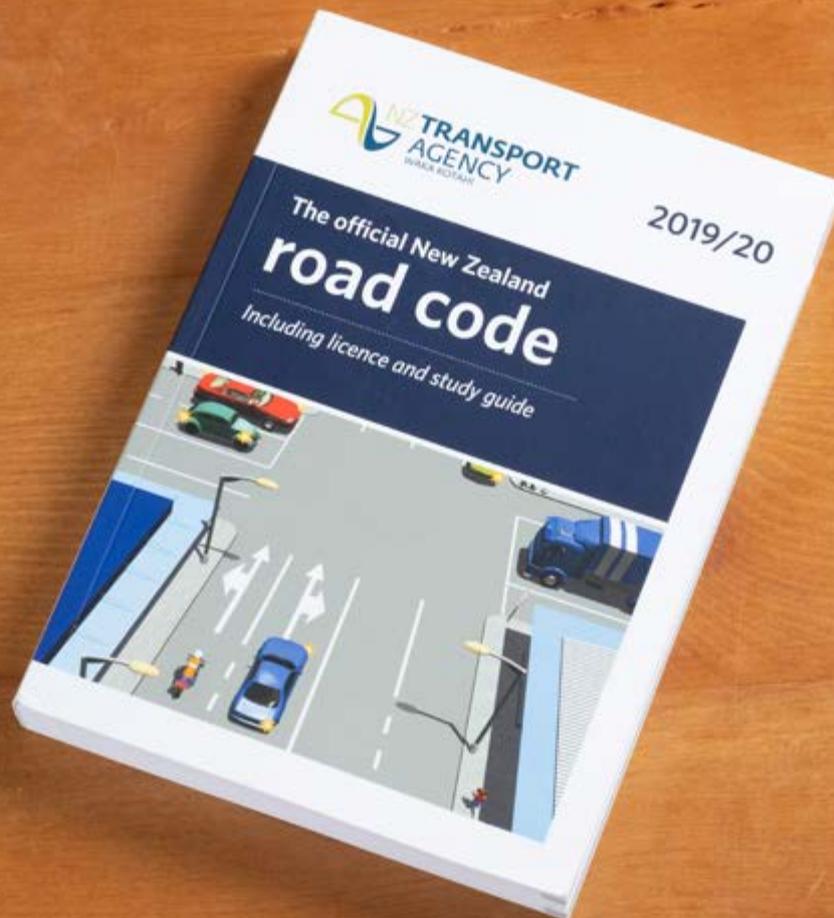
Note: A number of internet links for further information are provided in this booklet, so it can be useful to have access to the internet when reading this booklet (on smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop computer). The support agencies listed on page 19 will be able to help you if you do not have an internet connected device.

You can download this guide to your device at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/road-rules-refresher-for-seniors

Free hardcopies of this resource can be ordered by calling: 0800 822 422.

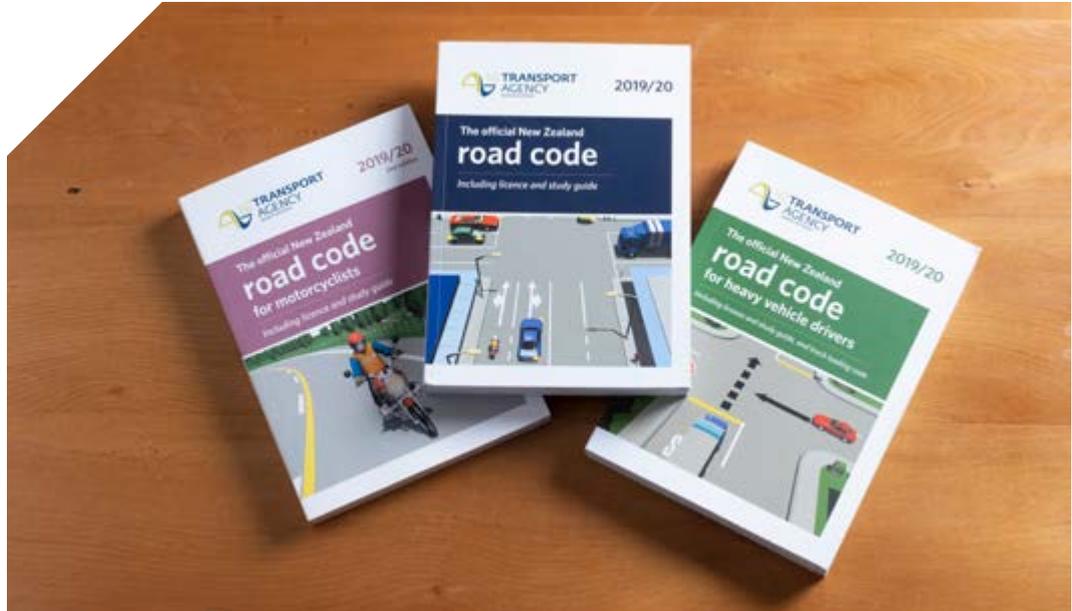
Keeping up to date with the road code



This booklet covers some of the traffic situations that drivers commonly request reminders about. This guidance is based on the road code and associated road rules. The road code is a user-friendly guide to traffic law and safe driving practices.

