



Road laws change from time to time.

Requirements for P1 and P2 probationary drivers may change accordingly. It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the most recent edition of this booklet and any update sheets.

This booklet is a guide only and is not legal advice.

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RULES FOR P DRIVERS

Want to save a mate's life and win BIG prizes?

The **P Drivers Project** is an exciting large-scale road safety project to help new P plate drivers like you.

What do I have to do?

Sign up within the first three months of getting your 'Ps' and do a few online surveys. You might be asked to attend a locally-run group discussion and have a session with a drive coach.

What's in it for me?

There are heaps of great rewards and prizes for you to pick up. Get **movie tickets** and **petrol cards** for participating plus entry into the prize draw to win a **new Toyota Yaris car**.

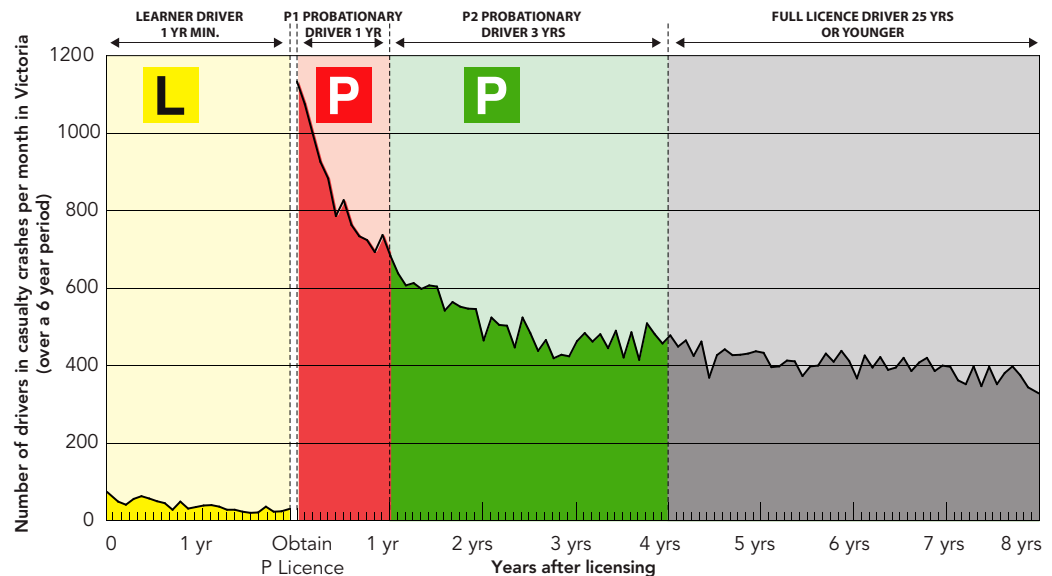
Register online

Visit pdriversproject.com.au or call **1800 454 133**.



P plate drivers have more crashes than anyone else using the roads, and car crashes are the number one killer of young people

This graph shows that your first year of driving is the most dangerous



For further information contact:

Web: vicroads.vic.gov.au

Tel: 13 11 71



Make sure you know the rules for P drivers

Every P plate driver is at risk



Your new P licence is important. It was an effort to get it, so you don't want to lose it. This booklet will help you keep your licence and stay alive

The Victorian Graduated Licensing System will help you become a safer driver. You've already made it through the first part – the Learner period.

Now you're starting on the next stage and there are some things you need to know that will help you **keep your licence** and **stay as safe as possible**.

Keeping your licence

Most P plate drivers will spend four years on Ps – one year on a P1 licence (red P plates must be displayed) and three years on a P2 licence (green P plates must be displayed).

You need to have a good driving record to keep moving through the Graduated Licensing System. If you don't, you may end up spending more time as a P1 or P2 driver.

All traffic offences result in a penalty. If you do the wrong thing you might be fined, get some demerit points or even lose your licence for a while. These rules seem tough, but if you do the right thing you'll be a lot safer and you'll graduate to your next licence without any hassles.

There are special rules for P1 drivers. If you break these you will be fined and get some demerit points. If you break some of them you'll have your P1 period extended for at least six months.

There are also some special rules P2 drivers must obey.

