

Insurance 101

Rules of the Road Refresher

Don't you wish everyone on the road drove as safely as you do? If they did, there would be some six million fewer accidents every year.

But no matter how good drivers we believe we are, we can always benefit from a refresher on safe driving practices:

- **Watch for walkers even if they don't watch for you.** Yield to pedestrians, even if they don't have the right of way.
- **When the bus stops, the state rules.** Laws vary on what to do when a school bus stops near you. Know the [rules in your state](#).
- **Get it right.** Always stop before turning right on red. And don't turn on red where you don't have the right.
- **Mirror good practices.** Use your side and rear view mirrors often.
- **Blend in well.** Before merging into traffic, look all around you and use your signal. Ensure you have no blind spots before moving into the lane and that you're going the speed of the cars around you. If you need to cross several lanes, do it one at a time and signal first.
- **Be defensive.** Those other drivers who don't play by the rules? Watch for them so you can adjust your own driving accordingly.
- **Keep your tailgating to football games.** You should allow at least a two-second space between you and the car in front to allow for reaction time. If you feel you're being followed too closely, pull over and let the driver pass.
- **Distractions mean danger.** Using the smartphone, putting on makeup, fiddling with the GPS or radio, eating or talking to people while you drive—all these take your attention away from where it should be—the road ahead. Consider this: taking your eyes off the road for just five seconds while you're traveling at 55 mph is the equivalent of driving the length of a football field with your eyes closed.

The secret to staying safe on our highways and byways is really no secret at all—just using common sense and putting into practice what you’ve really known all along.

Sources: nhtsa.gov, aaa.com, aaafoundation.org, aarp.com, Florida Department of Transportation,