It's a good idea to check the road code every now and then to make sure you know about any new road rules, signs or road markings. You can get a copy of the road code from most book shops, or from your local library, but check to make sure you have the most recent published edition.

You can view the most recent published edition online at:
www.nzta.govt.nz/roadcode



On that webpage you will see that there are four different road codes:

- General road code (cars)
- Heavy vehicles
- Motorcyclists
- Cyclists.

You might drive a car or motorbike for day to day activities, a heavy vehicle for work, and cycle for recreation so some or all of these guides might be relevant to you. To view a specific road code, click on the cover page of the road code you want to see. Press the back button on your web browser if you want to return to the road code selection page.

Road rules and road codes do change from time to time. On the road code webpage, you'll also see a link to 'road code updates'. Clicking on this will give you the latest updates.

You might want to talk about the road rules with your peers. Waka Kotahi and Age Concern provide free 'Staying Safe' refresher theory courses for senior drivers around Aotearoa New Zealand. This free refresher course offers the chance to meet up with other senior drivers to discuss driving and transport related matters in a relaxed and friendly environment. You can find out where your nearest course is at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/staying-safe

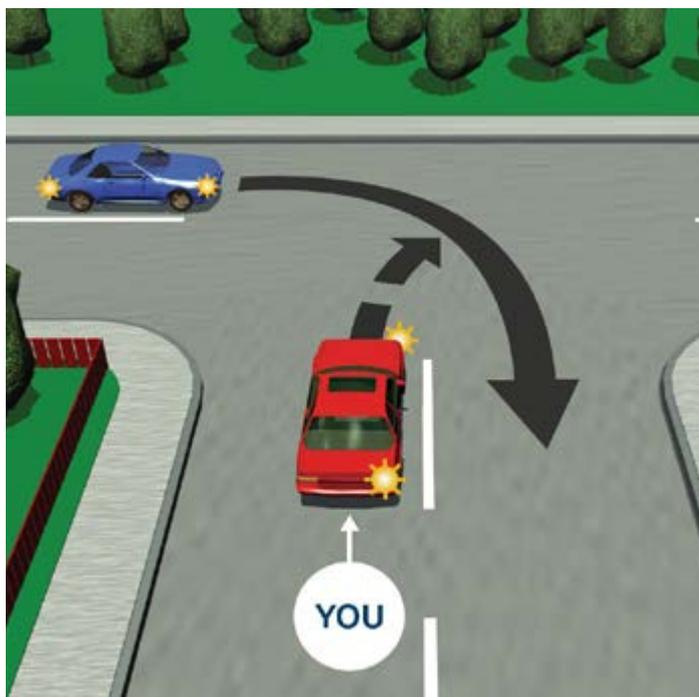
Giving way at intersections



Uncontrolled T-intersection rule

All traffic from a terminating road (bottom of the T shape) should give way to all traffic on a continuing road (top of the T shape). Note: 'Uncontrolled' means there are no signs or signals telling you what to do.

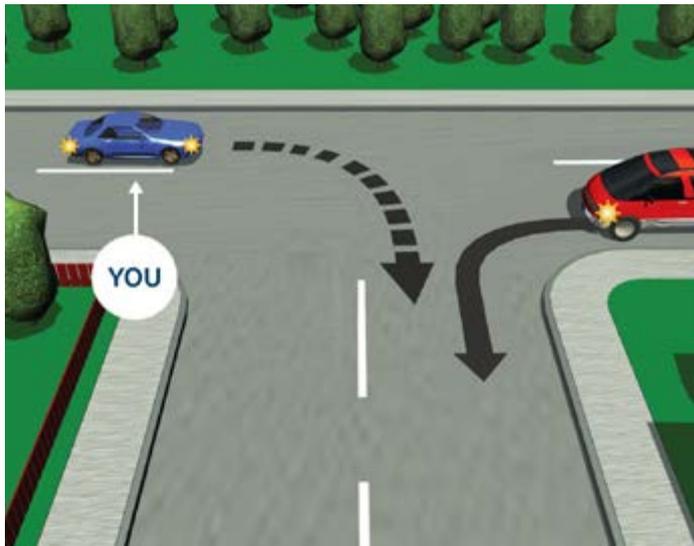
'Top of the T goes before me'



You must **give way**, as you are on a terminating road at a T-intersection.

