

Light Motor Vehicle Handbook

A Guide to Safe Driving

LICENSING AGENCY



Corruption Warning!!!

Do not attempt to offer any money, gift or favor in any form to any instructor, assessor or examiner as this is considered **“BRIBERY”**. The case will be referred to the Police for necessary actions.

You can **stop**
CORRUPTION

Training and testing flowchart

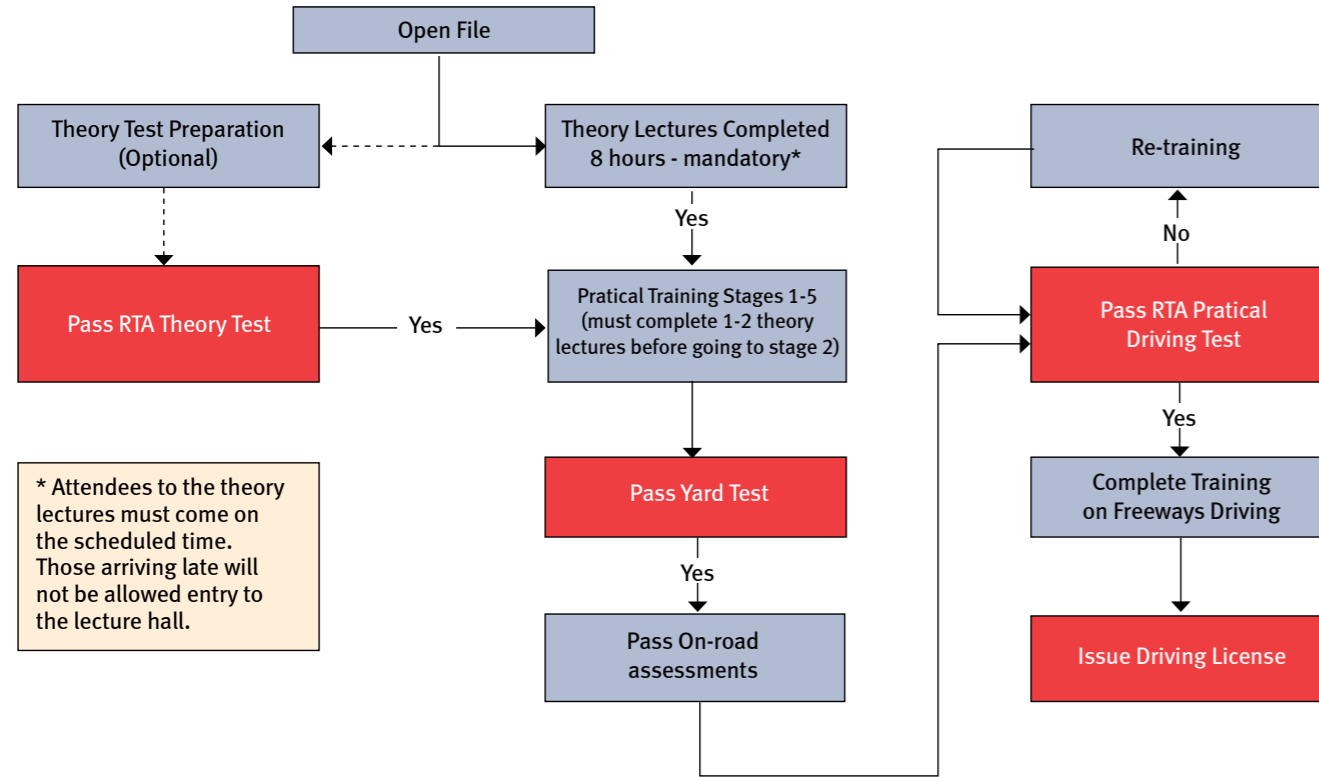


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Foreword

“Safe and Smooth Transport for all”

In line with its Vision “safe and smooth transport for all”, The Roads and Transport Authority, gives the subject of traffic safety the utmost importance. The training and qualification of drivers (theory and practice) to deal with all situations and circumstances, is an important element in achieving the vision of the RTA, along with the implementation of modern road networks according to the highest safety standards, testing and licensing of vehicles and ensure safety in the traffic on the road.

This guide was prepared to graduate qualified drivers who are good to deal with the requirements of the road, not only in the United Arab Emirates, but also in any country in the world. It contains a lot of information, including the outline of the stages of training to get a driver's license, and licensing services provided by RTA, and the method of safe driving during fog and rain, along with behaviors and road manners, and how to deal with school buses, etc.

You should read this guide well, and understand its contents accurately, because it contains important information about safety on the road, and the rules governing the traffic, as well as a list of traffic violations and fines resulting from non-compliance with the laws and regulations.

This information is essential, as required by the driver during the training period to drive the vehicle (in preparation for the theory and practical driving tests), and most importantly, that this information will be of greater benefit when, the driver drive the vehicle independently in the modern road networks in the Emirate of Dubai.

The information contained in this handbook will help you in training; it also helps ensure your safety and the safety of road users after you get a driver's license.

Wishes you a safe and easy driving on the road
MATT AR AL TAYER
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Introduction

Welcome to the Light Motor Vehicle Handbook

This Light Motor Vehicle Handbook is a guide to safe driving not just for learner drivers but also for experienced drivers.

Experienced drivers from other countries will find that road laws as they apply to Dubai maybe different compared to the road rules from their countries of origin. Road networks and traffic situations in Dubai are also be different. Reading and understanding the contents of this handbook will go a long way in ensuring hassle-free motoring in Dubai.

During the course of your driver training, this handbook will be an essential tool for learning to drive safely. Refer to its contents whenever necessary, as they are important information that will help you pass both the theory test as well as practical driving test.

Even after you have passed your tests, it will be beneficial to read this handbook from time to time as it can help clarify some of the issues you may encounter during your driving. Remember that learning to drive does not end after you have passed your tests. Driving situations may change at any given time. To deal safely with these ever changing situations require skills and experience that can only be gained through practice.

The first few months after getting your license are usually the most dangerous period of driving. During this period, young drivers are usually excited by the new found freedom of being able to drive independently. This is also the time when new drivers feel the need to test the limits of their driving ability. The lack of experience and the sensation of speeding are usually a very dangerous combination. Do not fall into this trap.

WHY READ THIS HANDBOOK?

As you will find out, you will need lots of practice to learn to drive safely.

The Light Motor Vehicle Handbook is for all people wanting to become drivers. It shows you how to get your learner licence, full licence, or change an overseas licence to a Dubai licence. You will need to study this handbook before sitting the learner licence test.

This handbook will help you:

- know what you need to do to get your licence
- find out how to learn to drive and get lots of driving practice
- understand road user safety, the road rules and your duty as a driver.

However, you should note that the handbook is not intended to be a legal document. If you need to refer to the law, particularly in the case of disputes, you should refer to Federal Traffic Law Number 21 (1995).

By choosing to use the information in the Light Motor Vehicle Handbook, you will be on your way to many years of safe driving. Keep referring to it after you have obtained your licence and enjoy a safe driving experience.

This handbook is divided into 10 parts.

- PART 1 explains the nine steps to getting your licence and becoming a driver. This section includes information on obtaining a learner or full licence, as well as obtaining a driving licence in Dubai if you are from a foreign country.
- PART 2 covers how to learn to drive and the importance of lots of driving practice with a driving instructor.
- PART 3 provides information about managing driving risk.
- PART 4 highlights road user safety and being aware of how other road users behave.
- PART 5 explains the road laws and your responsibilities as driver.
- PART 6 outlines the benefits of eco-friendly driving.
- PART 7 is a test yourself section. You can use the questions in this section to see how well you have understood the information in the handbook.
- PART 8 lists of some Blackpoints and fines you must pay if you break the Traffic Law.
- Part 9 RTA Licensing Information
- Part 10 Training Curriculum Information

HOW TO USE THIS HANDBOOK

Look for these icons and coloured boxes that have been used to help make this handbook easy for you to read and use.



Emphasises a Traffic Law.

must

When you are reading the handbook, you will notice the word “**must**” in bold type. This tells you that this is a law that you **must** obey. You are breaking the law if you do not follow this information.



Explains what something means.



Indicates a road safety message to help you.

NOTE - Crash data referred to in this Handbook has been sourced from Traffic Accident Facts 2010 and Annual Statistics of Traffic Accidents in the Emirate of Dubai, 2010 RTA.



Part 3: Managing Risk

Road Safety is Your Responsibility – Do Not Take Risks!

Driving involves risk – a risk that you may crash and that you or others may be injured or killed.

The best way for new drivers to manage the risk is to be prepared. The more driving experiences you have with your driving instructor, the better prepared you will be later when you drive on your own.



Good drivers aim to reduce and manage risk to stay safe.

Good drivers reduce the risk by making good decisions and taking responsibility for their behaviour when driving.

Your ability to drive will improve with practice. The more you do, the better you get. However, managing the risks of driving is also about choices:

- You can choose to drive more slowly
- You can choose to increase the space between you and the car in front
- You can choose to stay behind rather than try and overtake – especially if you are turning off in a few kilometres
- You can choose to drive around a corner a bit more slowly.

Some actions add to the danger on the road:

- Speeding
- Using alcohol, drugs and medicine
- Using mobile phones
- Driving when you are tired or angry
- Not wearing seat belts
- Driving a vehicle in poor condition.

These are dangers you must not forget. There are rules that you need to know and you need to make the right choices to keep yourself and your passengers safe. It is really up to you!

Speed

Speed is directly linked to crashes. In Dubai, overspeeding or excessive speed contributes to up to 80% of all injury crashes.



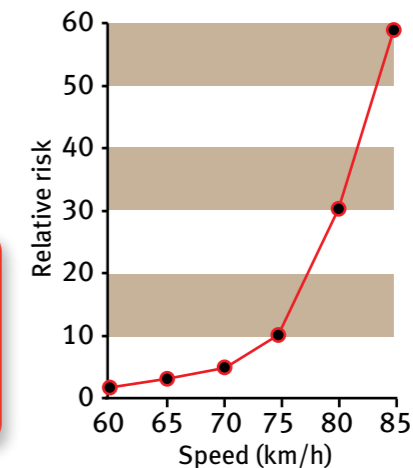
*The faster you go the more likely you are to have a crash. Speed also increases how serious a crash will be. For example, a driver travelling at 65 km/h in a 60 km/h zone is **twice** as likely to have a serious crash as a driver travelling at the speed limit. Driving at 70km/h in a 60km/h zone, the driver is more than **4 times** as likely to crash.*



IMPORTANT RULE!

You must not exceed the maximum speed shown on a sign, taking into consideration the road, weather and vehicle conditions and related safety requirements.

(Article 10.10, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)



It is important not to exceed the legal speed limit of the road or for your vehicle. In Dubai, this means travelling at no faster than 40, 60 or 80km/h on urban roads (depending on the road) and 100 or 120km/h on highways (depending on the highway). Observe speed limits on all roads as they may change. You should always travel at a speed that will allow enough time for you to slow down or stop, if necessary, easily and safely.

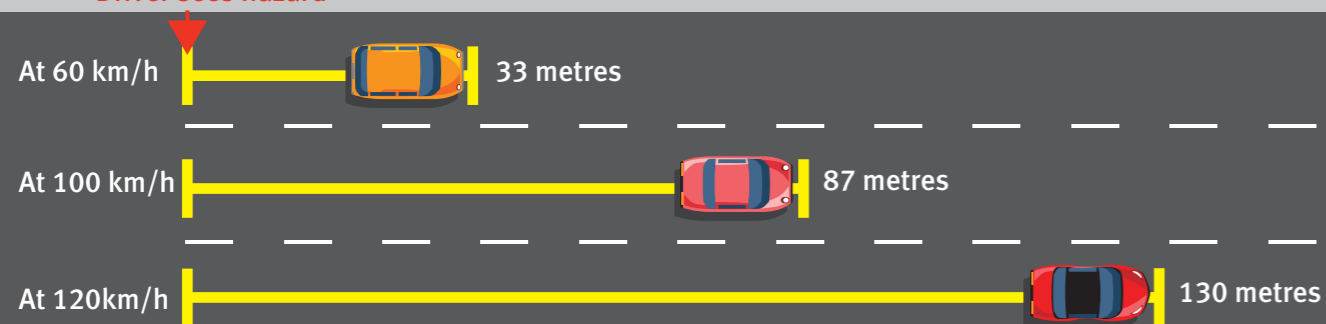
Speed makes a big difference to how long it will take you to stop. The faster you go the longer it will take you to stop.



An average car travelling at 60 km/h may take up to 33 metres to stop under normal road conditions. At 100km/h it may take up to 87 metres to stop and at 120 km/h 130 metres (the length of 6 to 7 cricket pitches or about 1½ soccer pitches). A larger vehicle will take even longer to stop.

Total stopping distance in good conditions

Driver sees hazard



Modern cars hide the **sensation of speed**. Many cars are so comfortable to travel in that it is difficult for drivers to judge how fast they are going. You need to be aware of this. Keep checking the speedometer in your vehicle to make sure you are not exceeding the speed limit. As a new driver, speeding is even more risky as it is more difficult to do all the things you have to do when you drive. Remember, you need to:

- Scan the roads for possible hazards
- Check your speedometer
- Adjust your speed to the conditions.

Seat Belts

Seat belts do save lives.

Wearing a seat belt helps to keep you safe in a crash when it is worn correctly. Seat belts are designed to be worn on the bony structure of the body and should be worn across the front of the pelvis, chest and shoulders. The sash part of the belt should not be in contact with the neck and the lap section needs to be worn across the hips. The seat belt:

- **Must be firmly adjusted** - This is to provide the protection it has been designed for. A slack belt will greatly reduce protection to the wearer.
- **Must not be twisted**
- **Must only restrain one occupant.**



IMPORTANT RULE!

The driver and the person seated next to the driver must wear a seat belt

(Article 33, Executive By-Law; UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

It is important to put your seat belt on as soon as you are seated in your vehicle and wear it at all times even if you are only driving a short distance. As a driver, you must wear your seat belt.



Make sure **everyone** is wearing a seat belt, **every** trip.

Seat belts hold you securely in place. If you are a driver, this helps you control the car in a crash situation.

Seat belts protect **everyone** in the vehicle. If a seat belt is not worn in a collision, the vehicle may come to a sudden stop but the people inside the vehicle will continue to move within the cabin at the original speed of the car. Serious injuries often result when people are thrown into each other or parts of the vehicle, such as the steering wheel, gear stick, windscreen or back of the front seat during a crash.

Seat belts give you a greater chance of escaping serious injury. If you are not wearing your seat belt, you could be thrown from your vehicle.

It is important to realize that airbags do not take the place of seat belts. With an airbag you can still be thrown out of your car, so always wear your seat belt correctly.

Help to keep your passengers safe by making sure they wear a seat belt as well.

Pregnant women need to also use a seat belt to keep themselves and their unborn child safe.



Four Key Safety Points for Car Seats

1. Restrain your child on every trip, **every** time.
2. Keep your child in the **back seat**.
3. Use the **best safety restraint** for your child's size.
4. Use the child safety seats and belts **correctly**.

Why Rear-Facing Car Seat for Your Baby?

Car seats (or seat belts for adults) are designed to absorb some crash forces and spread remaining crash forces over a larger area of the body. The infant's body especially the neck area is not strong enough to withstand the crash forces when seat is facing forward. Rear-facing car seat distributes the crash force along the entire back, neck and head, putting less stress and trauma on any one part of the body. Rear-facing car seats should never be placed on the front passenger seat as deploying airbag can result to fatal injuries to the infant.



Car Safety for Your Toddler

When your toddler reaches the highest weight allowed by your rear-facing seat, you need to switch your child safety seat to a forward facing position. If you have been using a rear-facing infant-only car seat then you will need a new forward - facing seat.

Car Safety for Your 4-to 8-Year-Old

Once your child completely outgrows a forward-facing child safety seat with an internal harness, you should switch them to a belt-positioning booster seat. Children should use belt-positioning booster seats until they are about 145cm (4'9") tall (about 4 to 8 years old).

Restraining your child with only a seat belt is putting them at risk of serious injury.



All children should ride in the back seat of a vehicle until 13 years old.

Alcohol, Drugs and Medicines

In Dubai, 14.33% of crashes are caused by drivers who were under the influence of alcohol.



The use of alcohol, drugs and some medicines may prevent you from driving safely. When you mix any of these together and decide to drive you are a danger to yourself as well as others. Choose to be safe before it is too late.

You **must not** be under the influence of alcohol or drugs when you drive. There is a good reason for this. Alcohol and drugs:

- Make it more difficult for you to judge risks including distance and the speed of your own and other vehicles
- Give you a false sense of confidence, which may encourage you to take risks

- Make it difficult to concentrate and do more than one thing at a time
- Slow your reaction time, making you more likely to crash.

As well as possibly not being in control of your vehicle, you may simply not see hazards, or not react to them properly.

Alcohol and drugs affect different people in different ways and can affect the same person at different times in different ways.



IMPORTANT RULE!

Drivers must not be under the effect of alcohol or drugs.

(Article 10.6, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Medicine

Sometimes medicine from a doctor or pharmacy can also stop you from driving safely. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if your medicine is safe to use when you are driving.



To stay safe, plan ahead. Arrange to be picked up by someone who is alcohol or drug free, or take a taxi.

Driving in Different Conditions

As a driver, you are responsible for your safety as well as the safety of other road users. There will be times when different weather conditions may make driving a little more difficult. Driving at a different time of the day, such as in the early morning or late at night can also make driving more challenging. Here are some points you should consider.

Sun Glare

Dubai has a very warm climate and is sunny most of the year. However, it can be hard to see the road ahead when you are driving into bright sunlight at sunrise or sunset. Slow down at these times and be aware of the traffic and possible hazards around you. Wear sunglasses when you are driving in bright sunlight and use the sun visor in your vehicle to help reduce the glare.

Driving in Rain

Rain makes road surfaces slippery, especially as the first drops fall. With more rain, tyres make less contact with the road.