If you get five or more demerit points in any 12 month period, your licence might be suspended for at least three months. If that happens, you'll also spend extra time on your current licence before moving to the next one.

It really pays to stick to the rules!



Rules for P1 drivers - your first year on Ps

To help make your first year on Ps safer, there are some important rules.

If you stick to these rules, you will help to make the roads safer for everyone and you will keep your licence:

- You cannot drive with more than **one passenger** aged between 16 or less than 22 years of age.
- You cannot use a **mobile phone** of any kind while driving (no hands-free, hand-held, or messaging).
- You cannot **tow** unless for work or under instruction.
- You cannot drive a **vehicle** with a turbo or super charged petrol engine, eight or more cylinders, modified engine to increase performance or nominated high performance six cylinder cars.
- Your time on your P1 licence will be **extended** by at least six months if you have a **bad driving record**, and you will have an even more stringent passenger limit (only one passenger of any age) for the rest of the time you are on a P1 licence.
- A **zero** Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) applies.
- If you are caught **drink driving** with a BAC of 0.07 or more, as well as losing your licence you will have to install an **alcohol interlock** on your vehicle to stop you drink driving again when you get your licence back.
- Your vehicle will be taken away from you and impounded for hoon offences such as drag racing, deliberate loss of traction and excessive speeding.
- You cannot drive a **probationary prohibited vehicle** (For more information visit vicroads.vic.gov.au).

The special requirements for P1 and P2 drivers, and the consequences if you do not stick to these are shown in the tables at the end of this booklet



Passenger restrictions for P1 drivers

You have a much higher risk of being in a serious crash when you carry more than one passenger.

All inexperienced drivers find it harder to drive safely with multiple passengers.

This graph shows that P plate drivers with multiple passengers have four times the risk of having a fatal crash.

One special restriction for P1 drivers is that they cannot carry any more than one passenger aged between 16 and less than 22 years of age at any time, day or night.

Allowances will be made for carrying immediate family members, or when you're with a fully licensed supervising driver (as is the case for learner drivers) or for driving an emergency vehicle. Exemptions to passenger restrictions will be considered on a case-by-case basis on the grounds of hardship and for essential activities.

This restriction may be difficult to obey at times, but the graph shows what an important rule it is to keep you and your friends safe.

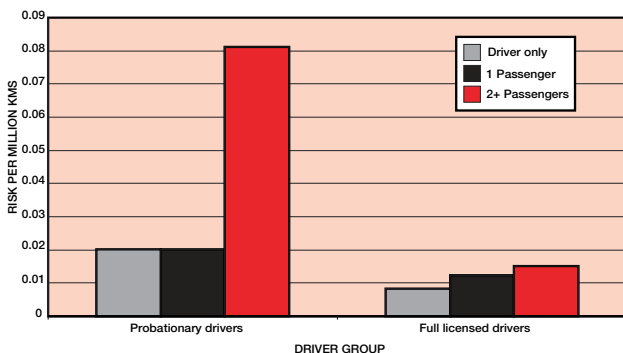
Ideas to help you stick to the passenger limit

Some young people have thought of the following ideas to help them with this new law:

- Share a taxi with friends.
- Drive with no more than one friend.
- Get a lift with a more experienced driver you know, such as a fully licensed driver or someone who has been driving on Ps for at least a year.
- Use public transport with friends.
- Ask your parents to drive you.

Fatal crash risk with multiple passengers

Risk per million km driven for probationary and full licensed drivers
Melbourne 2000-2002.



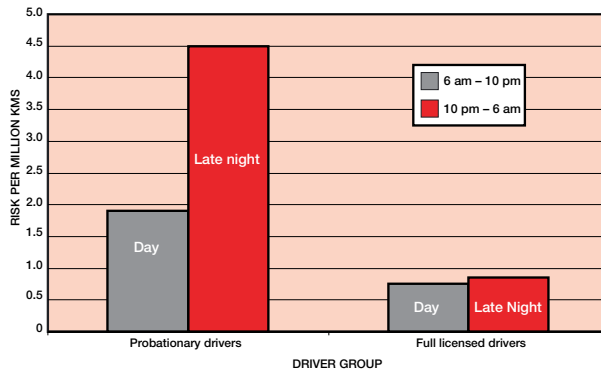
You can find out more about the P1 peer passenger restriction at: vicroads.vic.gov.au/gls



Plan not to drive late at night

Inexperienced drivers are most at risk when driving late at night. Late night driving is a risk because of the effect of tiredness and it's harder to see and judge things. The graph below shows that P plate drivers are much more likely to be involved in a crash late at night.