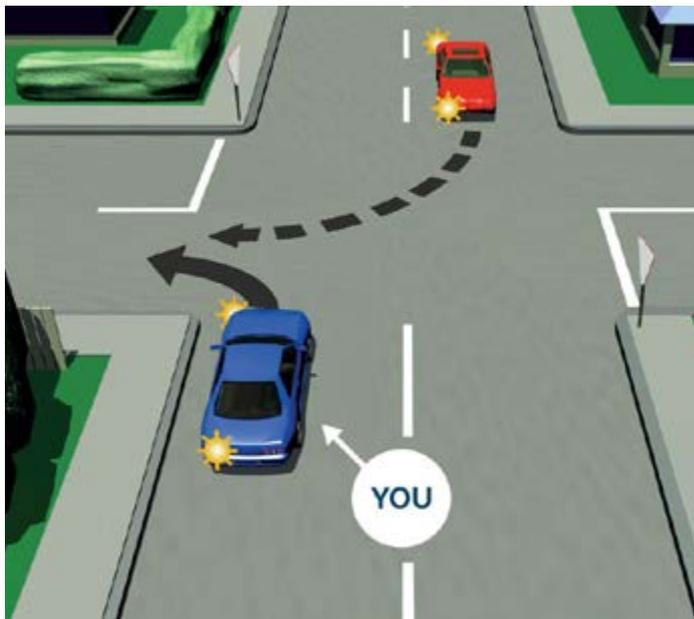
Left turn versus right turn rule

All traffic turning right should give way to a vehicle coming from the opposite direction and turning left. This applies at crossroads, T-intersections and driveways where both vehicles are facing each other with no signs or signals (as shown), or the same signs or signals.



Example 1

You must **give way**, as you are turning right and the other vehicle is turning left.



Example 2

You may proceed, as you are turning left and the other vehicle is turning right.

- If you are turning, give way to all vehicles not turning.
- If all other give way rules (or signs and signals) do not determine who gives way, give way to vehicles coming from your right, eg at crossroads normally controlled by traffic signals, when the signals have failed and all approaches have a flashing yellow light.

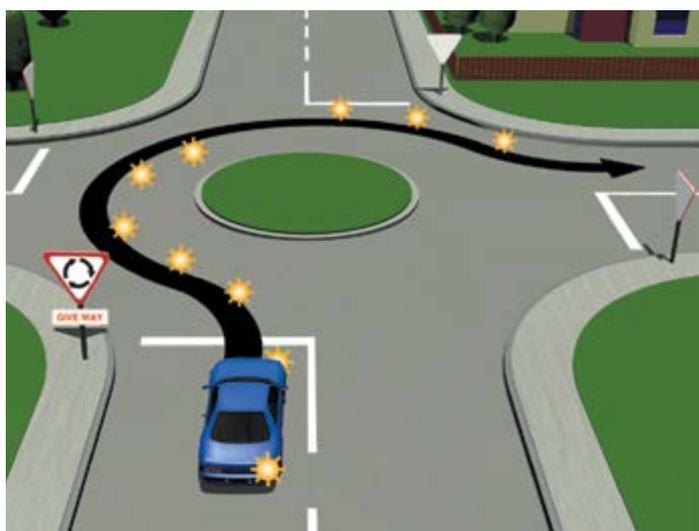
Signalling at roundabouts

Single-lane roundabout



Driving straight

Indicate left when exiting.



Turning right

First indicate right, then left to exit.



Turning left

Indicate left before turning.

Multi-lane roundabout



Driving straight

Indicate left when exiting. Stay in the same lane throughout.



Turning right

First indicate right, then left to exit. Stay in the same lane throughout.