Rain spell leads to an accident every two minutes

According to Dubai police, crashes occur because motorists do not adjust their speed or the distance between themselves and other vehicles to suit changing weather conditions.
Traffic Watch, Gulf News

Rainfall in Dubai is infrequent and may only occur five times during the year. The sudden rain can change the surface of the road and make driving in the rain very dangerous. The first rain after a long dry period makes the road surface slippery as oil and dirt are washed to the surface. Until further rain washes these away, skidding can occur. Slow down and always keep your distance from the vehicle in front.

In heavy rain it may be difficult to see and the roads may fill up with water. Spray from other vehicles can also cause loss of visibility by covering windscreens and windows. You need to slow right down and, if the rain is very heavy, pull off the road and wait for the rain to stop. If you are driving in these conditions you **must** turn on your headlights.



IMPORTANT RULE!

You must use lights during the day when visibility is poor.

(Article 63, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Stay out of puddles. A puddle can hide a large pothole that could damage your suspension or flatten a tyre. The spray of water could also drown your engine, causing it to stall, and make your brakes less effective.

Aquaplaning



Aquaplaning is where there is too much water on the road or you are going too fast in the wet. Your tyres may ride on the top of the water like water skis and you can lose control of your vehicle.

It can be difficult to tell when you are aquaplaning, but it often feels as though the steering is non-responsive and the back end of the vehicle is weaving. It occurs as a combination of speed, tyre pressure, tyre condition and depth of water.

Avoid aquaplaning by reducing your speed to less than 80 km/h. Over this speed you significantly increase your chances of aquaplaning. Travel in the tracks of the vehicle in front of you, but stay back by at least 4 seconds. Try and stay in the middle lanes if possible, as water will tend to gather in the outside lanes first.

If you do aquaplane:

- Check your mirrors
- Put on your hazard lights
- Grip the wheel firmly and avoid braking or accelerating
- Reduce your speed gradually by releasing the accelerator
- Once you feel your vehicle under control either brake gently or accelerate gently
- Check the mirrors for other vehicles getting too close.

Good tyres will help to prevent aquaplaning. Most tyre treads have patterns that are designed to allow water to pass through the grooves without losing grip on the road. Bald tyres do not have grooves, so the water builds up in front of them. Check that your tyres are in good condition. Even with good tyres it is important to adjust your speed after heavy rain.



Remember that the roads may still be slippery after the rain has stopped. So drive carefully and adjust your speed for the changed conditions.

Driving in Fog

Fog is like a cloud at ground level. It forms when the temperature drops very low and invisible water vapor in the air condenses to form suspended water droplets. Fog can be patchy. It can be very dense in some areas and light in some. This creates visibility problems and very dangerous driving conditions. Fog usually comes during early mornings on the months when the weather is changing (start or end of summer in the UAE). Learn the Dos and Don'ts on how to drive in the fog safely:



Do:

1. Slow down gradually in foggy conditions and drive at a speed that suits the conditions
2. Make sure the full lighting system of your vehicle is turned on.
3. Use your low beam headlights. High beams reflect off the moisture droplets in the fog, making it harder to see.
3. If you have fog lights on your vehicle, use them, in addition to your low beams. They will increase your visibility and could save your life.
4. Be patient. Avoid passing, changing lanes and/or crossing traffic.
5. Use pavement markings to help guide you. Use the right edge of the road as a guide, rather than the centre line.
6. Increase your following distance. You will need extra distance to brake safely.
7. Look and listen for any hazards that may be ahead.
8. Reduce distractions in your vehicle. For example, turn off the cell phone . . . your full attention is required for driving.
9. Watch out for any electronically operated warning signs.

10. Keep looking as far ahead as possible.
11. Keep your windows and mirrors clean. Use your defroster and wipers to maximize your vision.
12. If the fog is too dense to continue, pull completely off the road and try to position your vehicle in an area away from other traffic. Turn on your emergency (hazard) lights.
13. Before you drive, and during your trip, check weather forecasts and road reports. If there is a weather warning or reports of poor visibility and driving conditions, delay your trip until conditions improve, if possible.

Don't:

1. Don't stop in the middle of the road. You could become the first link in a chain reaction collision.
2. Don't make sudden stops. The vehicles behind you may not be able to see you in time.
3. Don't speed up suddenly, even if the fog seems to be clearing. You could find yourself back in fog.
4. Don't speed up to pass a vehicle moving slowly or to get away from a vehicle that is following too closely.
5. Don't continue driving if the fog is too dense and the visibility is greatly reduced. Remember, to be late is better than not to arrive at all.

Remember:

1. Watch your speed. You may be going faster than you think. If so, reduce speed gradually.
2. Leave a safe breaking distance between you and the vehicle ahead.
3. Remain clam and patient. Don't pass other vehicles or speed up suddenly.
4. Don't stop on the road. If visibility is decreasing rapidly, pull off the road into a safe parking area and wait for the fog to lift.
5. When visibility is reduced, use your low beam lights.



Slow down, adjust your speed and allow enough space from the vehicle in front of you.

Floods in Dubai

Flooding in Dubai occurs very rarely as heavy rains are not very common. But when heavy rains come, heavy flooding also happens in many areas of the city.

Drivers need to be extra cautious when driving through flooded areas as it is difficult to guess how deep the water really is. You can only see the surface of the water, you can not see if there are hidden dangers in the path you are taking like sharp objects or deep holes.

To be safe and if at all possible, it is best to avoid driving through floods. But if you must drive through flood, do so carefully keeping in mind the following:

- a. For regular saloon cars, check if the flood water is above 50% of the tire height and if this is the case, do not drive through. There is a very good chance that water may enter the exhaust pipe and stall the engine.



- b. Do not drive through fast moving water even if the water level is at or below 50% of the tire height. The force of the flood water may sweep your car away.
- c. Engage low gear, drive slowly while maintaining smooth acceleration and revving the engine (by slipping the clutch) to prevent the water from entering the exhaust pipe.
- d. Show courtesy. Driving at speeds through flood can cause water to splash on the sides and soak other motorists or pedestrians.

Once you successfully passed the flooded area, avoid speeding as your brakes will not be as efficient due to moisture. You must step on your brakes repeatedly to help remove the moisture in it until the brakes efficiency is restored.

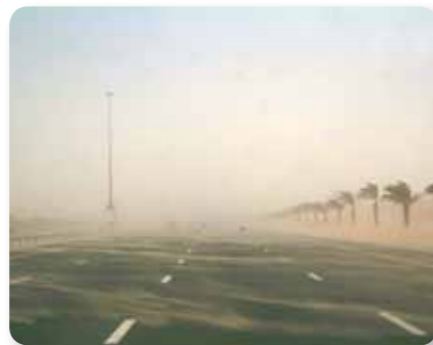
Modern cars have sensitive electronic components that may malfunction when submerged. Have your car checked immediately after driving through flooded area.

Driving in Sand Drifts

Sand on the roads can be dangerous, as tyre grip is reduced and it can be more difficult to work out where the edge of the road is. Dust from vehicles coming towards you may hide unexpected hazards, such as other vehicles, a dip or a corner. Dust thrown on to windows can also stop you from being able to see. Slow down and keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front.



Drive at a speed that is safe for the road conditions, because you may need longer to come to a stop.



Driving in Congested Traffic

The increasing popularity of Dubai as both a work and tourist destination has seen an increase in the number of vehicles on the roads. Increased traffic means there are times when the traffic becomes congested or blocked.

You may choose to avoid heavy traffic by planning to drive at times that are less busy. If you must drive when the traffic is heavy, you should plan to take the least busy route. Allow more time for your trip at busy times, stay calm and be courteous to other drivers who may not be as patient as you.



Congested Traffic is a challenging environment especially for new drivers. The frequent stopping and accelerating can cause impatience among drivers. This can lead some drivers to suddenly change lanes without indicating. Pedestrians may emerge from areas obstructed by other vehicles. Be patient, take extra pre-cautions and allow for unexpected actions of other road users.

Plan well ahead so you know which lane you will need to get into to reach your destination. Allow yourself plenty of time to move into the appropriate lane. Take extra care checking your blindspots as you may be changing out of a lane at the same time as another driver is planning to move into your lane.

When cars are waiting to merge from side streets, it may be difficult for them to find a gap in the traffic to allow them to merge. Sometimes these drivers become impatient and push their way into the direction of the traffic. You will need to be alert for this so that you can react in time. Be courteous. Allow drivers to enter the lane of traffic at least one vehicle at a time.

Mobile Phones and Other Driver Distractions

Mobile Phones



Drivers using mobile phones are four times more likely to have a collision. Hands-free kits do not make drivers safer.

Mobile phones distract drivers and can cause them to make mistakes that they would not otherwise make or to react too slowly. Common errors are:

- Straddling lanes on a multiple lane road or veering across the road
- Driving inconsistently, speeding up or slowing down without reason
- Having difficulty in maintaining appropriate following distances from vehicles in front
- Displaying mistakes in judgement and awareness of safe gaps in traffic.

Make it a habit to only use mobile phones when you are parked. When you are driving have a passenger answer your phone, or allow your phone to go to voice mail instead of taking the call.



Other Distractions

Many cars today also have built-in navigation systems, high quality audio systems, TV and DVD players. All of these electronic devices create distractions for drivers, which can cause crashes.

Taking your eyes off the road to change the radio station, adjust the navigation system display, scroll through your mobile phone's numbers looking for a name to call or sending an SMS all take time. In that time you may have missed a hazard which could have resulted in a serious crash.

Plan your route before you leave so that you do not have to adjust the navigational system or read a map. Preset your radio, CD and airconditioning system and do not engage in complex or emotional conversations. All of these things will help you to arrive at your destination safely.



Driving When Tired



Drivers who get behind the wheel when they have not had enough sleep risk killing themselves and other innocent road users. In one month in Dubai alone, 13 people died due to careless and sleepy drivers.

Crashes happen when:

- You are tired and you fall asleep at the wheel
- You have been driving for too long without a break and lose concentration.



IMPORTANT RULE!

You must not drive your vehicle when tired as you may become unable to control your car.

(Article 10.7, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Take a Break in Your Driving

It is time to stop and have a sleep if you notice any of the following starting to occur:

- You are constantly yawning
- You are starting to drift across the lane
- Your eyes are closing or your eyesight is getting fuzzy
- You are having trouble keeping your head up
- Your speed is going up and down without you meaning it to
- You do not remember driving along the last few kilometres of road
- You start day-dreaming.

Plan Before You Drive

If you are driving on a long trip, make sure you:

- Get plenty of sleep before the trip
- Share the driving whenever possible
- Plan ahead and rest overnight
- Take regular breaks
- Do not start a trip after a long day's work.



Drowsy drivers die.

Driving when Angry

Drivers do not always do the right thing and often make mistakes on the road. Some people get angry because of a mistake or action of another driver and become violent.

You can avoid becoming a victim of another driver's anger easily:

- If you make a mistake when driving, show that you know you've made a mistake.
- Keep calm and keep your distance from other vehicles.
- Drive cooperatively and consider other people on the road.
- Treat other drivers as you would like them to treat you.



Vehicle Maintenance

Carrying out simple checks on your car may save your life and will also save you money. You must check that your vehicle is safe to drive.



IMPORTANT RULE!

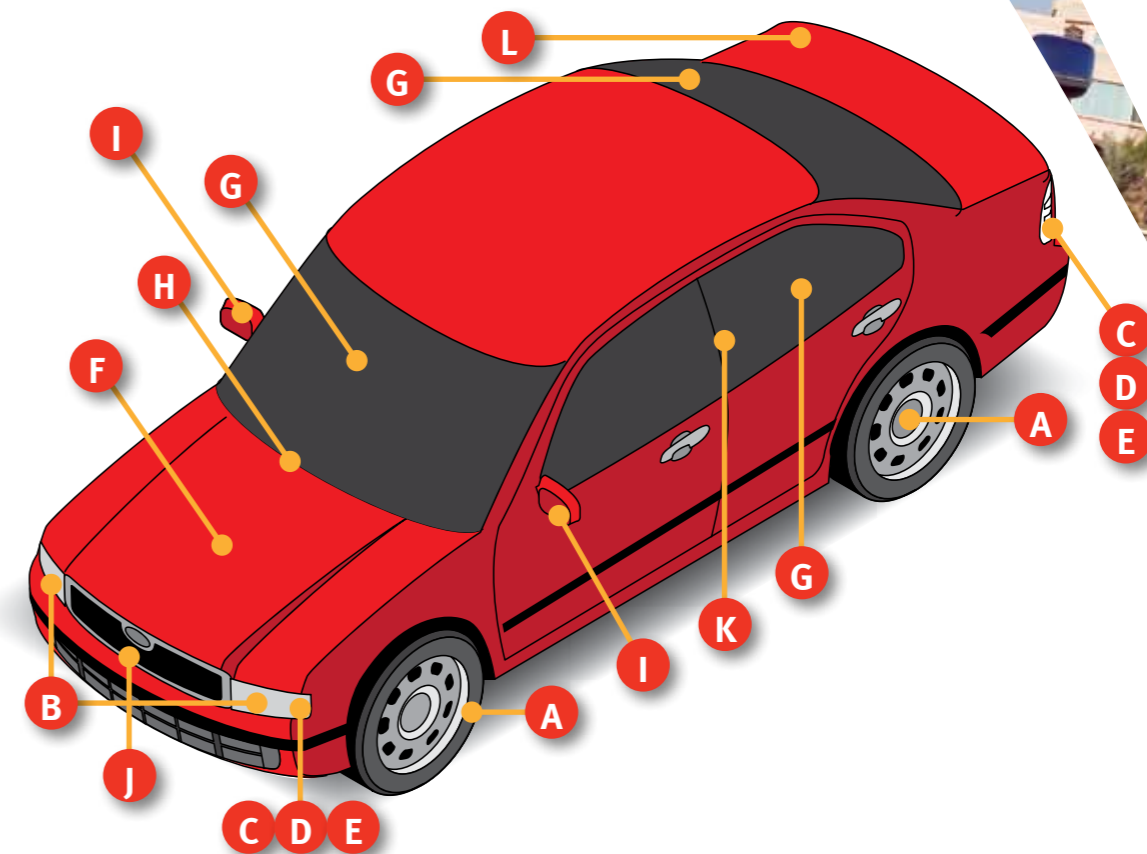
Your vehicle must not be driven unless it is in good mechanical condition.

(Article 34, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

You should do a simple check of your vehicle each week.

Check that the following parts of your vehicle are in good working order.

A	Tyres	Tyre pressure and tread depth need to be checked and maintained at safe levels. Safe tyres should have at least 1.5mm of tread depth. Always check tyres when cold.
B	Headlights	Check that both high and low beam work.
C	Tail lights Brake lights Reverse lights Parking lights	Check that both lights work.
D	Indicator signals	Check that front and rear signals work.
E	Hazard lights	Check that front and rear lights work.
F	Engine oil level Engine coolant level Brake fluid level Automatic transmission fluid level	Check that levels are just below the maximum level indicated on the reservoir or measuring stick. You will need to check in your owner's manual where to find these, as all cars are different
G	Glass areas – windows, windscreens	Clean surfaces and check for cracks and scratches that may make it difficult for you to see when driving.
H	Windscreen wipers	Check that both wipers are in good condition and that they work.
I	Mirrors	Check that mirrors, inside and out, are clean and are not cracked.
J	Horn	Check that the horn works,
K	Seat belts	Check that the seat belts are in good condition. The straps should not be worn or twisted and the clips should work.
L	Emergency equipment	Check that your spare wheel and the tools for changing a wheel are in good condition.



Reducing Your Risk of a Crash

There are a number of simple things you can do which will help you reduce your risk of a crash.

Slow Down a Bit

As you are still building your experience, you cannot expect to be able to anticipate as well as drivers with more experience. You need to be able to think ahead and respond in the right way.



Slow down by a few kilometres per hour to give yourself time to react to the unexpected.

Give Yourself Some Space

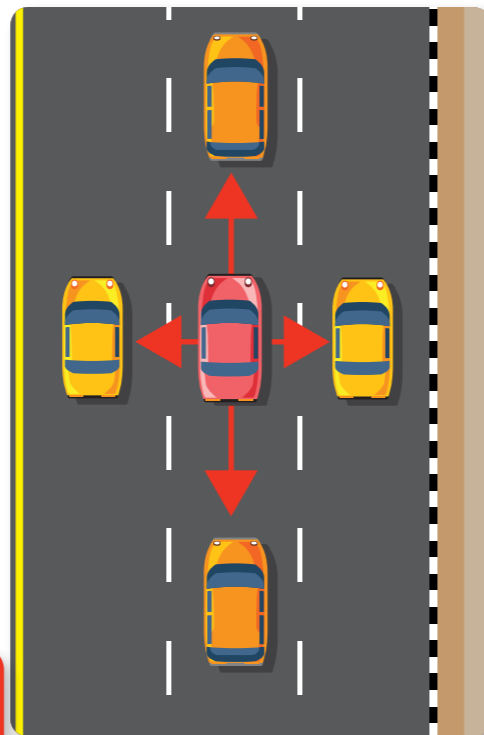
Allow enough time to react to mistakes, including mistakes made by other drivers, by leaving plenty of distance between your vehicle and the vehicles around you. Giving yourself more room can make the difference between stopping in time and crashing.



IMPORTANT RULE!

You must leave enough distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front to allow you to stop if the front vehicle suddenly decreases its speed.

(Article 50, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)



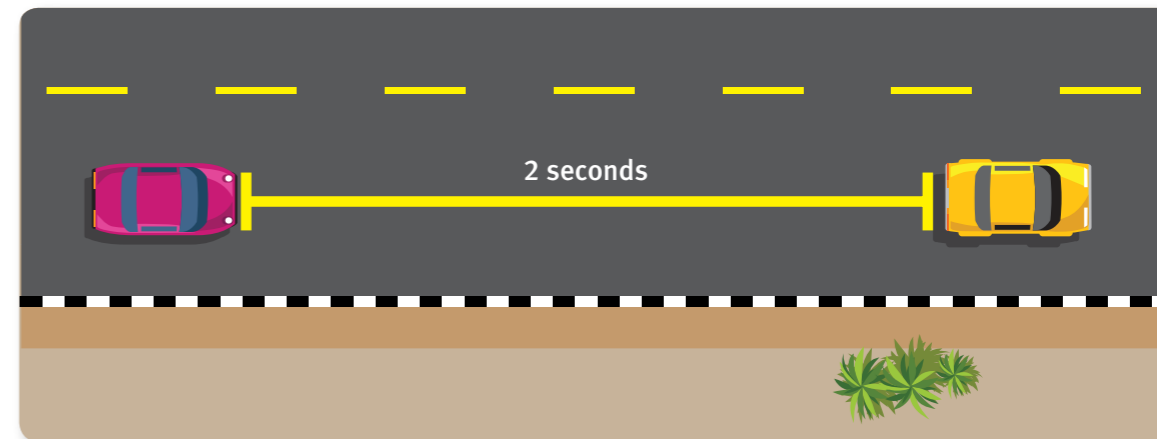
The diagram above shows the 'safety margin'.