Risk of crashing late at night



You can reduce your crash risk by limiting your night-time driving

- Share a taxi with friends.
- Drive yourself (reasonably early) with no more than one friend, stay the night if safe and drive home in the morning.
- Use public transport with friends, including Night Rider buses, where available.
- Get a lift with a more experienced driver you know, such as a fully licensed driver or someone who has been driving on Ps for at least a year.
- Ask your parents to drive you.



Keeping yourself safe when driving

Speed

If you drive too fast you're more likely to crash. You're also much more likely to be seriously injured if you do crash. Speed is involved in many fatal crashes.

You can reduce the risk of hurting yourself or others by choosing a safe speed:

- Always obey speed limit signs.
- Allow for heavy traffic, weather conditions, road works, curves and slippery roads, shops, parked cars and pedestrians.

Seat belts

Seat belts really do save lives. Everyone in a vehicle must wear a seat belt.

If you have passengers in the car, it's your responsibility to make sure they're restrained or you will be fined:

- Babies and children aged under 7 years must use a suitable approved child restraint that is properly adjusted, fastened and correctly installed.
- All other passengers must use a seat belt.

Buy a safe car

When buying a car, consider newer cars which tend to be safer. Safety features like airbags, Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) and Electronic Stability Control (ESC) can save lives. Regardless of the car's age, it's worth checking out crash test and safety information at:

[howsafeisyourcar.com.au](https://www.howsafeisyourcar.com.au)



Be a safe passenger

Young people are often hurt in crashes where they're a passenger. There are some things you can do to keep yourself safe as a passenger:

- Avoid being a multiple passenger in a car with a P1 driver because they have less than 12 months driving experience on Ps.
- Get a lift with the most experienced driver available.
- Don't distract the driver.
- Always wear a seat belt.
- Avoid being a passenger in a car when the driver is affected by alcohol or drugs.
- Watch out for signs that the driver is feeling tired, and encourage them to take breaks or a power nap on long trips.
- Ask the driver to slow down if they exceed the speed limit.
- Ask the driver to stop and let you out if you don't feel safe.

Turn off the mobile phone

Using a mobile phone while driving is illegal because it increases the risk of having a crash. Even a hands-free phone has this effect. Talking to someone on the phone is much more distracting than talking to a passenger.

So the safest thing to do is to turn your mobile off while driving. You can catch up with any missed calls or new messages when you turn your phone back on.

Avoid alcohol, drugs & fatigue

Driving whilst under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or driving when tired, is a deadly combination and must be avoided. P plate drivers must have a zero Blood Alcohol Concentration when driving. You may feel you are ok to drive, but alcohol, drugs and tiredness can affect your judgement.

Requirements and Penalties

This table shows the requirements for P1 drivers, and the penalties that will be used if you do the wrong thing

Probationary P1 drivers

P plate drivers have a limit of 5 demerit points in 12 months, as well as 12 demerit points in 3 years