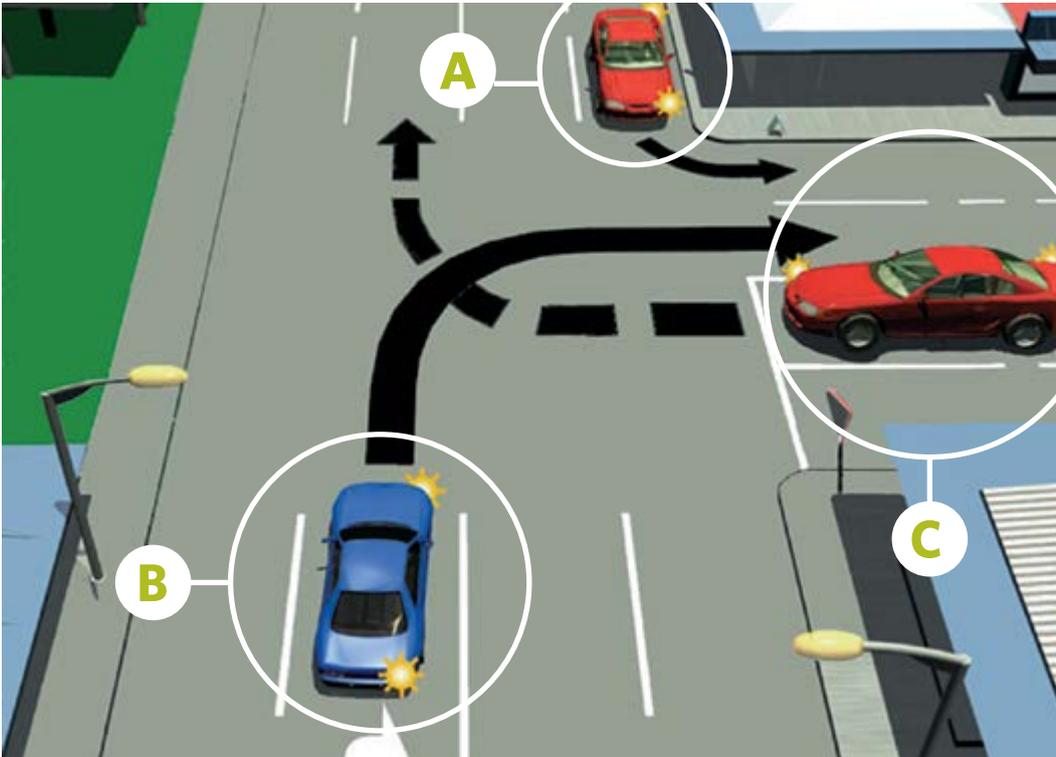


Turning left

indicate left before turning. Stay in the same lane throughout.

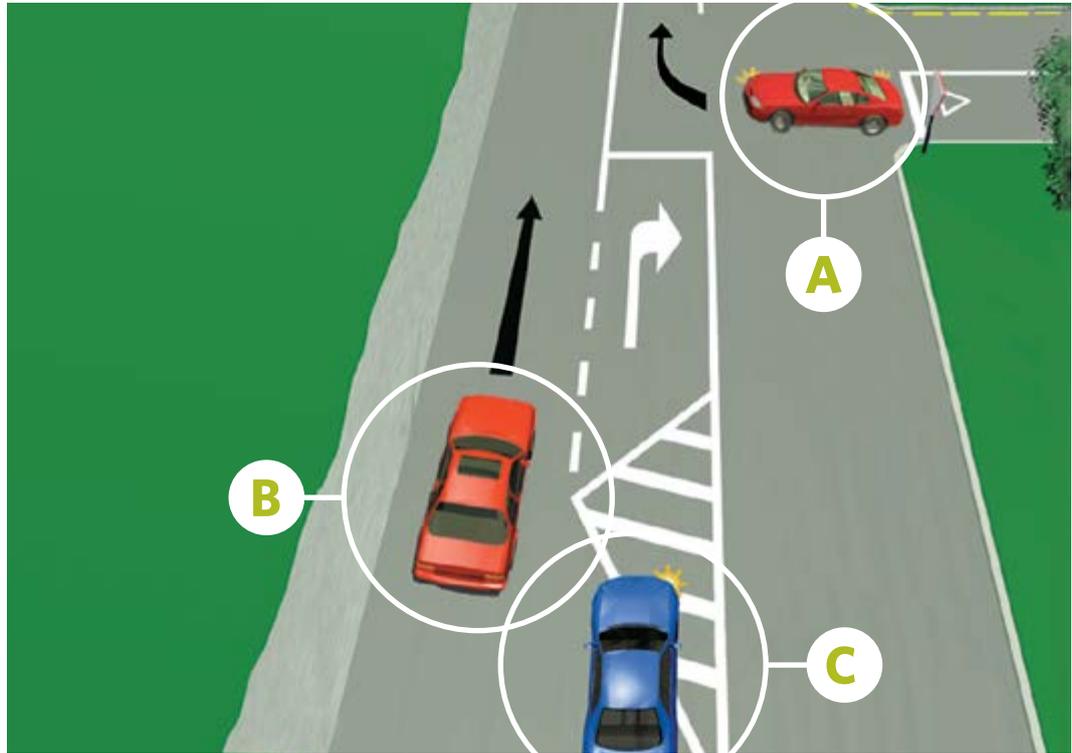
Correct use of lanes, bays and flush medians