The 'safety margin' is the space in front, behind and to the side of your vehicle.

In good road and weather conditions, you should be at least two seconds behind the vehicle in front. You can check this by a simple test.

Focus on a marker in the distance, such as a signpost or tree, and note when the vehicle in front passes the marker, then count the number of seconds before your vehicle passes the same marker. You may also do this with your driving instructor during your lesson in an appropriate area. If your count is not at least two seconds then you are too close.



There are times when you may need more than two seconds. This includes:

- When visibility is poor
- If conditions are dark, such as when you are driving at night
- If conditions are wet or slippery
- You have a heavy load
- The road is unmade or there are road works.

Over time and with lots of driving practice, you will be able to better judge the distance you need for different speeds so that you can react and stop. If the traffic is heavy, you may not be able to leave a longer gap. However, by slowing down a bit you can react to the actions of other drivers.



Give yourself the time and space to act on the unexpected actions of others and remember to allow a longer gap where possible.

Never drive so close to the vehicle in front of you that the other driver becomes nervous. This is known as tailgating. It is extremely dangerous. The driver in front might react in an unexpected way. He may brake or swerve suddenly or try and change lanes where there is no room. It could cause a very serious crash involving both you and other drivers.

Think Ahead

Remember when you are driving to keep your eyes moving and to scan the traffic scene. Look well into the distance, to both sides and in your mirrors. This takes a lot of practice. You also need to think about what other road users may do.

Plan your trips before you start out and where possible, use roads that are familiar to you. Use a street directory to plan ahead if you are travelling somewhere that is not familiar to you. This helps to reduce your stress while driving.

Drive Safely at Night

The risk of a crash is higher at night. However, if you drive carefully you can reduce the added risks of driving after dark. This is very important when you are a new driver, as you may have only had a few driving lessons with your driving instructor at night. Driving at night is much different from driving during daylight. Pedestrians are harder to see, especially those wearing dark clothing. Motorcyclists and cyclists can also be difficult to see, particularly if they are not using their headlights. Sometimes this even applies to other vehicles.

Keep your speed down and you will have time to react. You should be able to stop within the distance you can see. In rural areas this will be the range of your headlights. But remember, it is more difficult to judge speed and distance at night.



In 2010, more than half (52%) of all crashes in Dubai occurred at night. Lower your speed especially when driving at night and improve your safety and the safety of others.



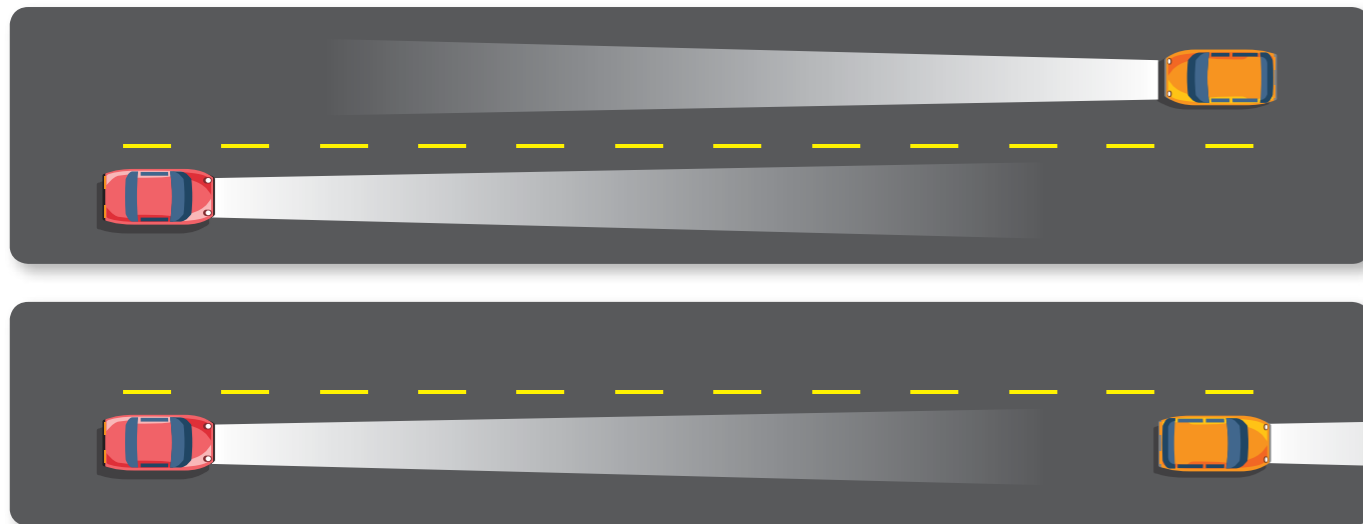
IMPORTANT RULE!

You must use the lights of your vehicle from sunset until sunrise as well as during the day where the view is unclear. The lights must be on the front and the rear of the car.

(Article 63, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Headlights on high-beam help you see further. They should only be used:

- On highways without lighting, not in areas with street lighting
- When the view is not clear enough to drive safely.



Because high beam may dazzle the oncoming driver's eyes, you should 'dip' to low-beam when another vehicle is within sight.

You should also dip your headlights when you are approaching another vehicle from behind.



IMPORTANT RULE!

High beam lights must only be used on highways which do not have overhead lighting when needed to improve the view ahead. They must **not** be used when another vehicle is coming from the opposite direction.

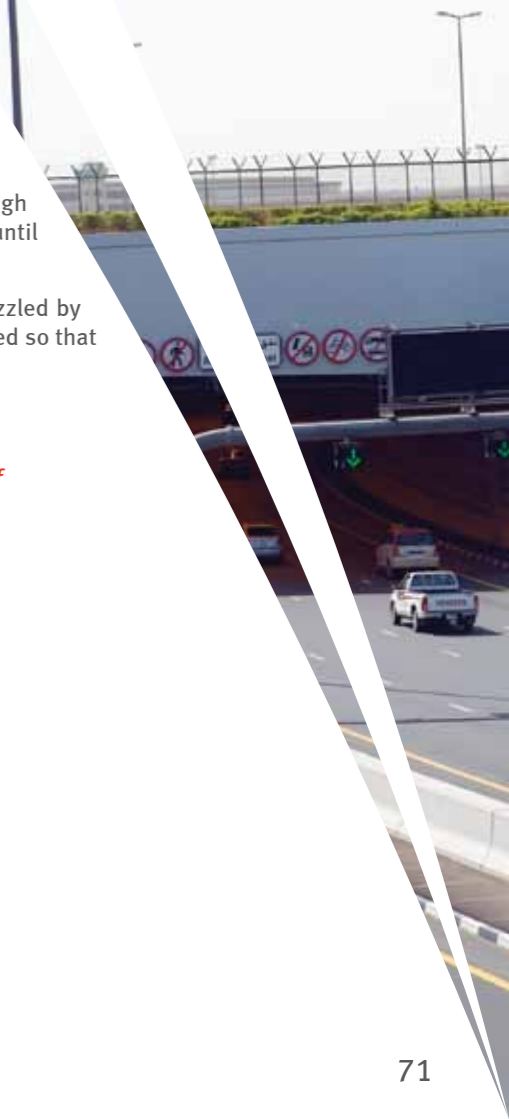
(Article 65, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Look to the right side of the road and drive towards the right of your lane if a car with high beam on is coming towards you. If you are dazzled by the lights, slow down and pull over until you can see again.

Many modern vehicles are fitted with night mirrors to reduce the possibility of being dazzled by the lights of a vehicle behind. Learn how to use this mirror and make sure that it is adjusted so that you can still see behind you while having the glare reduced



Obey the road laws at all times and remember to be prepared for the mistakes of other drivers.





Part 4: Road User Safety

Crashes **do** happen. The crash rate for Dubai is very high.



One third of all fatal and injury crashes are caused by drivers misjudging what other road users may do.

Speeding, drink driving and not obeying the road rules also contribute to many of the crashes on Dubai's roads.

You Can Help Make Road Travel Safer

Our roads are busy with cars, taxis, buses, trucks, motorcycles, cyclists and pedestrians. People from all around the world use Dubai's roads everyday. They will not be as familiar with the roads as you are and will be used to driving in very different conditions. This may cause them to do something unexpected, such as braking suddenly when they are looking for a particular location or looking the wrong way when walking across the road. You will need to watch out for this. Everyone has the right to use our roads and there are things all road users can do to increase their safety.

Heavy vehicle drivers, motorcycle riders, pedestrians and other motorists use the road in different ways. You need to understand this so that you can work out what they may be going to do. On busy roads pedestrians and cyclists are particularly in danger of road traffic injuries, because they do not have any protection. There are road rules for all road users, but not everybody does the right thing.



Everyone has the right to be safe. But with this comes the responsibility to share the road with others.

Attitude in Driving



Attitude is a complex mental state involving our beliefs, feelings, values and our tendency to act in certain ways.

Our attitude influences the way we drive and react to other drivers. Many dangerous traffic violations – such as beating the red light, tailgating, over speeding and weaving in and out of traffic without indicating – are not the result of bad driving skills. They are due to the bad attitude of the driver. Aggressive driving style is not only dangerous, it also increases fuel consumption, adds to traffic congestion and makes driving more stressful.



Unacceptable Driving Behaviors:

The way we drive speaks volume of our behavior and thinking. When we drive, we should realize that there are such things as unacceptable driving behaviors which not only cause tension on the roads, they also make driving more dangerous. Be on the safe side and avoid these:

1. Driving too fast for the situation. It gives you very little time to react to avoid a crash. Drive at a speed that maintains at least a 2 second gap between your vehicle and the one in front. Increase the gap in bad road conditions such as fog or rain.
2. Tailgating or driving too close to the vehicle in front. This usually causes other drivers to be distracted or become tense or suddenly change lanes which increase the risk of a crash. This will also shorten the reaction time (and distance) in case the vehicle in front stops suddenly.
3. Flashing headlights or honking the horn to intimidate other drivers. This is usually due to over speeding or impatience and it creates tension among other drivers on the road.
4. Cutting-in front of other drivers or jumping the queue just to get a few meters ahead. This causes annoyance among other drivers and aggravates the traffic situation. It often also causes other vehicles, such as trucks, to brake suddenly as the vehicle stopping distance is quickly reduced, which increases crash risks.
5. Not signaling lane changes - It increases the crash risks as other drivers are not prepared for the unexpected lane change. This is very risky as other drivers often do not have time to safety position they vehicle away from the vehicle that unexpectedly changed lanes.



6. Driving slowly in the fast lane - this practice is equally dangerous as over speeding as it requires other drivers in the fast lane to brake or change lanes to avoid the slow vehicle. Always use the slow lane and use only fast lane only when overtaking.
7. Ignoring priority rules - When give way and stop signs are prominently posted but drivers disregard them or when suddenly entering the main road without regard to the other drivers already in it or when ignoring the presence of pedestrians who are crossing the road.
8. Intentionally pushing in or blocking other drivers who are signaling to turn or change direction. This causes tension among drivers and sometimes may lead to road rage.
9. Using a mobile phone while driving (even with hands-free kit) – this reduces the driver's concentration from the driving task. This may also cause the car to slow down or speed up (for no reason), wander across road lanes, make sudden turns without indicating which can lead to a crash.
10. Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. There is zero tolerance for drink driving in Dubai. If you do so, you do not have full control of your actions, your judgment is affected and your ability to react to high risk situations is reduced. You risk being fined, jailed or your license confiscated and your vehicle impounded. You also compromise your safety and the safety of others.

Role Model Driving Behavior

Driving in a safe manner is something that all drivers are capable of doing. It is a matter of choice. We can drive in a way that can be a role model for other drivers by doing the following:

1. Driving within the speed limit or at a speed appropriate to the situation.
2. Driving at a safe distance from the vehicle in front, of at least 2 seconds, in normal traffic. The following distance should be increased if the road is slippery or visibility is poor.
3. Allowing extra travel time. This will avoid over speeding or sudden changes in your directions. You will in turn arrive at the destination more relaxed and fresh.
4. Focus on your driving. Avoid using the phone while driving or doing any other activities that may cause distraction. There are things that should be done separate from the driving task. Driving safely requires full attention
5. Use the indicators properly when changing lanes or changing directions. This will give other drivers more time to react appropriately. Driving
6. Show consideration to other road users by respecting the priority rules. This will make for better traffic flow and avoid any conflict with other drivers or pedestrians. There are times when you may need to give way even if you have the priority just to avoid conflict with those who ignore the rules.

7. Allow for the mistakes of others. The driving situation is changing constantly and some drivers are bound to make mistakes. Always anticipate for the unexpected and react appropriately. Position your vehicle on the roadway where it is easily seen, so do not drive in the “blind spot” of the vehicles near you
8. Drive at the slow lane whenever possible. You will be able to drive relaxed, you will not be forced to speed up and you avoid conflict with those who want to travel at higher speeds.
9. Plan your journey in advance. This means that you already know the turns you need to make and allows you to position your vehicle ready for those turns early, such as being in the right lane, you will have consider traffic congestion, environmental factors to get to your destination in time. This will make your journey safer and more pleasant.
10. Drive at your best condition. Avoid driving when tired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Driving safely demands alertness of the mind and quick reflexes of the body. This will be badly affected if the driver is under the influence of any intoxicating substance or is tired or sleepy. If a driver is becoming tired stop for a rest.

Slow Down in Busy Traffic Areas



IMPORTANT RULE!

You **must not** expose pedestrians to any danger whatsoever. You shall also stop whenever required, in order to avoid danger to any road user.

(Article 10.9, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Always be on the lookout for and give way to pedestrians, cyclists, taxis, buses, trucks and motorcycles, even if they do not have priority. This is part of driving defensively. Avoid crashes at all costs.



Driving in heavily congested traffic can be particularly dangerous. Slow and watch for hazards. People wanting to cross the road often walk in front of and behind vehicles that are at a standstill or moving slowly.

Be Ready for Pedestrians to Appear on the Road at Any Time

Watch out for younger children walking near schools, Mosques, shops, parks and shopping malls.



Children are difficult to see because of their smaller size and they often do unexpected things. Drivers need to watch out for children at all times.

Most small children do not have the ability to deal with traffic safety on their own. Most crashes with children happen during the day, especially during morning and afternoon peak periods. This is when they are making trips to and from school. Children especially have difficulty in judging speed and distance, seeing objects in their side vision, identifying direction of speed.

Older pedestrians do not move as well as younger people and often cannot see clearly. Many older pedestrians appear not to have seen the vehicle that struck them. Drivers need to understand the difficulties of the older pedestrian and drive carefully.



In 2010, pedestrians were involved in 14.25% or 386 out of 2686 total number of road crashes in Dubai. In the same period, 323 crashes occurred due to inconsiderate driving causing injuries to 332 pedestrians.

Pedestrians are among the most vulnerable road users and they have the right of way. Where there are many pedestrians around, driving should be slower so as to anticipate their sudden moves and avoid hitting them.

Drivers in Dubai drive on the right hand side of the road. Pedestrians will need to be looking on his/her left first before crossing any road that has one direction. On single carriageway, two way roads, pedestrians will need to be looking in both directions (left first). Special attention is needed for overtaking vehicles from the opposite direction (right side).

School Buses in Dubai

School Buses in Dubai are governed by strict regulations by the Roads & Transport Authority. This is to ensure all students of all ages in Dubai are safely transported to and from their schools throughout the school year. This is also part of the overall road safety strategy and the ultimate vision of RTA to ensure “safe & smooth transport for all”.

To reduce the risks of the students on board, the speed of school buses is limited to maximum 80 kph only. The drivers are especially trained to drive safely and to deal with the children on board.

Dealing with School Buses in Dubai

Where there are school buses nearby, there will also be students nearby. School buses will stop frequently when picking up or dropping off students. Be patient and be always on the look out for the school bus' extending electronic stop arm and its flashers working. Drive slowly and be ready to stop. Be patient and avoid passing the school bus that stops and the stop arm is working.



Remember;

- School buses may stop for several minutes especially if there are several students boarding or alighting at certain locations.
- When school bus stops, students may suddenly cross the road. Young students especially the small children maybe unpredictable when they alight from or approach the school bus.
- School buses large or small need to travel and stop as smoothly as possible. Give due consideration and stay clear of them whenever possible and avoid any sudden actions that can startle the school bus driver.
- Over speeding or sudden stops may scare off students that may cause them to run and cause danger to themselves or others.
- Be extra cautious when there are school buses traveling nearby.

Vehicles for the Handicapped



Some people who are unable to walk use self-propelled or motorised wheelchairs. Because they are seated, it is difficult for drivers to easily see them. You need to watch out for people in these types of vehicles.

Watch out for Motorcycles and Cyclists

You need to be extra careful when you are driving near motorcycle riders and cyclists. Being smaller in size makes them difficult to see. Drive carefully! They are permitted to use the full road lane so give them enough space to do this, particularly as they pass parked cars in case doors are opened carelessly. You should only overtake bike riders and motorcycle riders if you can safely move to the left, leaving at least one metre clearance.