REQUIREMENT	FINE #	CONSEQUENCES #
Good driving record required to progress to P2 probationary licence		A poor driving record will extend the period of a P1 probationary licence by at least six months, plus the period of suspension. They will only be allowed to drive with one passenger of any age
*Peer passenger restriction (can carry only one passenger aged 16 and less than 22 years of age)	\$423	Three demerit points
No mobile phone use, hands-free or hand-held or messaging of any kind	\$282	Three demerit points
*No driving a probationary prohibited vehicle (vehicles with eight or more cylinders, turbo or supercharged petrol engines, nominated high performance six cylinder cars and cars with engines modified to increase performance)	\$282	Three demerit points
No towing (unless for work or if under instruction)	\$282	
Zero Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)		
BAC up to 0.05	\$352	Extension of probationary period for six months, plus the period of cancellation, or ten demerit points
BAC 0.05 to less than 0.07	\$423	Alcohol ignition interlock for a minimum of six months when re-licensed
BAC of 0.07 to less than 0.15	\$423-\$599	Immediately taken off the road rather than waiting to go to court. Six to 14 months licence cancellation
BAC of 0.15 or more (first offender)	Determined by the courts	15 months licence cancellation (min)
No drug driving	\$423	Three months licence suspension
No speeding	\$176-\$599	One to six demerit points One to six months licence suspension
No excessive speeding (45 km/h or more over the limit)	\$704	Eight demerit points plus 12 months licence suspension Vehicle impoundment for 30 days (first offence) Vehicle impoundment for up to three months (second offence) Vehicle confiscation (third offence) May need to attend safe driving program
Hoon offences Drag racing	Heavy fines	Licence cancellation may apply Vehicle impoundment for 30 days (first offence) Vehicle impoundment for up to three months (second offence) Vehicle confiscation (third offence) May need to attend safe driving program
Fail to display red P1 plates	\$141	Three demerit points
Must carry licence when driving	\$141	
Must wear seat belt	\$282	Three demerit points
Passenger not wearing seat belt or restraint	\$282-\$317	
Only drive cars suitable to your licence type (eg. automatic vehicles)	\$141	

*Exemptions are available for demonstrated hardship based on work or family reasons. These will be considered on a case by case basis. An application for an exemption must be in writing and will require supporting evidence. To find out how to apply for an exemption, please go to: vicroads.vic.gov.au

For further information on the new P1 requirements, please see the following website: vicroads.vic.gov.au/pplaterestrictions

Note: If some of the above offences are taken to court, penalties can be higher and your probationary licence can be cancelled.

Requirements and Penalties

This table shows the requirements for P2 drivers, and the penalties that will be used if you do the wrong thing

Probationary P2 drivers P plate drivers have a limit of 5 demerit points in 12 months, as well as 12 demerit points in 3 years

REQUIREMENT	FINE #	CONSEQUENCES #
Good driving record required to progress to full licence		A poor driving record will extend the period of a P2 probationary licence by at least six months, plus the period of suspension
No hand-held mobile phone use	\$282	Three demerit points
*No driving a probationary prohibited vehicle (vehicles with eight or more cylinders, turbo or supercharged petrol engines, nominated high performance six cylinder cars and cars with engines modified to increase performance)	\$282	Three demerit points
Zero Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)		
BAC up to 0.05	\$352	Extension of probationary period for six months, plus the period of cancellation, or ten demerit points
BAC 0.05 to less than 0.07	\$423	Alcohol ignition interlock for a minimum of six months when re-licensed
BAC of 0.07 to less than 0.15	\$423-\$599	Immediately taken off the road rather than waiting to go to court Six to 14 months licence cancellation
BAC of 0.15 or more (first offender)	Determined by the courts	15 months licence cancellation (min)
No drug driving	\$423	Three months licence suspension
No speeding	\$176-\$599	One to six demerit points. One to six months licence suspension
No excessive speeding (45 km/h or more over the limit)	\$704	Eight demerit points. 12 months licence suspension Vehicle impoundment for 30 days (first offence) Vehicle impoundment for up to 3 months (second offence) Vehicle confiscation (third offence) May need to attend safe driving program
Hoon offences Drag racing	Heavy fines	Licence cancellation may apply Vehicle impoundment for 30 days (first offence) Vehicle impoundment for up to 3 months (second offence) Vehicle confiscation (third offence) May need to attend safe driving program
Fail to display green P2 plates	\$141	Three demerit points
Must carry licence when driving	\$141	
Must wear seat belt	\$282	Three demerit points
Passenger not wearing seat belt or restraint	\$282-\$317	
Only drive cars suitable to your licence type (eg. automatic vehicles)	\$141	

*Exemptions are available for demonstrated hardship based on work or family reasons. These will be considered on a case by case basis. An application for an exemption must be in writing and will require supporting evidence. To find out how to apply for an exemption, please go to: vicroads.vic.gov.au

Note: If some of the above offences are taken to court, penalties can be higher and your probationary licence can be cancelled.

For further information on the new P2 requirements, please see the following website: vicroads.vic.gov.au/pplaterestrictions

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