Correct use of lanes when turning



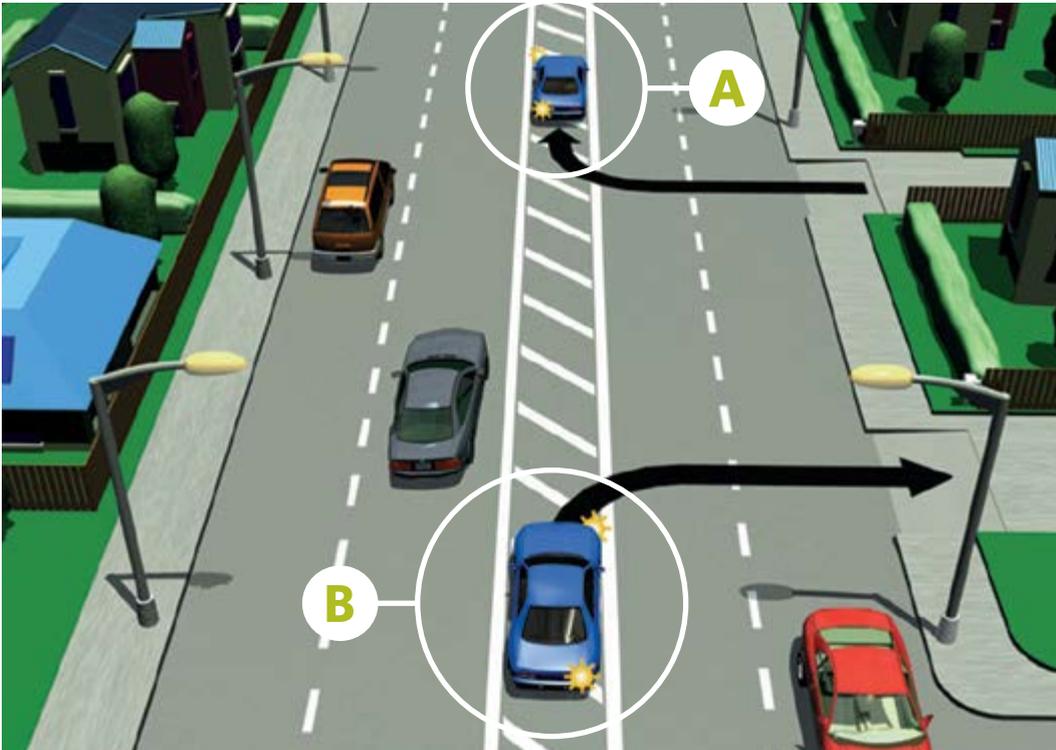
- A** When turning left into a multi-laned road from a lane adjacent to the kerb, you must turn into the left-hand lane of the new road.
- B** When turning right into a multi-laned road from a lane adjacent to the centreline, you must turn into the right-hand lane of the new road.
- C** Turn from a right-hand lane to a right-hand lane. Check behind and to the left before merging.

Correct use of right-turn bays



- A** You may enter the merging lane nearest the centre of the road, then indicate your intention to merge left.
- B** Proceed straight ahead and watch to your right for merging traffic.
- C** Indicate a right turn before you drive across the white diagonal lines into the right-turn bay.

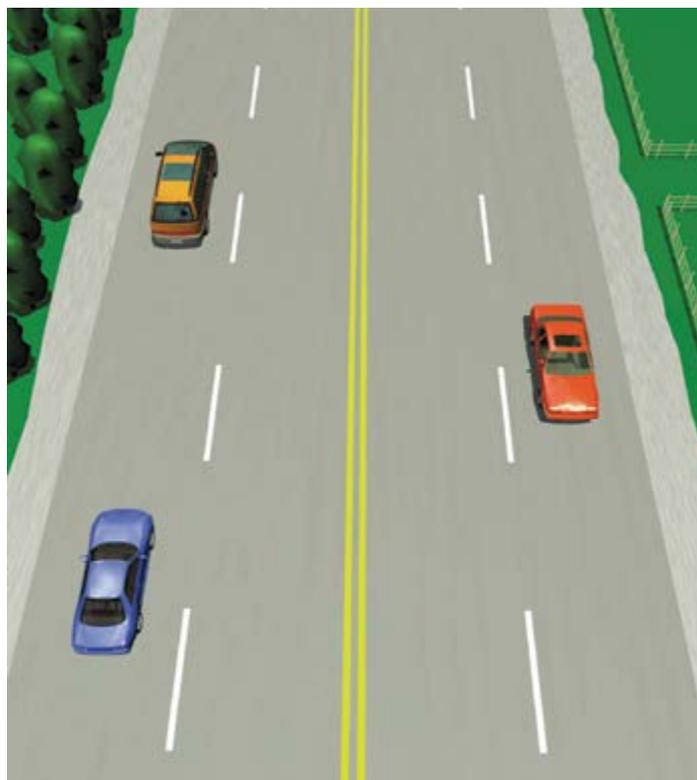
Correct use of flush median when turning



- A** Turn right into a flush median to wait for a safe gap, before merging with traffic.
- B** Use the median to wait to turn right. Keep the front wheels pointing straight ahead while you wait to turn.