Always Give Way to Police and Emergency Vehicles

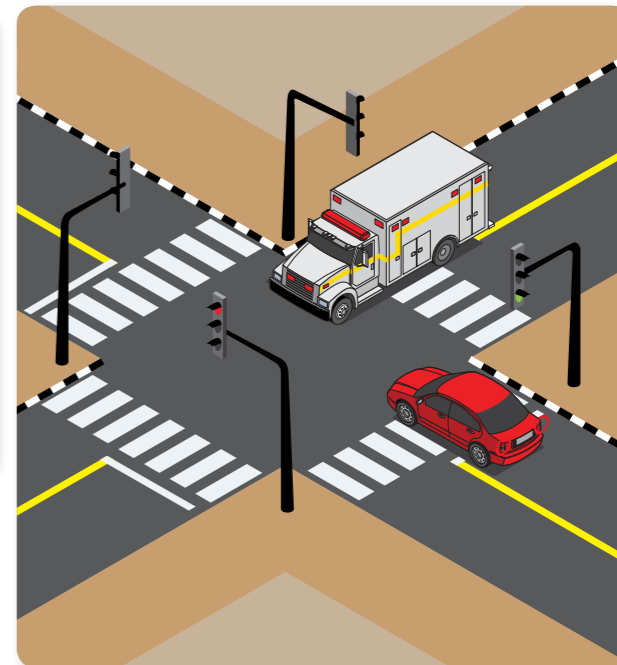
Police and Emergency vehicles have priority when their siren is on or they are displaying red or blue flashing lights. You must give way and stop if necessary (despite any other rules), even if you have a green traffic light. If you are on a busy road, try to move out of the way of the emergency vehicle as quickly and safely as possible.



IMPORTANT RULE!

You must immediately give way to emergency vehicles which have either a siren sounding or flashing red and blue lights by keeping to the right side of the road, reducing speed and stopping if necessary. Priority must also be given to military vehicles when they proceed as convoys.

(Article 4, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)



Bus & Taxi Lanes in Dubai

Priority Lanes for Public Transport Buses and Taxis

Roads & Transport Authority has taken bold steps in improving the mobility of public transportation in Dubai. Among those steps taken is the allocation of exclusive lanes for Dubai registered Public Transport Buses and Taxis. The only other vehicles allowed to use these exclusive lanes are the police cars, ambulance and other emergency services vehicles.

Locations of Exclusive Buses and Taxis Lanes

Currently, there are four areas designated for exclusive use by buses and taxis (more maybe added later).

1. Al Mankhool Road – from Satwa Roundabout to Shiekh Rashid Road
2. Al Khaleej Road - from the intersection with Khalid bin Al Waleed Road to Al Musalla Road, opposite to Hyatt Regency Hotel.
3. Khalid bin Al Waleed Road - from the intersection with Al Mina Road to Road 16.
4. Al Ghubaiba Road - from the intersection with Al Mina Road up to Road 12.

These lanes are clearly marked and segregated by solid yellow lines on both sides of the lane close to the edge on the extreme right. Large Arabic and English text that read “الحافلات وسيارات الأجرة فقط” ONLY BUS TAXI. You will also see signs at the beginning and at the end of the designated bus and taxi lanes with blue background, white lines and white text that contain image of bus and taxi. At the bottom of the sign, it reads “Bus/Taxi Lane Begin or Bus/Taxi Lane End”.

Illegal Use of the Buses and Taxi lanes

Whenever possible, use the lanes designated for use by private cars. These are the lanes outside the marked areas for buses and taxis use. If you use the bus/taxi lanes illegally, you will be disturbing the free movement of these public transport vehicles.

Remember, these public transport vehicles have the priority in these lanes for the simple reason that they carry more passengers compared to the vehicle you maybe driving.

Since 15 May 2010, these bus and taxi lanes are being monitored by the Dubai Police officers as well as by accredited RTA Officials. Any driver caught illegally using these lanes will be fined AED 600.00.



Trucks and Buses

You do not have to be told there are a lot of trucks and buses on the road. But you do need to always drive with trucks and buses on your mind.



IMPORTANT RULE!

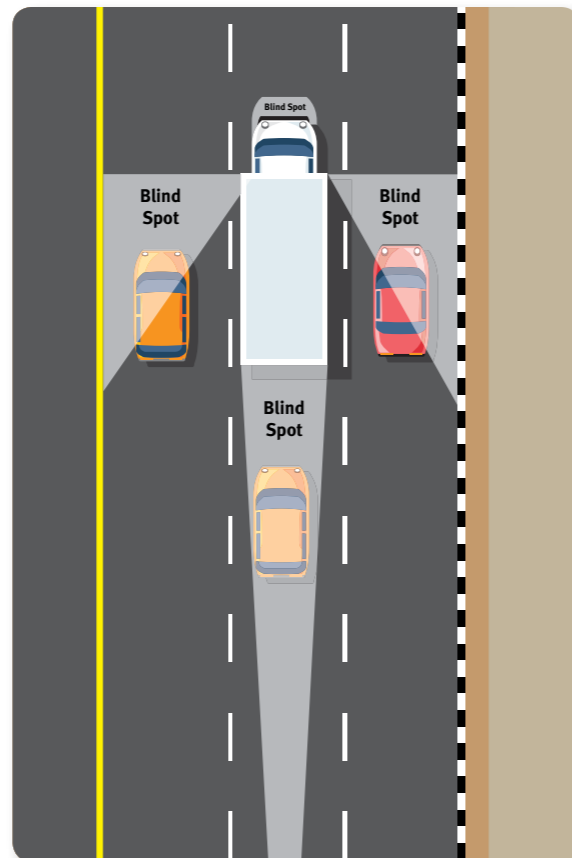
You must slow down or stop if necessary to allow the school buses or public buses to stop when passengers get in or get off the bus. You must not impede them or drive between them and the footpath.

(Article 66, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law, Number 21, 1995)

You need to know where a truck or bus driver's blind spots are:

- Beside the truck's left door
- Directly behind the truck for quite a distance – if you cannot see the truck driver in the truck's mirror, then the truck driver cannot see you
- Immediately in front of the truck.

You should not drive in a blind spot of a truck or bus driver. Move to a position well in front of or behind the truck or bus, where the driver can see you.



Stopping Distances

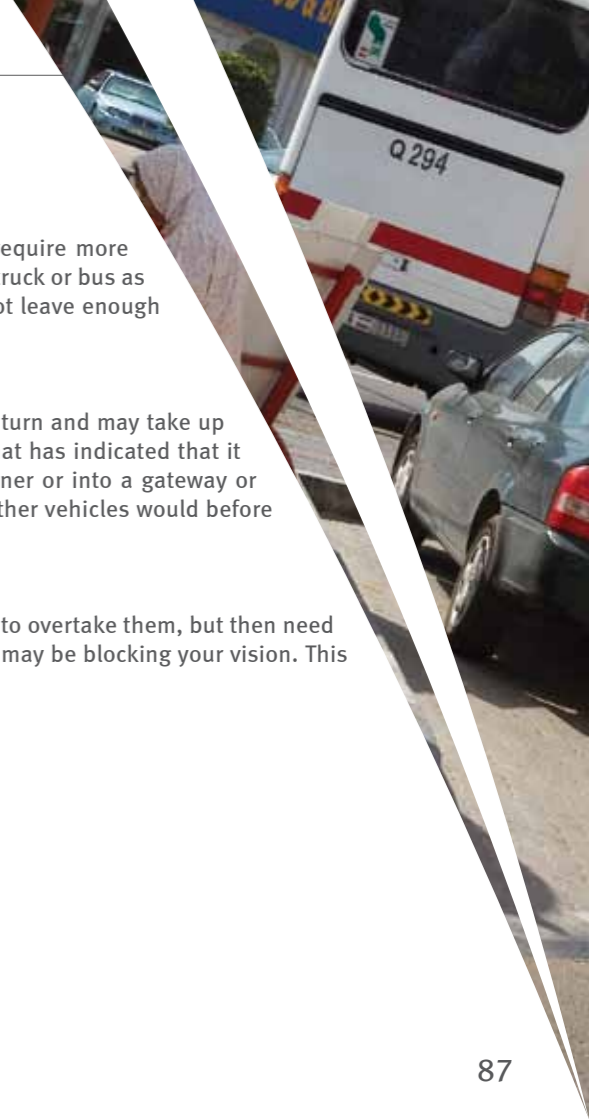
Because trucks and buses are bigger and heavier, they accelerate slowly and require more braking power and more time and space to stop safely. So do not cut in front of a truck or bus as it is slowing down or stopping (for example at traffic lights), because you may not leave enough room for it to stop.

Trucks and Buses Turning

Be aware that a long vehicle, such as a truck or a bus, might need more room to turn and may take up more than one lane. Do not attempt to overtake a truck or a bus on the inside that has indicated that it is turning right. When a truck or any long vehicle is turning right at a sharp corner or into a gateway or driveway, it actually positions itself further towards the centre of the road than other vehicles would before it commences the turn.

Trucks on Roadside Shoulders

Be aware that slower trucks often use the roadside shoulder to allow other trucks to overtake them, but then need to move back into the traffic lanes. You need to watch out for this as other trucks may be blocking your vision. This is particularly the case along designated truck routes where truck traffic is heavy.



Overloading of Pick-up Trucks

Overloading upsets the balance of your vehicle, can seriously damage it and is dangerous for the driver, passengers and other road users. Overloading can cause your vehicle to tip over and spill its load on to the path of other vehicles, possibly causing a crash. It will also make the vehicle more difficult to control.

A truck is only as strong as its frame. Make sure that the load you carry is not more than the maximum weight the truck is designed to carry. The load includes the combined weight of occupants, cargo, options and additional equipment. Distribute your load evenly over the cargo area to avoid overloading axles. If any of the load is removed, re-check the distribution of the remaining load, as load shifting could cause an axle overload or the load to become insecure.

Take the Time to Secure Your Load

Do not rely on the weight of items to keep them in your truck. Bumps, turns and sudden stops can dislodge even heavy items such as furniture, tools, and equipment.

Consider buying a cover if you do not often haul large bulky items in your truck. It doesn't take long to secure a tarpaulin or cargo netting over a pickup truck bed. Not only do covers improve fuel economy and keep your goods clean and dry, they keep your load secure.



Never overload your vehicle. It will make it difficult to control and will increase the likelihood of a crash.

Modified Vehicles

Drivers should be aware that modified vehicles can be dangerous for drivers and passengers. For example, vehicles with raised suspension and over-size tyres can become unstable, difficult to brake and prone to rollovers. Other modifications pose similar risks. Auto manufacturers warn against modifications in owners' manuals, and some spare parts companies include warnings with their products.

Towing a Trailer

Towing a trailer will change the way your car performs. Acceleration will be slower and stopping will take longer, particularly when going downhill. The car may not go around bends as well and the trailer will cut in more on tight corners. Side winds and passing traffic (particularly large trucks) may affect stability as may bumps in the road. As a result, towing a trailer can be more stressful and tiring for the driver.

When towing a trailer you should:

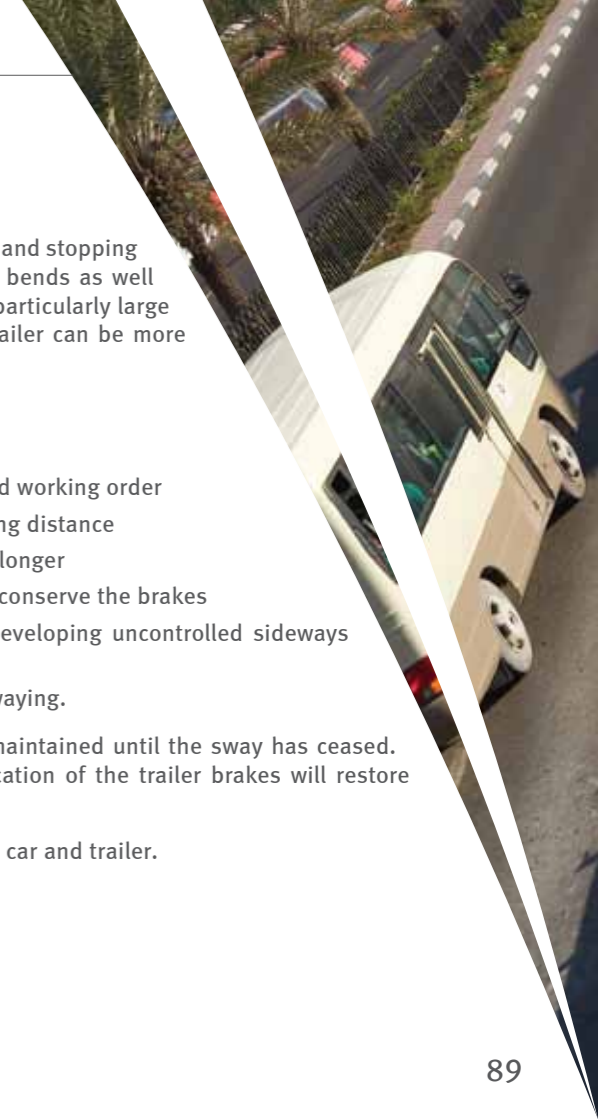
- Avoid using fast lanes
- Make sure that your trailer is fitted with brake lights and that they are in good working order
- Maintain a greater space to the vehicle in front to allow for the longer stopping distance
- Provide extra distance when overtaking other vehicles as this will take much longer
- Select a lower gear on long or steep downhill grades to increase control and conserve the brakes
- Avoid sudden lane changes or swerving to reduce the risk of the trailer developing uncontrolled sideways movement (sway)
- Not apply the brakes (except as an absolute last resort) if the trailer starts swaying.

If your trailer starts swaying a steady speed or slight acceleration should be maintained until the sway has ceased. Alternatively, if the trailer brakes can be applied independently, gentle application of the trailer brakes will restore stability.

Take more frequent rest breaks or driver changes, and check the condition of the car and trailer.



Overloading a trailer can cause serious injury or equipment damage.





Part 5: Rules and Responsibilities

Being a Responsible Driver

You are preparing to become the driver of a vehicle which will be used in a complex traffic environment. This brings with it important responsibilities to ensure the safety of you and other road users.

It is critical that you understand the important road rules which you will be introduced to later in this section. It is also important that you know how to drive smoothly and safely. The material contained in this handbook must be learnt thoroughly. It provides you with the basis for preparing to be a safe driver with the assistance of your driving instructor. If you put this knowledge into practice, you will be setting a good example to other drivers and assisting in improving the safety of all road users in Dubai.

An important part of being a responsible driver is driving courteously and treating other drivers the way that you would expect them to treat you.

Disciplined Driving

Driving is a complex task. You are interacting with many other road users, particularly when you are driving in busy cities, such as Dubai. Safety depends on driving in an orderly, disciplined way. Chaos occurs if this does not happen.

It is essential that you know the road rules. However, the rules alone are not enough to regulate the traffic so that it moves efficiently and safely. Drivers must show discipline in other ways.

Planning

You need to know where you are going in advance of your journey. Spend some time planning your route so that you know what turns you should be taking and what lanes you should be travelling in.

Observing

Once you know where you should be going, keep an eye out for landmarks and most importantly directional signs. These will tell you well in advance what lane you should be travelling in to make your next turn. Many of these signs are positioned close together, so anticipate where they are likely to be and be ready to look at them closely.

Making Decisions Early

When you have noticed a sign which lets you know the correct lane for your journey, make sure that you start positioning your vehicle in that lane as soon as you can.

Thinking Carefully

You are likely to have to negotiate intersections, both simple and complex, some with traffic lights and some with roundabouts. Think carefully about where you should be positioning your vehicle as you approach a set of traffic lights or a roundabout. Choose your lane carefully. Think about where you have to go after you have made your turn or negotiated the roundabout.

For example, if you are approaching an intersection and are planning to turn left, while knowing that you have to turn right soon after making your turn, make sure that you choose the right hand turning lane if one is available. As you are making your turn you should choose the right hand lane in the road that you are turning in to, so that you are correctly positioned to turn right soon after.

The same applies as you approach roundabouts where there are a number of lanes to choose from. Again, make sure that you choose the lane which will correspond with your planned route after proceeding through the roundabout.

Signal Your Moves

While lane discipline is important, so are your responsibilities of communicating with other drivers. The roads are busy and complex, so it is critical that you use all the means that are available to you to signal your intentions for virtually every move.

The most common manoeuvres that you will be making as a driver are turning and changing lanes. Whenever you intend to do one of these manoeuvres you need to check your mirrors to ensure it is safe to move. Most importantly, you **must** use your indicators for long enough to give warning to other drivers and pedestrians that you intend to change direction.

To do this properly and to avoid confusion you need to think very carefully. You will need to take notice of the road environment around you and make sensible decisions. Try and put yourself in the place of other drivers when you are making your decision about when to signal.

For example, if you intend to turn right at an intersection ahead of you which is just beyond another junction, delay putting on your signal until you have passed the first junction. This will avoid any confusion in the minds of other drivers about where you are actually turning.



Left Signal



Right Signal

In other situations make sure that you signal in plenty of time to warn drivers both behind you and in front, that you intend to turn or change lanes.



IMPORTANT RULE!

You must drive carefully to prevent exposing other vehicles to any harm. You must indicate clearly your desire of changing direction by using the vehicle indicators when leaving or entering traffic, changing lanes right or left, turning right or left, making a U turn or reversing.

1. You must ensure that you do not expose yourself or others to danger
2. Take into consideration all other road users
3. Let other road users know of your intention of changing lanes by hand signals or with the vehicle indicators

(Article 59, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Typical times when you must use your indicators include:

- Turning to the right or left
- Changing lanes
- Overtaking
- Making U-turns
- Driving into and out of parking spots
- Leaving a roundabout
- Moving into or out of a parking bay.

Look out for the indicators on other vehicles to see what they are doing. Be aware that sometimes that an indicator may not have been turned off from the last turn, or may have been put on too early.



Check that your indicator is turned off after you have made your turn or lane change. It may not turn off by itself. If it is left on, other drivers will think you are going to turn. Use indicators even if you think there is no-one else around. You may not have seen someone and it could be dangerous if you do not use your indicators.

Using Your Brake Lights

Every time you push down on the brake pedal, your brake lights go on, warning other drivers you are slowing down or stopping.

In the same way, you will need to slow down when the brake lights on the vehicle in front of you are on. It is important to give lots of warning by braking early and slowing gradually.

Using Your Headlights and Tail Lights

Headlights and tail lights help others to see you in poor light conditions. Your headlights and tail lights **must** be on between sunset and sunrise. They **must** also be on in dangerous weather conditions, such as fog, rain, smoke or sand storms, where it is hard for other drivers to see you.