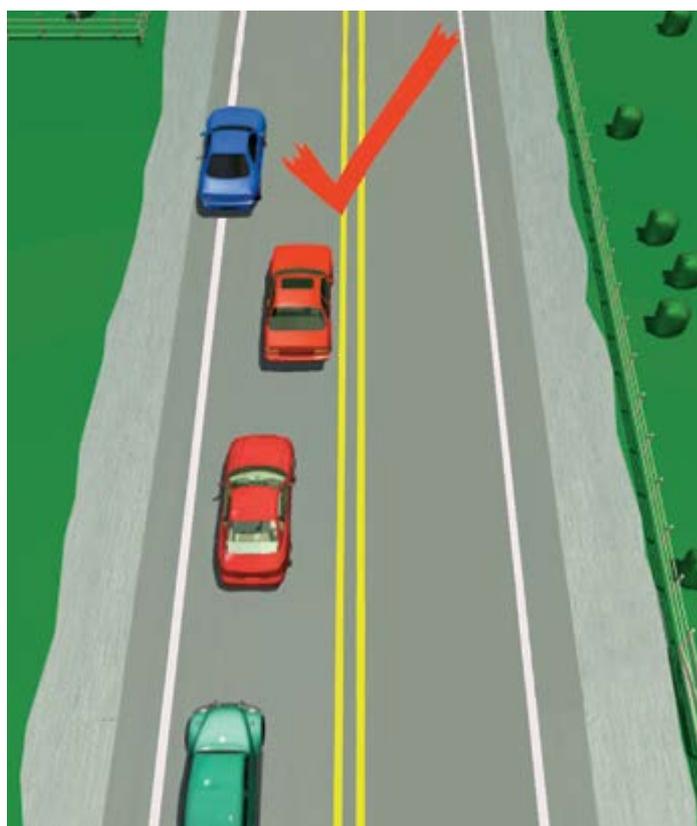
Highway driving

Two-lane roads



Keep to the left lane

Don't use the right-hand lane unless you are about to turn right or pass a vehicle in the left lane.

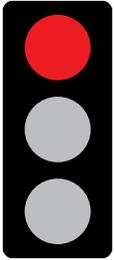


Single-lane roads

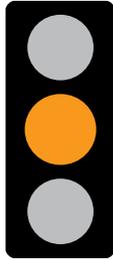
You may drive across the left-hand white lane marking if it is safe to do so and you are holding up following traffic.

You may pass a slower vehicle at 'no passing' lines if you stay to the left of the yellow lines and you have 100 metres of clear visibility throughout the whole manoeuvre.

Traffic lights



MUST STOP



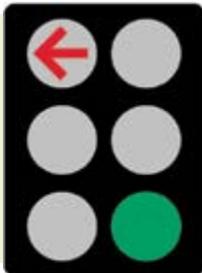
STOP
(UNLESS TOO CLOSE)



FAULTY LIGHTS!
APPLY THE
GIVE WAY RULES



GO
(IF SAFE)



Left turning

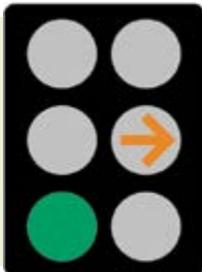
Must STOP

Straight ahead

GO (if safe)

Right turning

GO but must give way to oncoming traffic, including left-turning traffic and pedestrians



Left turning

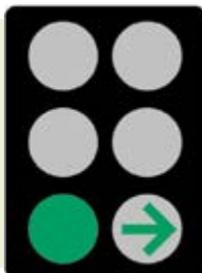
GO, but must give way to pedestrians crossing the road

Straight ahead

GO (if safe)

Right turning

Must STOP (if safe)



Left turning

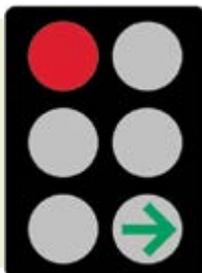
GO, but must give way to pedestrians crossing the road

Straight ahead

GO (if safe)