Using Emergency Signals

If your vehicle breaks down on the road, make sure other drivers can see your vehicle and are able to stop in time. If possible, pull right out of the traffic flow. If you cannot get right off the road, try to stop where people can easily see you and your vehicle. Do not stop just over a hill or just around a curve if it can be avoided.

Always use your hazard lights to warn other drivers. This is particularly important on higher speed roads such as freeways, where drivers need plenty of warning that there is a broken down vehicle ahead so that they can take action to avoid your vehicle. In these situations you and any passengers should not sit in your vehicle while you are waiting for assistance, even though it may be very hot outside. Staying in your vehicle could be very dangerous if another vehicle is unable to avoid you and crashes into your stationary car. To remain safe, you and any passengers should stand as far away as possible from traffic. Do not stand in front of your vehicle.



Turn on your hazard lights to warn other drivers. Lift your bonnet or boot lid to show other drivers that you are in trouble.

If there is no public lighting on the road or it is difficult to see, you **must** use a reflective triangle or spot lights to warn other drivers. Once your vehicle is positioned safely, or can no longer be moved, you should place a warning triangle 50m away from your vehicle in the direction from where traffic is approaching.



IMPORTANT RULE!

You must use either spot lights or a three-dimensional warning triangle when parking at night if the road is not equipped with street lights or the visibility is poor.

(Article 64, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Warning Others of Your Approach

Your horn is a form of signal. It is an important form of communication. However, it must be used sensibly. You **must** only use your horn if it is necessary to warn other road users of the approach or position of your vehicle. There are signs which tell you not to use your horn in some areas. It is not to be used near hospitals, schools, worship places or in a local area between 12.00am and 6.00am.



What are Road Rules?

Road rules are traffic laws that are there to help you and other road users stay safe on the roads. Knowing the rules of driving is very important and you **must** obey them. There are many hazards when driving. If you are not careful, you could crash or someone could crash into you, leading to serious injury or death.



IMPORTANT RULE!

The provisions of the law are applicable to all road users. You must obey the laws and rules of the road.

(Article 2, UAE Federal Traffic By-Law Number 21, 1995)

The best way for new drivers to stay out of danger is to anticipate any problems and be ready for them.

This section of the handbook will help you to learn the road rules. Read it when you are preparing for your learner licence. Then go back and read the handbook again when you are having driving lessons, and again when you have obtained your licence.

The diagrams shown in this section, the vehicles are coloured **green** and **red**. In all cases, the **red vehicle B** must wait for the **green vehicle A**.



Road Signs

Road signs provide visual information to help control and regulate the flow of traffic and help to keep you and other road users safe.

This is very important in Dubai as:

- Road networks are becoming more complex
- Traffic volumes are increasing
- The number of visitors to Dubai who are unfamiliar with the roads is increasing each year.

Road signs are placed on, over or next to a public road where they:

- Fulfil an important need
- Command attention
- Provide a clear and simple message
- Provide sufficient time for road users to respond appropriately.



IMPORTANT RULE!

Every road user **must** respect the traffic regulations and standards, follow the signs, signals and instructions of the police officer and behave cautiously, so his conduct will not harm others, expose them to danger or block their movement .

(Article 1, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Road signs provide information to road users in three ways:

- As a regulation or road law (which **must** be obeyed by law)
- As a warning
- As a guide.

Regulatory Signs

Regulatory signs are used to control the actions of road users. They tell you what you **must** or **must not** do. Failure to obey a sign is an offence.

The types of regulatory signs are:





- Control signs – show right of way priority or direction of travel
- Mandatory signs – indicate actions that must be taken
- Prohibitory signs – indicate prohibited actions or objects
- Parking control signs – regulate parking and stopping
- Freeway control signs – indicate roads classified as freeways.




You are breaking the law if you do not follow these signs. The only exception is when a police officer is directing traffic and he **must** be obeyed. Regulatory signs can be blue and white or red and white.



Control signs




Control signs are used to assign right of way priority or direction of travel. Here are some examples of control signs:





			
You must give way to pedestrians	You must give way	You must not enter this road	You must stop

		
You must go this way	You must go this way	You must go this way

Mandatory Signs

Mandatory signs are used to indicate to road users actions which they must take. Here are some examples of mandatory signs:

			
Ahead only	Turn right only	Pass either side	

			
60kmh minimum speed limit - freeway	Roundabout. Travel in the direction of the arrow	Keep right	Keep left



Prohibitory Signs

These signs are used to indicate to road users actions that they must not take, or which are prohibited. Here are some examples of prohibitory signs:

			
You must not turn left	You must not turn Right	You must not exceed 80km/h speed limit	You must not overtake
			
No Hazardous Materials	No Goods Vehicles	No Pedestrians	No Cyclists
			
Qualification Plate	No 'U'turn	You must not use your horn	Maximum Height Limits



Parking Control Signs

These signs are used to control and regulate stopping and parking, where you may park or **must not** park or stop and provide time restrictions. They may be referred to as 'no stopping' sign. You must not park in this area, even if you are sitting in the vehicle. Here are some examples of parking control signs.

	
Parking is limited to the times shown	





Handicapped Parking

The blue sign below shows an area reserved for parking by handicapped people. The parking bay will also be marked. Handicapped people must obtain a permit and display this. If you do not have a permit, you must not park in handicapped parking spaces.

	
Parking area for handicapped drivers only	Meter Parking on Right Side






See page no 166-169 for more parking information in Dubai

No Parking

			
These areas are reserved for taxis only.	These areas are reserved for Bus stops.	These areas are reserved for vehicles that are loading or unloading at specific times. Unless you are driving a commercial vehicle and are loading or unloading you must not park here during those times.	



No Stopping

These signs tell you that you **must not** stop at the curb for any reason. You **must** obey the signs.

				
You must not stop or park in the areas shown by the arrow(s).			You must not stop or park in the areas shown by the arrow(s) during the times shown on the sign.	

Freeway Control Signs

Freeway control signs are used to indicate to road users which roads are classified as a freeway. They show the start and end of freeways.

	
The beginning of a freeway	The end of a freeway











Warning Signs
















Warning signs alert road users to potentially hazardous conditions. Sometimes these hazards are hidden. Warning signs are divided into 3 groups:













- advance warning signs
- hazard marker signs
- diagrammatic warning signs

Advance Warning Signs

These signs provide road users with an early warning of hazards or potential hazards.

				
Traffic signals ahead	Give Way sign ahead	Stop sign ahead	Junction ahead (you will merge with other traffic)	Roundabout ahead
				
T-intersection ahead (you will need to stop)	Intersection ahead (slow down and prepare to stop)	Pedestrian crossing ahead	Two-way traffic	Maximum headroom at hazard ahead

				
Dual carriageway ends (two lanes join - beware of oncoming traffic)	Curve in the road to the left (slow down)	Curve in the road to the right (slow down)	Curves or bends in the road (drive careful)	Low flying aircraft ahead (do not be distracted)
				
U Turn ahead	High Voltage overhead cable	Opening bridge ahead	Road works ahead	Tunnel
				
Quayside or river bank ahead	Loose chippings	Slippery Road	Speed Hump	Risk of falling rocks

			
Two-way traffic crosses one-way road ahead	Road narrows on the left ahead	Road narrows on both sides ahead	Right lane ends ahead
			
Other dangers ahead	Uneven road	Diversion to opposite carriageway ahead	Left-hand lane closed ahead
			
No through road	Steep hill downwards ahead	Steep hill upwards ahead	Right-hand lane closed ahead



IMPORTANT RULE!

You must slow down when passing schools.

(Article 39, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic law Number 21, 1995)



Take extra care when driving near schools, especially at times when children are arriving to start the school day or leaving at the end of the day. These are the busiest periods of the day and children do not have a strong sense of road safety, especially when they are very young. They may cross the road without looking or may already be crossing as you approach. Be aware of the speed limit in the area. It is likely to be lower than the surrounding roads. Flashing lights will also tell you that you are approaching a school.

A sign showing a picture of an animal, such as a camel, warns drivers that animals may be on the road. The symbol on these signs may also represent sheep or goats. Domestic animals are regularly herded across roadways and temporary signs may be displayed leading up to the area where the animals will cross.



Slow down when you see these signs and watch out for animals on the road. Leave as much space as possible to allow for their unexpected movements.

Never use your car horn around animals – it may frighten them and could cause them to run and cause a crash.

Hazard Marker Signs

Hazard marker signs identify physical hazards, such as a bridge structure, guardrails or traffic islands. The signs below provide some examples of hazard marker signs.

Hazard Plate	Hazard Marker	Single Chevron Right	Single Chevron Left
Multiple Chevron Right	Multiple Chevron Left	T-Junction Chevron	










Diagrammatic Warning Signs

These signs are used where the triangular advance warning sign does not allow enough room for a picture, or are not big enough to draw attention to the hazard ahead.

They are usually on high speed roads and fall into the following general categories:

- traffic movement is affected by an obstruction (the obstruction may be real or anticipated)
- an additional lane is ahead
- the use of the lane is regulated (for example a lane for trucks only)
- lanes merge

Here are some examples of diagrammatic warning signs



				
Right lane closure ahead	Additional lane added	Lane use is controlled (trucks not permitted in left lane)	Five lanes merging to four lanes	Lane use control directional restriction
				
Beginning/End of Median		Joining Lane		

Guide Signs

Guide signs provide direction. They include information about route numbers, street names and destinations and are generally in both Arabic and English. These signs:

- Enable drivers to find their destinations
- Avoid confusing drivers with too much information
- Present drivers with predictable information
- Give drivers advance notice so that directional changes can be made safely
- The colours that are used in the background of guide signs are:
 - Blue – located on national routes and include the Emirates route emblem
 - Green – located on local Dubai routes and include the Dubai route emblem
 - White – these show local points, roads or destinations
 - Brown – provide additional information including symbols to describe the destination

The signs below are examples of the emblems used on guide signs

	
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Trailblazing Guide Signs

Trailblazing signs have distinctive and recognizable symbols on them and are placed along a route to guide and reassure drivers that they are on the correct road to reach their required destination. This is known as ‘trailblazing’. A picture of an aeroplane is an example of a trailblazing symbol.

Trailblazing signs are only used in certain destinations. There are six types of trailblazing guide signs used in Dubai:

Dubai routes	City Centre Central Business District:-	Emirates routes

Dubai International Airport	Freeways	Tourist destination descriptions

Exit Directions Signs












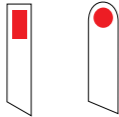



The sign below is an example of an advance guide sign including the route emblems, trailblazing symbols and directional information. The meaning of the sign is explained below.

To Umm Suqeim. Turn left.	To Jumeira, via Dubai route 94. Drive straight ahead.	To Umm Suqeim and Umm Al Sheif, via Emirates route 11, turn right.

The signs below are examples of exit directions sign to guide drivers on the proper lanes to take prior to exit. The white exit panel means that particular lane is to be dropped and is moving away from the main line carriage way.

Two Lane Exit: With one Lane Drop: Two Exit Route Numbers	Two Lane Exit: With Two Lane Dropped Two Exit Route Numbers

Other important Traffic Signs

				
No turning for lorries	Road clear	No through road	Priority over vehicles from opposite direction	Parking
				
Hospital	300m 200m 100m Count-down markers	Supplementary information signs (normally with sign No.212)	Parking for Diplomat Cars Only	Diversion of traffic route
				
Other supplementary information signs	Reflective marker posts indicating edge of carriage way	Lane ahead open	Lane ahead closed	Reduce speed now

Salik in Dubai

Salik, meaning open or clear, is Dubai's electronic toll collection system that was launched in July 2007 and is part of Dubai's traffic congestion management system. Salik utilizes the latest technologies to achieve free flow operation with no toll booths, no toll collectors, no impact on traffic flow, allowing vehicles to move freely through the tolling point at highway speeds. Each time you pass through a Salik tolling point, a toll will be deducted from your prepaid toll account using advanced Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology. There are 4 Salik tolling points placed in strategic locations in Dubai: at Al Maktoum Bridge, Al Garhoud Bridge, and along Sheikh Zayed Road at Al Safa and Al Barsha.



Salik Tolls:



Each time you pass through a Salik tolling point, a Toll of AED 4.00 will be deducted from your account. There is a maximum Toll charge of AED 24.00 per day.

Al Maktoum Bridge tolling point is free from 10 PM Thursday to 9 AM Friday and from 10 PM to 6 AM every other day of the week.

If you pass Al Safa and Al Barsha tolling point (or vice versa) within one hour in the same direction, you will only be charged one toll of AED 4.00. Example: Pass Al Barsha at 9:20 AM and pass Al Safa at 9:45 AM (same direction), the charge is only one toll of AED 4.00.



How do I Open a Salik Toll Account:

You can open a Salik prepaid toll account at most Petrol Stations in Dubai, or selected Petrol Stations in the other Emirates, by purchasing a Salik Tag and completing the Account Opening Application form. A fee of AED 100 is charged per vehicle, of which AED 50 is to pay for the Salik Tag and AED 50 is your first prepaid toll amount. Full instructions on how to install your Tag are provided with the Tag.

There are many alternative ways you can recharge your Salik account. Check www.salik.ae or call 800-Salik to find the most suitable option for you.

Salik Violations:

For driving through a Salik tolling point without a Tag or without sufficient balance in your account the following fines apply (per trip) with a maximum of one fine applied per day:

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| • Insufficient Funds in your account | AED 50.00 |
| • No Tag on the vehicle | |
| First Trip | AED 100.00 |
| Second Trip | AED 200.00 |
| Third and succeeding Trips | AED 400.00 |
| • Maximum violation amount per calendar year | AED 10,000.00 |

For a trouble Free Salik Account:

- Your Salik Tag should ONLY be used on the vehicle it is assigned to on your Salik application
- Never move your Salik Tag to another vehicle
- If you sell your vehicle you must call to deactivate your Salik Tag and remove the Tag from the vehicle.
- Advise Salik if you change your Vehicle plate number or mobile number
- Purchase a new Tag when you purchase a vehicle; using the old owner's Tag will result in violations.



- Verify your account balance by calling 800-Salik or access your Salik account via the web at www.salik.ae
- Check for Salik violations at www.salik.ae
- When buying a new Tag, if you already have a Salik account you must provide this account number on the application form.
- The Salik account holder is responsible for all toll trips made regardless of who was driving the vehicle when it passed through the Salik tolling point
- The mobile phone number registered with Salik may be used to contact you regarding your Salik account

Avoid Violations by:

- Advising Salik when you sell your vehicle or change your plate or mobile number
- Ensure you have sufficient funds in your account at all times by monitoring your account, recharging or topping up your account within 5 working days of reaching a low balance. If you have internet banking, you may recharge through your bank with choice of amounts from AED 50, 100 or 200
- Make sure your vehicle is registered on your Salik account
- Buy a Tag and place it on your vehicle windshield within 10 working days of first using Salik.
- If you get a new vehicle you must get a new Tag

For more information regarding Salik, you may visit www.Salik.ae or call 800-SALIK (72545).

Variable Message Signs (VMS)

VMS are information signs to assist drivers to know about conditions ahead. This may be to do with choice of lanes, road opening times, and advice on bad weather conditions, heavy traffic, crashes or construction works on roads. If the VMS shows speed limit, that speed takes priority over the speed limit posted on that particular road for that particular time.



Road Markings

Road markings provide visual information to road users to help control and regulate the flow of traffic. As with roads signs, road markings help to keep you and other road users safe on the road and **must** be obeyed where required.



IMPORTANT RULE!

Every road user **must** respect the traffic regulations and standards, follow the signs, signals and instructions of the police officer and behave cautiously, so his conduct will not harm others, expose them to danger or block their movement.

(Article 1, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic law Number 21, 1995)

Road markings will be either yellow or white.

There are three types of road markings:

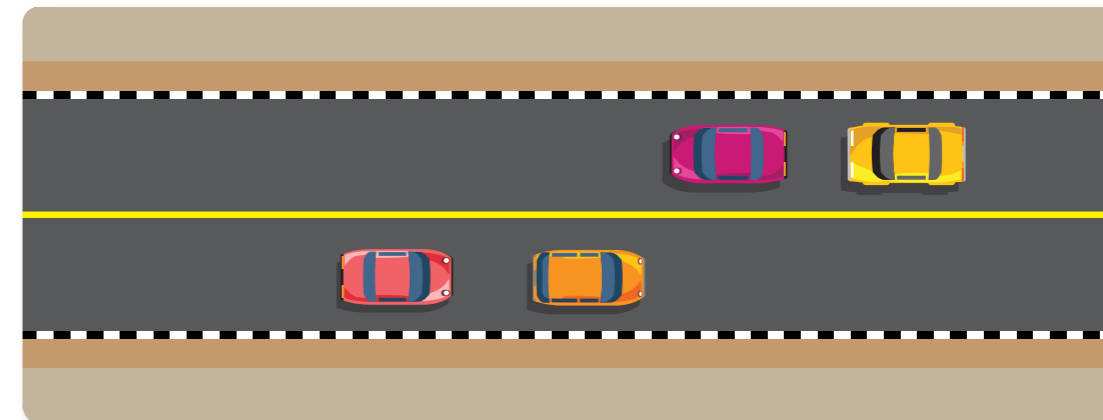
- Regulatory—these road markings **must** be obeyed by law
- Warning – these road markings should be obeyed as they serve as a warning to drivers of hazardous conditions
- Guidance – these road markings help guide your travel.

Regulatory Road Markings

These road markings tell you what actions you can or cannot do. They will be either white or yellow. You **must** obey these road markings. You are breaking the law if you do not.

No Passing Line

This is a solid line on the road as shown in the diagram below. You **must not** cross this line to overtake another vehicle or to turn (except in the case of an emergency).



IMPORTANT RULE!

You **must not** cross a single solid line on the road which is dividing traffic.

(Article 58, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic law Number 21, 1995)

Stop Line

If you are approaching an intersection with a Stop sign or traffic signals, you will also have a white Stop line painted across your lane. In the case of a Stop sign and Stop line, you **must** come to a complete stop before the line. In the case of traffic signals and a Stop line, you must not cross this line unless you have a green traffic signal. Always make sure the intersection is clear and it is safe to proceed before doing so.