Right turning

GO - oncoming traffic should stop



Left turning

Must STOP

Straight ahead

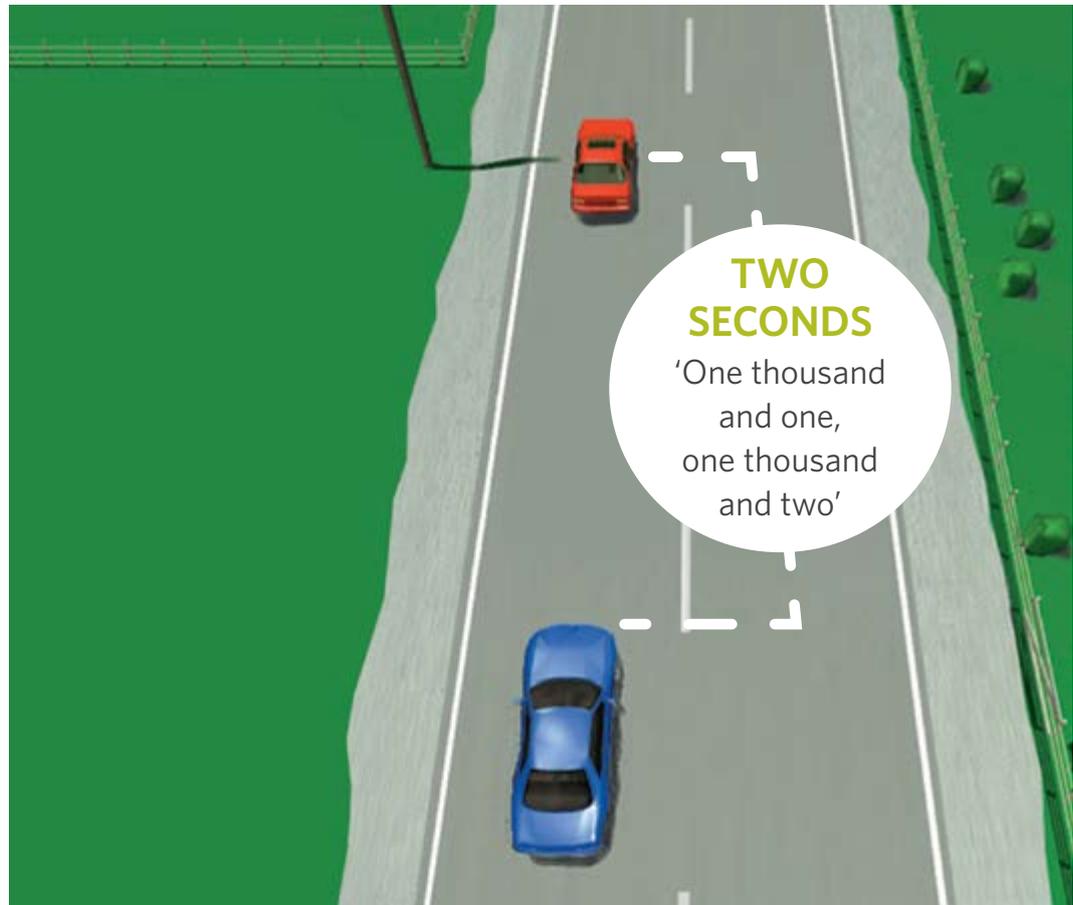
Must STOP

Right turning

GO - oncoming traffic should stop

Following distances and safety on the highway

Safe following distance



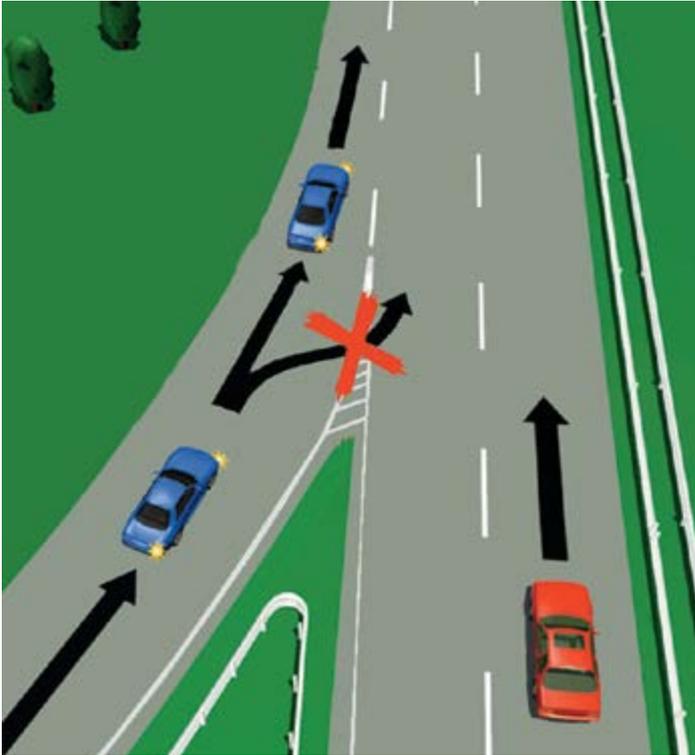
When following another vehicle travelling at the same speed, watch as that vehicle passes a fixed object (for example, a lamppost). Start counting ***'one thousand and one, one thousand and two'***.

If you pass the object before you finish saying ***'two'***, you are following too close.

This **two-second rule** works equally well at any speed.

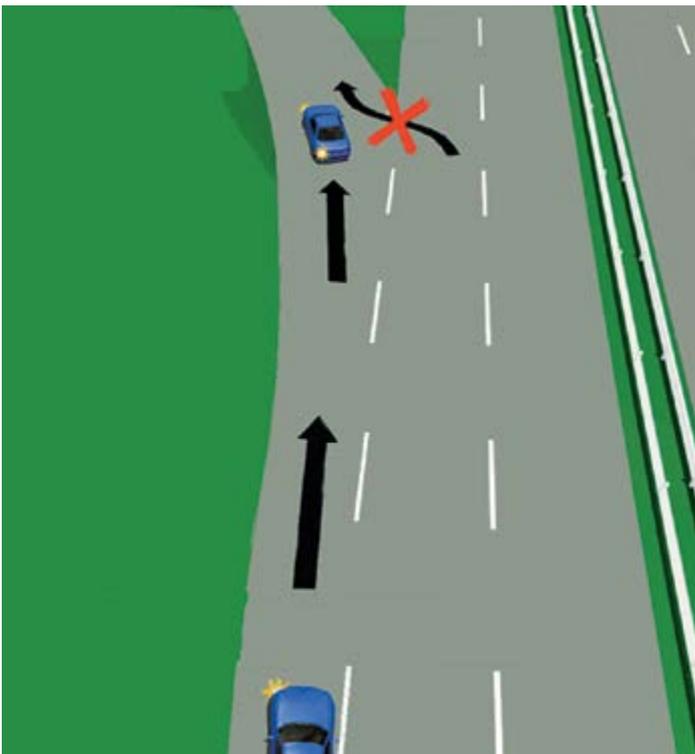
In bad weather, increase the distance to **four** seconds.