Give Way Line

Where there is a Give Way sign, there will also be a broken white line across the path of approaching traffic. You **must** 'Give Way' to any vehicle or pedestrian crossing your path. Slow down and stop if necessary to avoid a collision. Always make sure the intersection is clear and it is safe to proceed before doing so.



IMPORTANT RULE!

You **must** slow down while approaching a pedestrian crossing indicated by road markings and traffic lights or a police officer. If you are not allowed to pass, you must stop before the crossing, and when the signals indicate that you may go, you must wait until the crossing is clear. Where there are no pedestrian crossing signals or police officers at a crossing, you must stop and give the way to pedestrians.

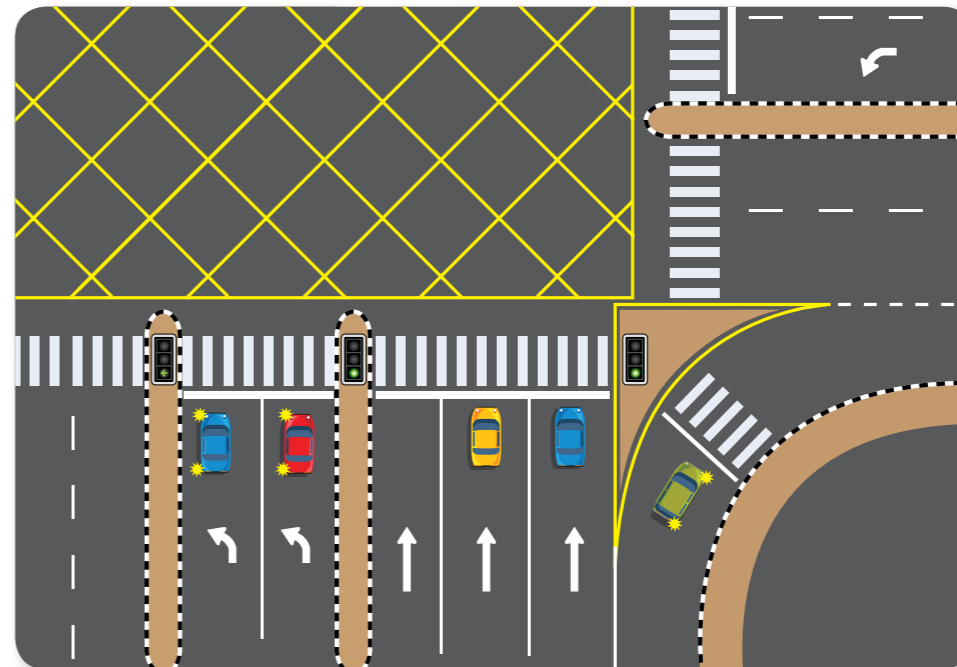
(Article 35, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Pedestrian Crossings

Pedestrian crossings are marked with thick white lines across the crossing to make the crossing clearly visible to pedestrians and drivers. You must give way to pedestrians crossing at a pedestrian crossing.

Box Junctions

Large intersections are marked with a large yellow box with diagonal squares. This is known as a box junction. It is to indicate to drivers that they must not block the intersection when traffic is heavily congested. Signs will warn drivers not to queue across the intersection.



Warning Road Markings

Warning road markings advise drivers of potentially hazardous conditions.

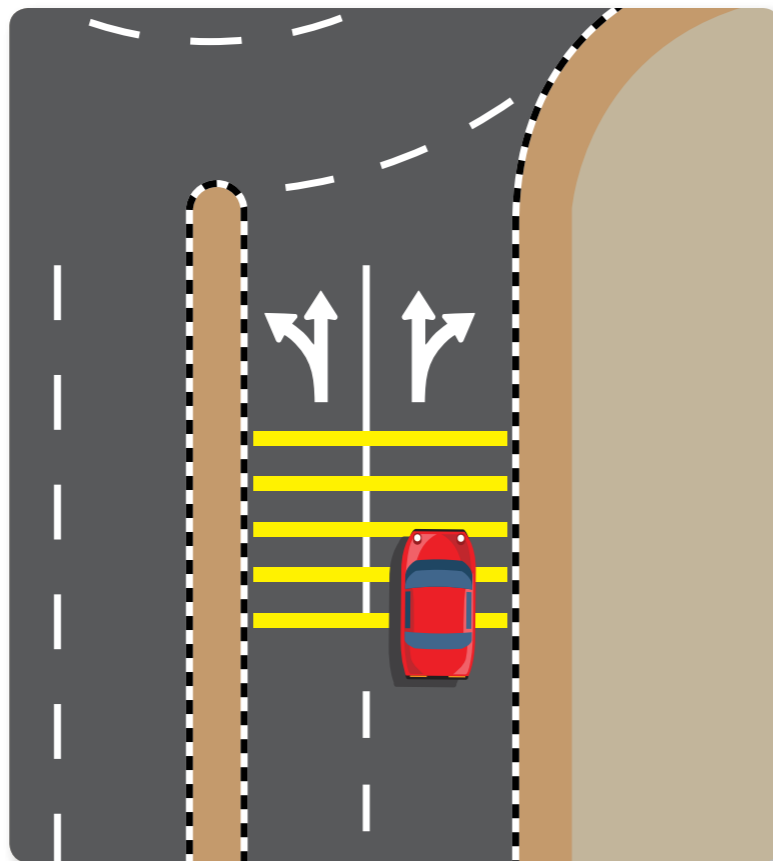
Rumble Strips

Lines painted on raised strips across the road, known as 'rumble strips', warn drivers that they are approaching a hazard such as a roundabout or pedestrian crossing. Drivers can see the rumble strips, hear a rumble and feel a vibration if they drive over them. This acts as a warning and is helpful for drivers on a long drive, who may be feeling tired or sleepy if they have not had a rest.

Speed Humps

Broken yellow lines completely across the full width of the road and shoulder warn motorists that there is a speed hump in the roadway. Speed hump warning signs will be used to give advance warning about the speed hump.

Be alert for pedestrians, as they may use this as a crossing point.



Guidance Road Markings

These road markings help drivers understand the paths vehicles should follow through intersections or roundabouts.

Lines in the Centre of the Road

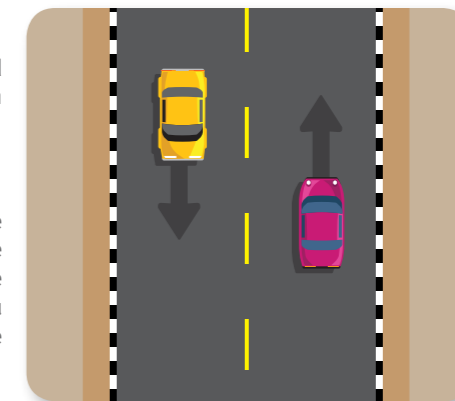
Many roads are painted with broken white lines or single continuous lines in the centre of the road. Stay in your lane and be aware of what you can and cannot do when you are faced with these lines. Here are some examples.

Broken Yellow Lines

If you are driving on an undivided road where there are two lanes in opposite directions, the broken lines down the centre of the road will be painted yellow. Keep to the right of the lines and drive close to the right side of the road. Take care when you cross these lines and only do so if the road ahead is clear and it is safe to do so.



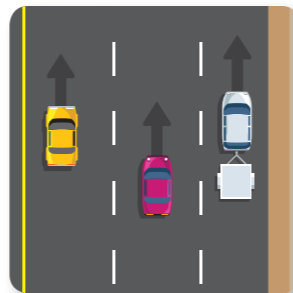
In some areas of the UAE, two way roads will have white broken lines, so be aware when you drive and remember to treat these white lines in the same way as if they were yellow broken lines.



Broken White Lines

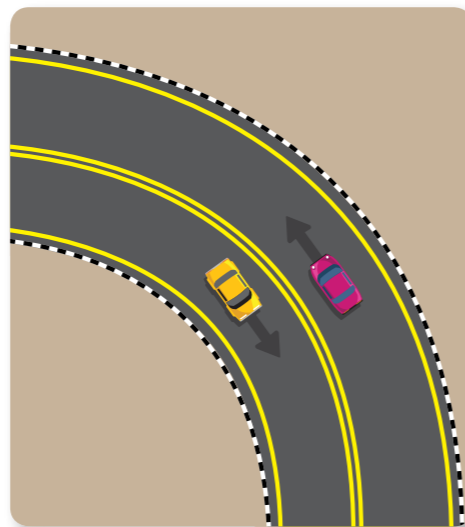
Broken white lines separate two or more lanes of traffic travelling in the same direction. Drive your vehicle completely within one lane.

You will also notice longer white broken lines (or longitudinal white lines). These lines are used in areas where changing or crossing lanes is not permitted, for example when you are approaching an intersection or pedestrian crossing.



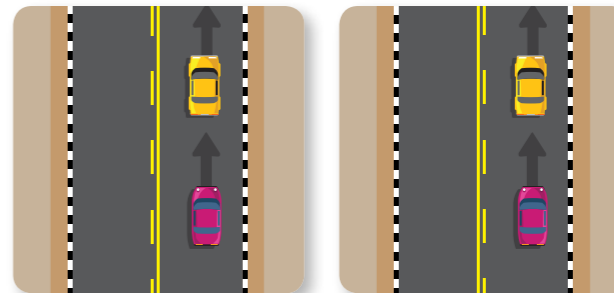
Solid Lines – Single or Double

You **must** always keep to the right of these lines. You **must not** cross a double yellow line in the centre of the road. You will see these lines in areas that are particularly hazardous (for example, around a bend where you cannot see the traffic approaching from the opposite direction).



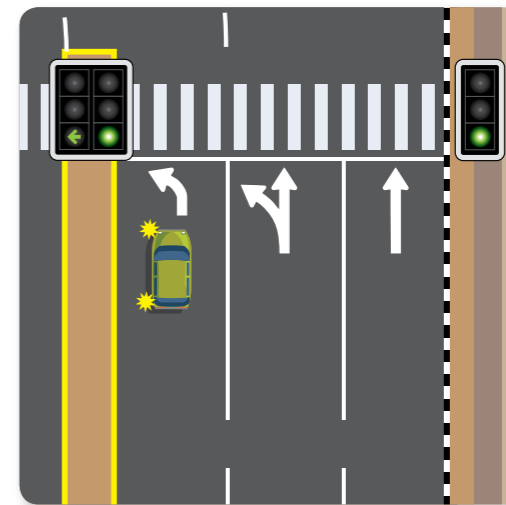
Double Yellow Lines, Solid on One Side and Broken on the Other

You can only cross these lines to overtake another vehicle, or to enter or leave the road, if the broken line is on your side. You **must not** cross these lines if the solid line is on your side.



Traffic Lane Arrows

Arrows are painted on the road in the middle of lanes at some intersections. They show the direction in which traffic in these lanes **must** travel.



Traffic Control at Intersections

Your driving experience in Dubai will include travelling through many intersections, both large and small. These intersections will be controlled by traffic signals or signs or, in the case of a blackout, may not have traffic signals or signs operating. Some intersections, such as those with large roundabouts, have flashing yellow signals to warn drivers of the danger and to tell them to be particularly careful.



IMPORTANT RULE!

If there is not a policeman organising traffic, or any traffic sign for the same purpose on junctions or crossroads, the priority of crossing must be given to vehicles coming from a main road. Where there is a roundabout, priority shall be given to whoever is coming from the left.

(Article 6, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Traffic Control Signals

Traffic signals regulate the flow of traffic by giving priority to different traffic streams, including pedestrian road users. However, as we have learned, many drivers and other road users make mistakes, so you need to stay alert at any intersections, even those controlled by traffic signals.

You **must** obey the traffic signals.

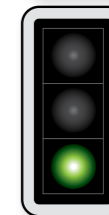
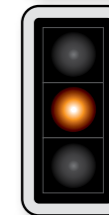
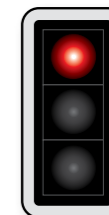
A red signal means you **must** STOP. Do not enter the intersection.

When you are approaching a green traffic light, you must be prepared for a traffic light change. You legally must stop at a red light and proceed on a green light if it is safe to do so. A yellow light is much the same as a red light. It means you must stop if safe to do so. The problem here usually arises when you are approaching a set of traffic lights too quickly. A quick decision must be made whether to stop or proceed. Often the incorrect decision is made, because not enough time was allowed to make a clear decision.

The safest and simplest way to deal with this problem is to anticipate the **point of no return**. **This is the point beyond which you will not be able to stop.** You should always reduce your speed when approaching a set of traffic lights. This significantly reduces the amount of braking distance required. Observe where the stop line associated with the traffic light is on the road. By doing this you will be able to estimate where the **point of no return** is. This leads to making a correct decision on whether to stop or proceed. Throughout your approach to the traffic lights you should have been constantly checking your rear view mirror to ascertain how many cars are behind you and how close they are. This information can influence your decision on whether to stop, proceed, brake normally or brake heavily.

In summary, if the yellow light comes on before the **point of no return** you have enough time to stop. If the light comes on after the **point of no return** you should proceed with caution.

There are many other things to be considered when anticipating the **point of no return**, such as road conditions, weather conditions, vehicle roadworthiness, your speed and the speed



of other vehicles around you.

Traffic lights can cause special problems. When you approach a green traffic light that has been on for a while, be ready to stop. Cover the brake. In some parts of Dubai, green lights will start to flash just before they are about to change. When you see this, slow down and prepare to stop. DO NOT accelerate and try to ‘beat’ the lights.

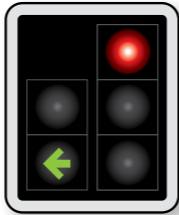
When you have stopped at the traffic lights and they change to green, check that the drivers in the other roads are going to stop before you move off. Sometimes other drivers will ‘run’ the red light and you must be ready for this. You should only proceed if it is safe to do so.

Traffic lights with arrows make turns easier, because:

- You **must** stop if the arrow pointing in the direction you want to go is red
- You may proceed through the intersection if the arrow pointing in the direction you want to go is green, if it is safe to do so and there is space for you on the other side.



Never try to beat the traffic lights. Only proceed through intersections if it is safe to do so and the intersection is clear.



Traffic Control Signs

Stop and Give Way signs are used for safety control at many intersections and other places. These signs **must** be obeyed. Roads are also marked with Stop and Give Way lines.

You must give way. Give Way means you must slow down or stop if necessary to give way to vehicles or pedestrians to avoid a crash	You must stop

Do not force your way in. Remember, safety is more important than priority.

Speed Limits



In 2010, over speeding or excessive speeding was attributed to crashes that resulted in 20 deaths and 104 injuries. Lowering the speed of vehicles is one of the best steps to improving road safety.

Speed limit signs tell you the maximum and, in some cases, the minimum speeds you can drive when the road is in good condition and the weather is fine.

Current Dubai rules for speed limits are as follows, unless you see a sign that tells you otherwise:

- Parking area or service road – 25km/h
- Urban single carriageway – 40 km/h
- Urban dual carriageway – 60km/h or 80km/h (as signed)
- Rural roads – 100k/mh
- Freeways – 120km/h (light vehicles), 80km/h (heavy vehicles). Minimum speed 60km/h.

Note: Posted speed limits on the road are overruled by speed limits shown on the Variable Message Sign (VMS) on that same road



You must not drive a vehicle at a rate of speed greater than the one shown on the sign. Respect the speed limit in any situation and be capable of slowing down and stopping safely.

(Article 38, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

You **must** choose what is the safest speed within the limit and the driving conditions you are faced with.

Giving Way to Pedestrians



People living in Dubai come from all corners of the world. Some pedestrians may actually look at the wrong direction when crossing the roads. This might be because they are used to cars coming from the right side of the road instead of left side. The rate of pedestrian fatalities in Dubai is high. In 2010, pedestrians accounted for 14.25% of the total number of crashes.



Pedestrian Traffic Signals

As a road user, pedestrians **must** obey the pedestrian traffic signals. As a driver, you need to watch out if pedestrians do not obey the traffic signals. Be careful of pedestrians who try to beat the traffic signals and cross when it is not safe for them to do so.



IMPORTANT RULE!

Drivers must always give way to pedestrians who are crossing the road you are turning into.

(Article 36, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law No 21, 1995)

There are a number of rules which tell you when you **must** give way to pedestrians.

At Pedestrian Crossings

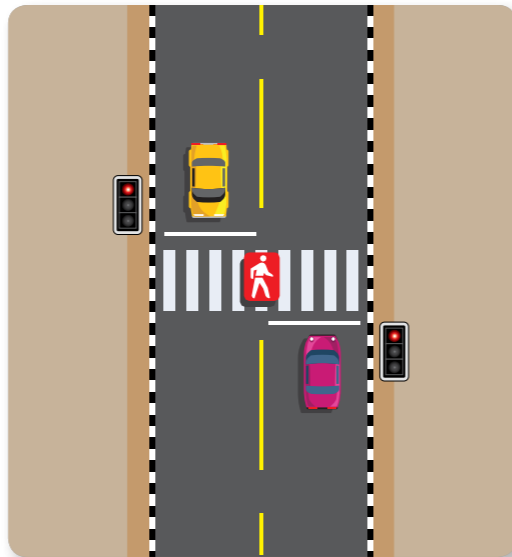
Flashing yellow lights are used at some pedestrian crossings. When you are faced with a flashing yellow light, proceed with caution and look out for pedestrians who may want to cross the road. The lights will change to red when the pedestrian approaches.



IMPORTANT RULE!

You must slow down while approaching a pedestrian crossing indicated by road markings and traffic lights or where a police officer is controlling movement of traffic. In the case that there are neither signals nor police officers, you must stop and give way to pedestrians.

(Article 35, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)



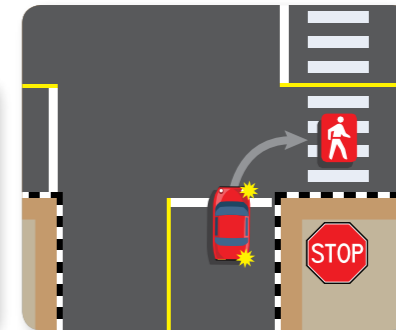
At Intersections



IMPORTANT RULE!

When turning left or right at any intersection, you must give way to any pedestrians crossing the road you are turning into.

(Article 36, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)



In Slip Lanes

You must give way to pedestrians using a crossing on a slip lane.



A slip lane is an area of road for vehicles turning right that is separated from other parts of the road by a traffic island.

On the Footpath



IMPORTANT RULE!

You **must** give way to pedestrians who are walking on a footpath if you are going to turn across it.

(Article 36, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)



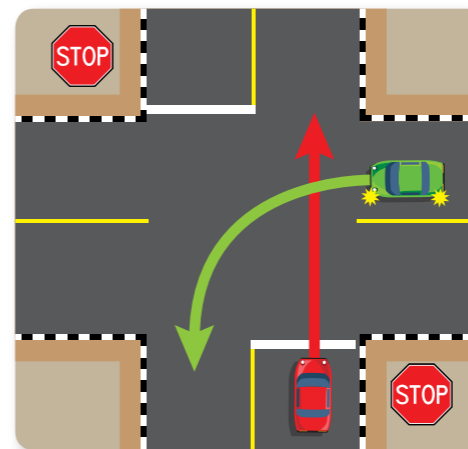
Turning

This is where planning and lane discipline becomes very important. Plan your turn early. Decide which lane you need to be in well in advance and ensure that you have positioned your vehicle so that you are in the correct lane as you approach the intersection.

You must signal your intentions when you are changing lanes to position yourself correctly and as you are carrying out the turn. Do not force your way in. Remember, no one has a 'right of way'. The rules relate to who must 'give way'.

Remember, road users can make mistakes about who should give way. Always make eye contact with other drivers so that you know they have seen you and drive carefully.

Making Left Turns on Single Lane Roads Without Traffic Lights



You should approach the intersection as close to the centre of the road as possible.

If there is a Stop sign or line, or a Give Way sign or line, at the intersection you **must** give way to any vehicle in or entering the intersection, or coming towards you except:

- a vehicle turning right using a slip lane
- a vehicle coming towards you which is turning left if that vehicle is also facing a Stop or Give Way sign or line.

Red vehicle must stop and give way to green vehicle, which is not facing a Stop or Give Way sign

If there is no Stop or Give Way signs or lines the following rule applies.



IMPORTANT RULE!

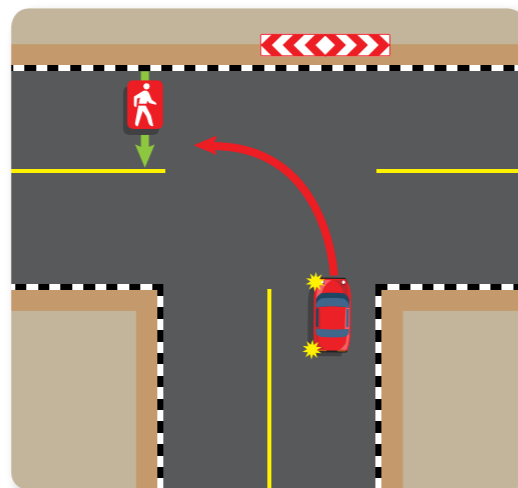
When the movement of traffic is not controlled by signs or police officers, you must give way to:

- The vehicle coming from the left if the roads are of equal classification.
- The vehicles coming from a main road to a minor road.

(Article 44, Executive By-Law , UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

When the road is clear, turn just left of the centre of the intersection. Be careful and keep scanning for hazards. On-coming traffic making a left turn may be blocking your view of other traffic coming through the intersection, if you are also making a left turn. Make sure that the road is clear before you complete the turn. You must also give way to pedestrians crossing the road that you are turning into.

The turning **red vehicle** **must** give way to the pedestrian



Left Turns on Multiple Lane Roads

On some multiple lane roads, arrows painted on the road will show you if left turns may also be made from other lanes. If road markings show how a turn is to be made, you must follow the road markings.

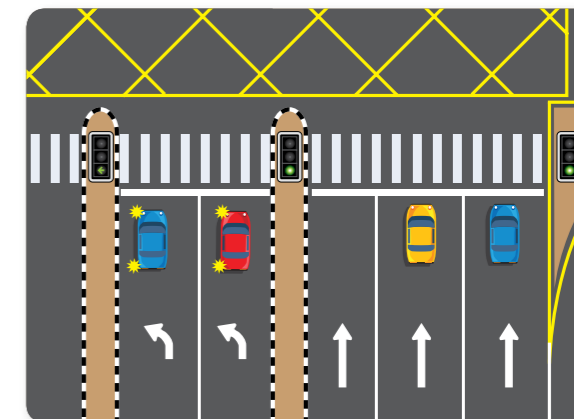
Left Turns at Traffic Lights

Most intersections in Dubai that have traffic lights have special left turn lanes that show you where to turn. There are sometimes two or three left turning lanes, particularly at very busy intersections. It is important that you think about which lane you will need to be in after you have completed your turn. You must carefully decide which lane you will be in as you approach.

If you need to turn right soon after you have completed your turn, you will need to choose the right hand turning lane. You should turn into the right hand lane of the new road, ready for your next change of direction.

If you will be turning left soon after completing your turn, you should choose the left hand turning lane. You should turn into the left lane of the new road. This will put you in the correct position for making the next turn.

If you want to go straight ahead after completing your turn, you should choose either the left hand or the right hand turning lane. If you choose the left hand turning lane you should turn into the left lane of the road you are turning into. If you choose the right hand turning lane you should turn into either the centre or right hand lane.



Think about what you are doing and make the correct decisions. A wrong decision can not only be confusing to other drivers, it can also be very dangerous.

Making Right Turns

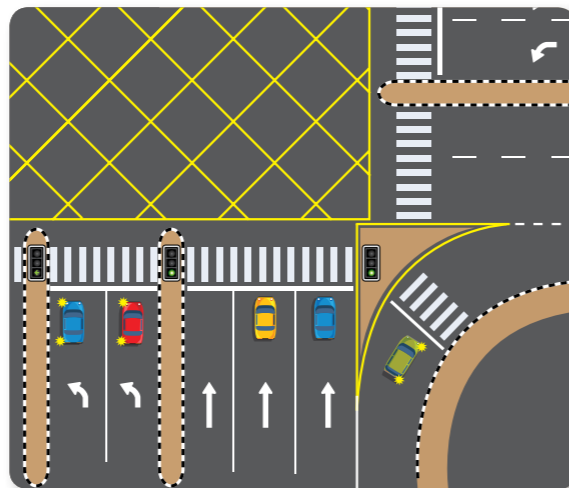
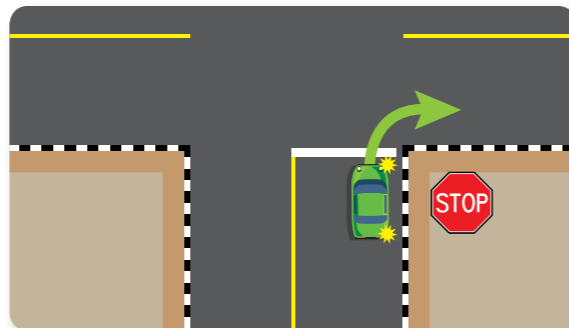
Again you need to prepare properly. You **must** know exactly where you are going, so that you are in the correct lane ready for the turn.

To make a right turn you should approach the intersection, keeping to the right of your lane and looking out for cyclists on your right who may be going straight ahead.

Where there is a slip lane, you should turn using the slip lane. Make sure that you give way to any pedestrians who may be using the pedestrian crossing.

For a multiple lane road, arrows painted on the road will show you if right turns may also be made from another lane. If this is possible, make your decision to use the lane which will best suit you as you proceed past the intersection. If you intend to turn left soon after turning, you should choose the left hand turning lane. If you intend to turn right soon after turning, you should use the right hand turning lane. If you will be proceeding straight ahead, you may use either lane, but be sure that you turn into the corresponding lane of the road you are turning into.

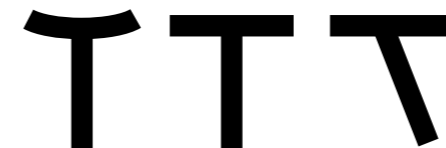
Remember, you **must** give way to vehicles and pedestrians on the road that you are turning into.



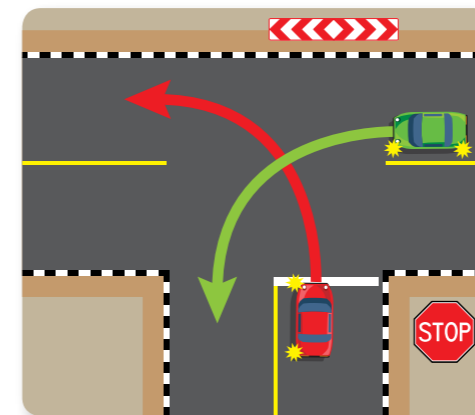
Turning at T-intersections



T – intersection is where two roads meet and one of them ends. T-intersections may not always form a regular T.



The way that you approach a T-intersection is the same as when you are approaching any other intersection. You need to know where you are going and choose the correct lane well in advance. If there are no traffic signals and you are entering the cross road from the road that ends, you **must** give way to vehicles travelling along the cross road.



In this illustration, the red vehicle must give way to green vehicle.

U-turns

Drivers wishing to make a U turn will face either traffic signals which will direct their movement, or a Stop sign with a solid line on the road. In the case of a Stop sign and a solid line on the road, drivers **must** stop and **must** give way to other vehicles and pedestrians already on the carriageway you are turning into.

Before you make your turn, you **must**:

- Signal your intention for a reasonable time
- Move into the turning lane at the earliest opportunity
- Stop before the stop line
- Have a clear view of traffic in either direction.

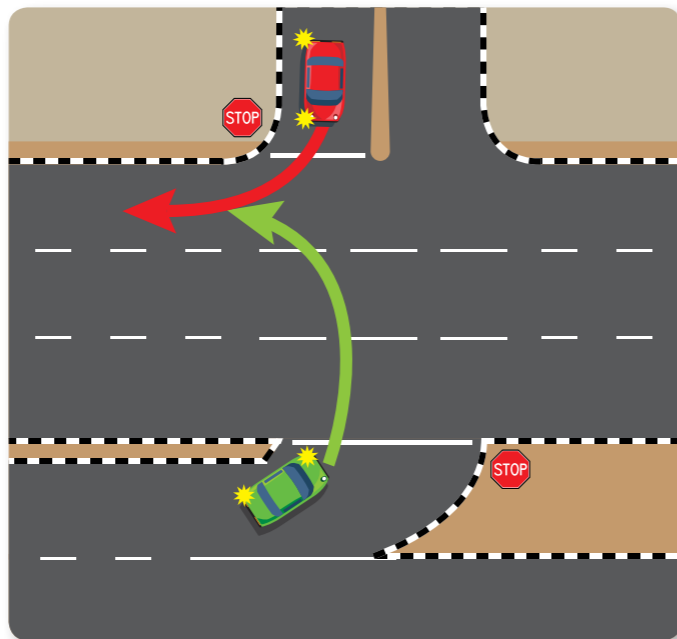
Where there is no central divider, it is advisable that the U-turn be made from the right side of the road. Remember to watch out for traffic approaching from behind you.

Open U-turns



An open U-turn is where a U-turn is being made opposite another road.

With an open U-turn you will be facing a stop sign and entering a main road. You need to signal your intentions so others know what you intend to do. Then move into the turning lane, gradually reduce your speed and stop at the stop line. There will



usually be three lanes, so carefully scan the intersection and, when safe to do so, proceed with caution. You should commence your turn from the left turning lane next to the central divider and turn into the right-hand lane of the carriageway you are turning into.

Before turning, you **must** give way to vehicles in the carriageway that you are turning into. Right turning traffic in the street opposite you should give way to you.

Closed U-turns

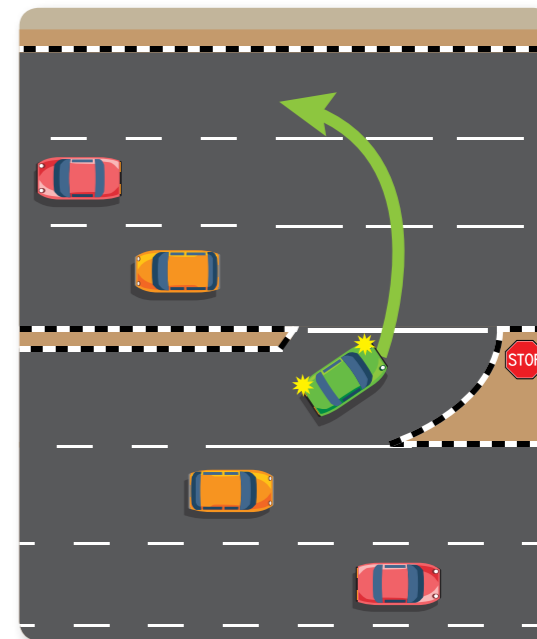


A closed U-turn is where no road is located opposite the U-turn area.

With a closed U-turn you will be facing a stop sign and entering a main road. There will usually only be two lanes so you must give way to any vehicles or pedestrians already on the main road. You should commence your turn from the right side of the turning lane and turn into the right lane of the carriageway you are turning into. This will allow any vehicle on your left that you may not have seen to turn into the centre or left hand lane.

You **must not** make a U-turn:

- Over solid lines or where there is a No U-turn sign.
- At a No Left Turn sign, unless there is a U-turn Permitted sign



Turning from One-way Roads

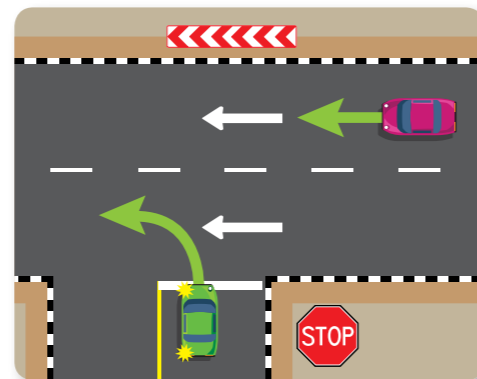
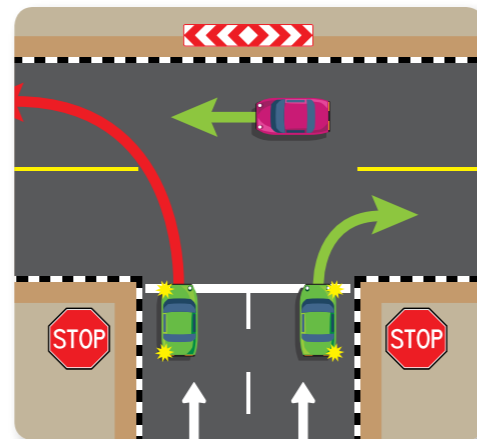
When turning left or right from a one-way road into a two-way road, you **must** turn from a position close to the side in the direction you are turning.

Turning into One-way Roads

When turning left or right from a two-way road into a one-way road, it is advisable to turn into the nearest lane. This is to allow vehicles travelling straight ahead on the one way road to use the furthest lane.

Entering the Traffic Stream

Whenever you enter the traffic from a parked position, or through a gap in a central divider strip, you **must** give way to all vehicles travelling on the road you are entering. Only enter/join the main traffic stream if you can do so safely and without forcing the vehicles to slow down.



Roundabouts

A roundabout is an intersection with a roundabout sign at each entrance, a central island and one or more marked lanes, or lines of traffic. All vehicles have to travel in the same direction. You should always keep to the right of the central island.



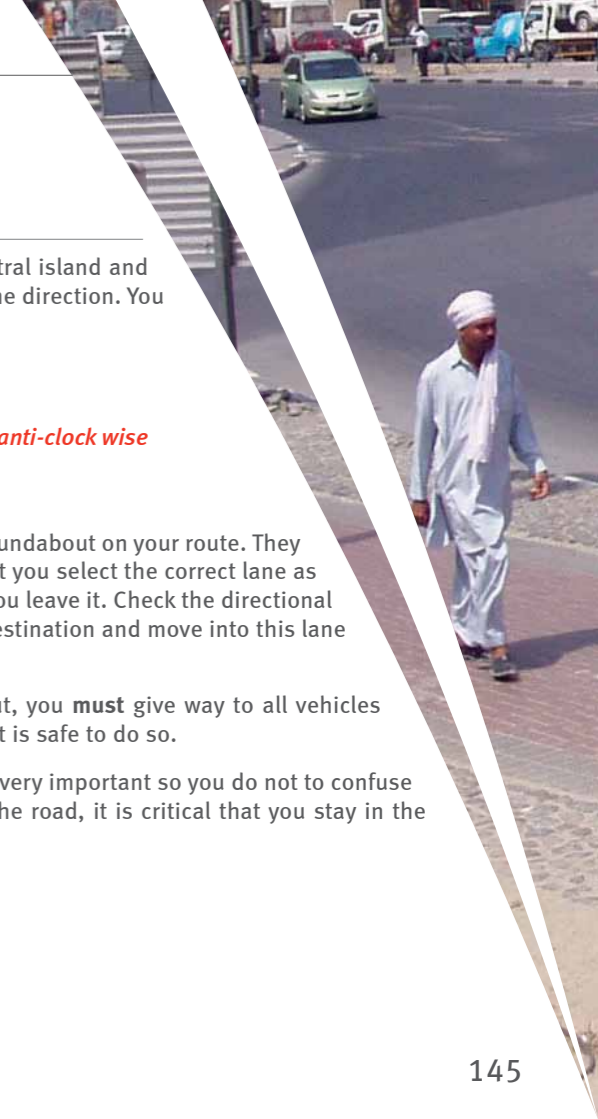
This sign means you must travel around the roundabout in an anti-clock wise direction.