Merging with highway traffic



- Use the whole of the on-ramp to adjust your speed to match the traffic on the highway.
- Indicate your intention to merge.
- Check your blind spot by turning your head.

Exiting from the highway



- Maintain your speed while indicating your intention to enter the off-ramp.
- Use the off-ramp or exit lane to slow down.

Alternative ways of getting around



There are a wide range of options for seniors when it comes to getting around without a car or motorbike. Making use of these options helps you to maintain your independence and freedom. Our *Getting around as a senior* booklet gives more information, and is available at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/getting-around-as-a-senior

The Office for Seniors also provides a very useful brochure *No car, no problem* at: **www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz/health-wellbeing/out-about/transport-driving**

It's good to be thinking about our abilities and our transport options as seniors. Thinking about the options and benefits of getting around without a car or motorbike when we are in good health gives us a chance to adjust gradually in a positive way.

Many people of all ages opt for getting around without a car, even when they can drive and are licensed to do so. There are many benefits of using different ways of getting around, including:

- Saving money.
- Using the time to do other activities such as reading and writing, while someone else takes the strain of driving.
- Being safe and comfortable, when taking public transport.
- Having social interactions, particularly if you travel with people you know.
- Supporting a person's health (eg walking to the bus stop).
- Supporting the community and the planet (less pollution).



The options include:

- Shared rides and possibly the Total Mobility Scheme.
- Bus/rail and making use of your SuperGold card.
- Biking.
- Mobility scooters.
- Walking.

Only some areas of the country have a train service, but most areas have a bus service. Contact your local council to see what's available in your community. All areas of the country are served by taxis or shared ride/community transport services, so it's worth finding out which taxi or shared ride/community transport services operate in your area. There are a number of driving providers that specifically support senior drivers. Age Concern, or your local council can usually help you with information about these providers, and the potential for savings in relation to regular travel needs (see page 19).



Support and further information

Age Concern

www.ageconcern.org.nz

Phone: 0800 65 2 105

Email: national.office@ageconcern.org.nz

Free 'Staying Safe' refresher theory courses:

www.nzta.govt.nz/staying-safe

Office for Seniors

www.superseniors.msd.govt.nz

Email: osc@msd.govt.nz

Local councils

www.localcouncils.govt.nz

Click on 'Council Profiles'

Neighbourhood support

www.neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz

Phone: 0800 463 444

NZ Automobile Association (AA)

www.aa.co.nz/contact-us

Phone: 0800 500 444

(Fees apply to access AA services)

Vehicle Testing NZ (VTNZ)

www.vtnz.co.nz/contact-us

Phone 0800 88 88 69

(Fees apply to access VTNZ services)

This booklet is also available online
[www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/
road-rules-refresher-for-seniors](http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/road-rules-refresher-for-seniors)



All the internet links contained within the booklet are live so you can click on them for further information on each subject.

Primary health care

To access health care professionals (GP or nurse)

www.healthpoint.co.nz/gps-accident-urgent-medical-care

www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/health-care-services/visiting-doctor-or-nurse

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

www.nzta.govt.nz/senior-drivers

Phone: 0800 822 422

Email: info@nzta.govt.nz

The following Waka Kotahi publications are free, and include information that you might find useful:

- *The road ahead for seniors* - a pamphlet which gives a brief overview of our core senior driver information booklets:
- *Driving safely as a senior*
- *Supporting senior drivers*
- *Getting around as a senior*
- *Renewing your driver licence as a senior*
- *Road rules refresher for seniors*
- *Check your car*
- *Guide to the on-road safety test*
- *Safer winter driving*

To get copies of any of these publications

Email: info@nzta.govt.nz

Visit: www-ak.bspg.co.nz/WebForm/NZTAWN_PB?form=Public%20Publications

Phone: 0800 822 422

You can find all our factsheets at

www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/factsheets/category

- *Factsheet 1: Cycles, road rules and equipment*
- *Factsheet 7: Child restraints*
- *Factsheet 16: Diabetes and driving*
- *Factsheet 17: Epilepsy and driving*
- *Factsheet 23: Dementia and driving*
- *Factsheet 24: Fatigue: staying alert while you're driving*
- *Factsheet 25: Vision and driving*
- *Factsheet 31: Disabilities and driving*
- *Factsheet 51: OT assessments: occupational therapists (OT) and driver licensing*
- *Factsheet 57: Older drivers: licence renewal*

Road codes

www.nzta.govt.nz/roadcode

Our postal address

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

Private Bag 11777

Palmerston North 4442



If you have further queries,
call our contact centre on
0800 699 000 or write to us:

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency
Private Bag 6995
Wellington 6141

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our website at www.nzta.govt.nz

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