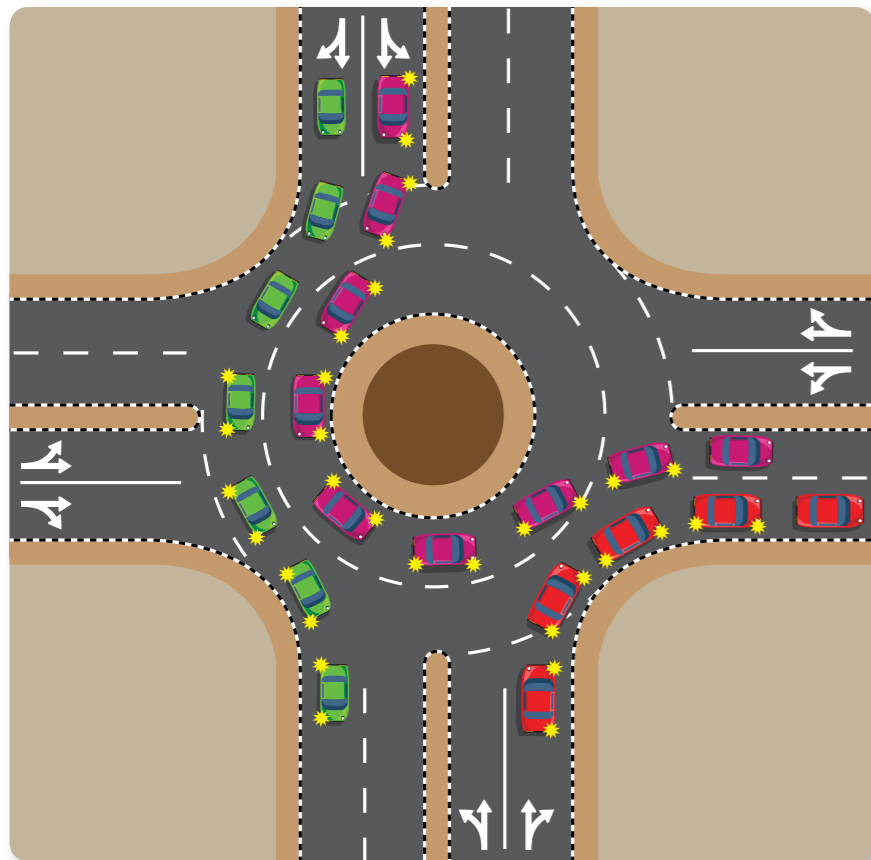
As with other turning manoeuvres, good planning is important when there is a roundabout on your route. They can be complex and you must know where you are going. It is very important that you select the correct lane as you approach a roundabout and be clear about which lane you need to be in as you leave it. Check the directional signs along the route. Know exactly which lane you should be in to reach your destination and move into this lane early.

Once you have selected the correct lane and are about to enter the roundabout, you **must** give way to all vehicles already in it moving towards you from the left. Only enter the roundabout when it is safe to do so.

In roundabouts, good steering control, correct speed, indicators and mirrors are very important so you do not to confuse other drivers about where you are intending to travel. If lanes are painted on the road, it is critical that you stay in the correct one for your intended position after the roundabout.

Here are some procedures for specific types of roundabouts.





Two Lane Roundabouts

Turning Right

Approach in the right lane and stay in that lane.

Signal right on the approach, check the traffic on your left. Give way if there is traffic approaching. Keep the signal on until you have left the roundabout. Leave in the right hand lane.

Going straight ahead

Approach the roundabout in the lane that will lead you to the one that you need to be in after proceeding through the intersection. You must make this decision early, because once you are in a particular lane it is important that you stay in it. Remember what has already been said about lane discipline.

If you intend to turn right soon after leaving the roundabout you should choose the right hand lane to enter and leave, being careful to stay within the lane as you move around it. If you intend to travel straight ahead once you have proceeded through the roundabout, you may choose the left hand lane, making sure that you stay in the corresponding lane as you travel around the roundabout and as you leave it.

As you enter the roundabout, check for traffic on your left. Give way if there is traffic approaching. Proceed when it is clear and signal right after you have passed the first exit to let other drivers know that you will be leaving at the next exit.

Turning Left

Always approach the roundabout in the left lane or as shown by arrows on the road. Keep in the same lane as you travel around the roundabout and follow the corresponding lane as you leave. Signal right after you have passed the second exit to let other drivers know that you will be leaving at the next exit. Check for vehicles on your right as you are about to exit.



Decide whether you are going to turn right, left or go straight before entering the roundabout, so that you can choose the correct lane on entry.

Three Lane Roundabouts

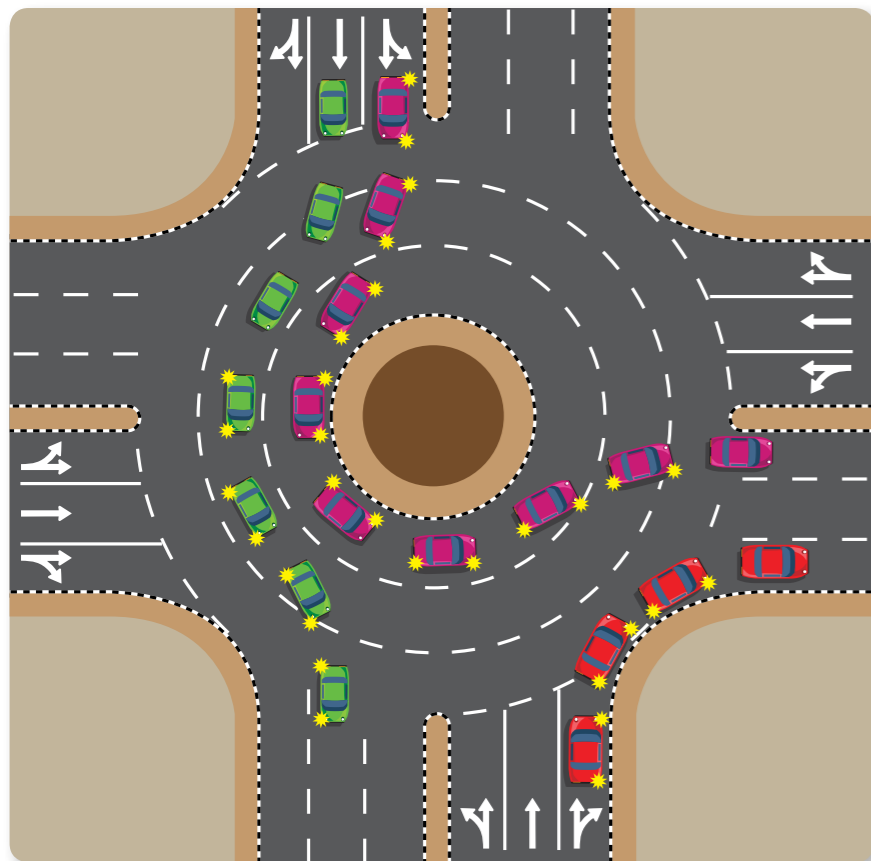
Turning right

The procedure here is the same as that for a two lane roundabout. Approach in the right lane and stay in that lane.

Signal right on the approach and check the traffic on your left. Give way if there is traffic approaching. Keep the signal on until you have left the roundabout. Leave in the right hand lane.

Going straight ahead

Again the procedure is similar to that for a two lane roundabout. The choice of lane will depend on what you need to do after you proceed through the roundabout. This will determine whether you choose the right hand lane or the centre lane. If you need to do something on the right once you leave, choose the right lane, otherwise you can choose either the right lane or the centre lane. You should not choose the left hand lane as that lane should only be used by left turning vehicles.



As usual, you must check for traffic on your left as you enter the roundabout. Give way if there is traffic approaching. Proceed when it is clear, stay in the corresponding lane as you travel around the roundabout and as you leave, signal right after you have passed the first exit to let other drivers know that you will be leaving at the next exit. Check for vehicles on your right as you are about to exit.

Turning Left

This procedure is also the same as that for a two lane roundabout. However, planning is even more important here. Make sure that you check the directional signs and road markings very carefully. They will direct you into the correct lane. Keep in the same lane as you travel around the roundabout and turn into the corresponding lane as you leave. Signal right after you have passed the second exit to let others know that you will be leaving at the next exit. This is particularly important for three lane roundabouts as you may be crossing two lanes of traffic as you leave. Make sure that you check for vehicles on your right as you are about to exit.

Changing Lanes and Overtaking

The roads you drive on will vary. You may drive on a two way road with traffic heading in opposite directions. At other times you will drive on multiple lane freeways where there are a number of lanes of traffic headed in the same direction.

When you are driving on these roads, there will be times when you may want to change lanes, for example to exit from a freeway or to overtake a slow moving vehicle.



IMPORTANT RULE!

You must make sure that there is sufficient space in front of you to see whenever you intend to over-take a vehicle, a person, an animal or a traffic blockage. You must also use indicators alert others of your intention to overtake.

(Article 10.2, UAE Federal Traffic Law, Number 21, 1995)

Crashes may occur if you do not take the time to plan ahead. Think about what you want to do before you do it and plan for it.



Plan ahead when you want to change lanes or overtake.

Changing Lanes

There are many multiple lane roads in Dubai, with more being built to cope with increased traffic demand. Changing lanes on these roads may seem like a common driving task, but do not be fooled into thinking this is easy.

To change lanes you need to:

- Plan what you are going to do well ahead.
- Check the position of vehicles ahead, behind and to your sides.
- Signal early, as this warns other drivers and allows them to plan what they need to do.
- Be aware that the driver in the vehicle in front of you may signal to change lanes at the same time. In this case, you should wait until the driver in front completes his move to another lane.

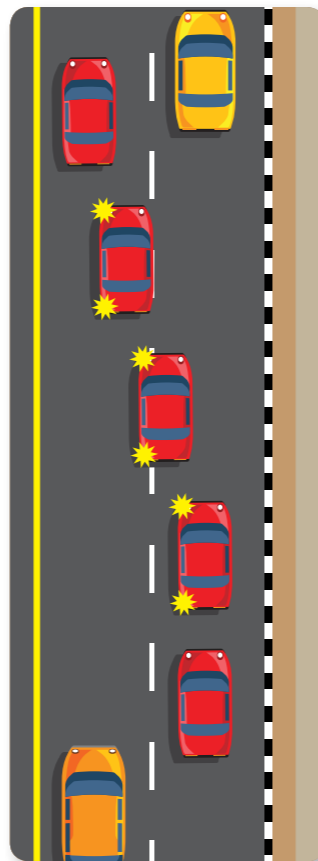
When you have checked that it is safe to change lanes make sure you:

- Check your mirrors
- Signal to the right or left giving sufficient warning to other drivers of your intentions
- Check your mirrors again
- Check your blind spot by doing a headcheck to the right or left
- Control your speed as you may need to maintain, increase or decrease your speed depending on the traffic conditions
- Steer smoothly and gradually, as this allows other drivers to let you in.

Once you are completely in the new lane remember to check your mirrors again and cancel your indicator.



In making a headcheck to check your blind spot, do not take your eyes off the road ahead for more than a second.



The rules for changing lanes also apply whenever you cross any broken line marked on the road which indicates that a lane ends – for example when merging into freeway traffic.

Maintain your vehicle's position and do not cut into other lanes. If you want to change lanes in slow moving, heavy traffic, check your mirrors and perform a head check to ensure that there is sufficient space for you to change lanes safely. When you are satisfied that it is safe to change lanes, signal your intentions before moving.



Whenever you change lanes from one marked lane or line of traffic to another, you must give way to vehicles already in that lane or line of traffic.

Overtaking on a Two Way Road

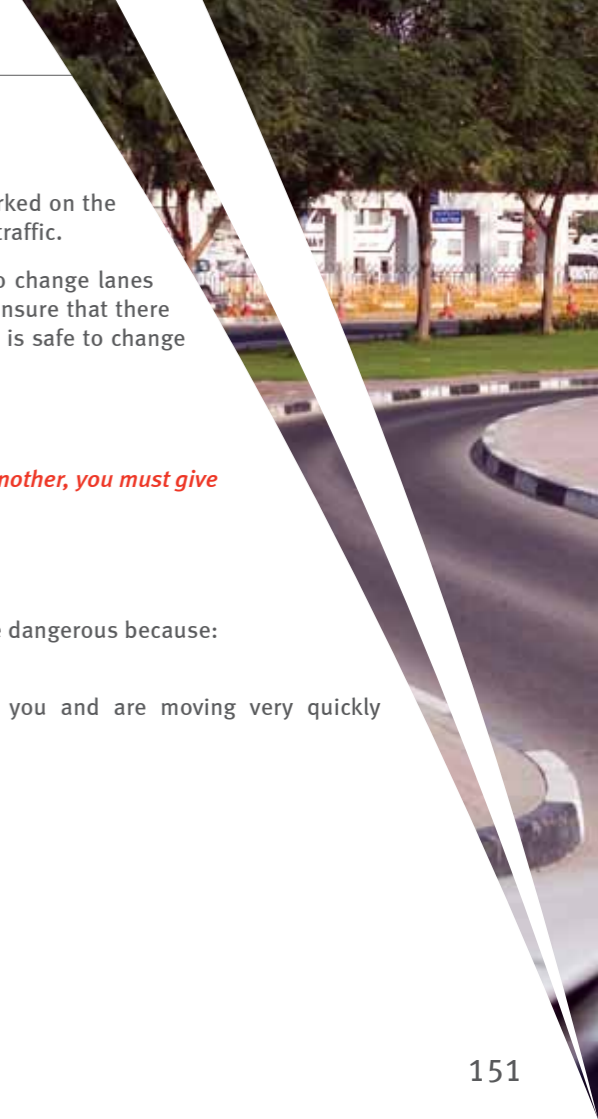
Overtaking on a two way road is very similar to a lane change, except much more dangerous because:

- You will need to drive on the wrong side of the road for quite a long time
- Vehicles travelling in the opposite direction are now directly ahead of you and are moving very quickly toward you.

It is not safe to overtake on bends, at junctions or on the crest of a hill.

So before you overtake, ask yourself:

- Do I really need to overtake?
- Will it make a difference to my journey if I just stay in my lane?
- Am I permitted by law to overtake?
- Will my overtaking cause other traffic to alter speed or position?
- Is it safe?

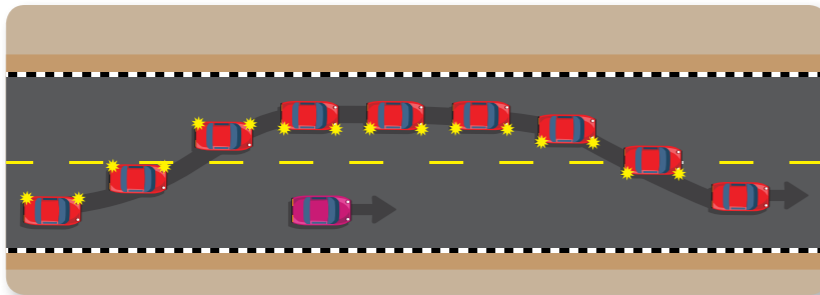


There are two parts to overtaking:

- Pulling out on to the other side of the road
- Moving back on to the correct side of the road.

Overtaking a Vehicle by Pulling Out to the Other Side of the Road

- Check the road markings to make sure you are permitted to overtake.
- Make sure you can clearly see any oncoming traffic and there is enough space to overtake safely. Remember, it is hard to guess the speed of oncoming vehicles.
- Make sure you are at least two seconds behind the vehicle you are about to overtake. This gives you better vision and room to build up your speed to pass.
- Check that there are no other hazards ahead, such as hills, driveways or intersections.
- When it is safe to pull out, use your left indicator to let others know you are about to overtake. A vehicle behind may want to overtake both you and the vehicle in front. If you move slightly to the left it will help you see ahead.
- Ensure that you check your mirrors before you move.
- When it is safe to pull out, check your mirrors and check your blind spot.
- Move far enough on to the other side of the road so that you do not overtake the vehicle in front too closely.
- You should be moving your vehicle faster than the vehicle you are overtaking.



Remember, the less time you are on the wrong side of the road, the less chance something can go wrong.

Moving Back to the Correct Side of the Road

- Make sure it is safe to move on to the correct side of the road. You will need to allow enough space between your vehicle and the vehicle following to be able to brake safely if necessary.
- Check your mirrors and signal right, giving sufficient warning to other drivers.
- Check your mirrors again and check your blind spot.
- Maintain your speed so as not to hinder the vehicles around you.
- Steer smoothly and gradually. This allows other drivers time to let you in.
- Once your vehicle is completely in the new lane, remember to cancel your signal.
- Check your mirrors again and adjust your speed if necessary.



IMPORTANT RULE!

If someone is overtaking you, you must slow down and keep to the right.

(Article 54, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)



When overtaking, if you are not sure you have enough time, just wait. A few seconds or minutes could save your life. Make sure there is a clear space between you and the vehicle you have overtaken - allow at least a 2 to 4 second space. You need to be able to see both headlights of the vehicle you have overtaken in your rear vision mirror before starting to move back in.

Overtaking Vehicles on the Right

You may not overtake in the right lane. Wait until the vehicle in front has returned to the right lane and then overtake on the left.



IMPORTANT RULE!

A driver must only pass other vehicles travelling in the same direction on the left.

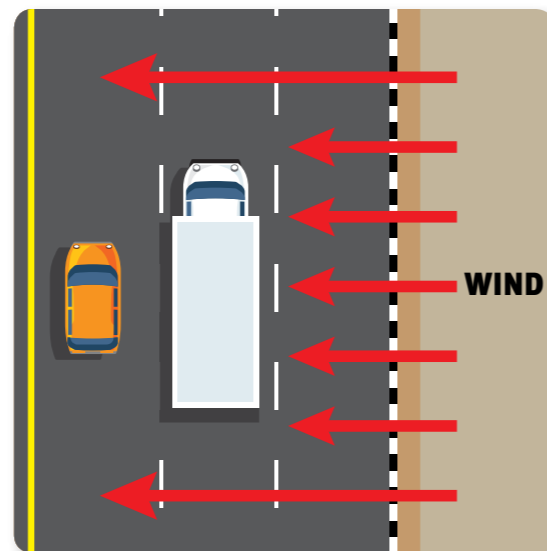
(Article 10.5, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Overtaking Where There are Hills and Curves

Do not pull out if your view is blocked. Remember, you must not overtake when there is a solid double white line or a solid single white line.

Overtaking Trucks

It is always best if the truck driver knows you are there so, slow down until you can see the driver in the truck mirrors. Keep your distance until it is safe to overtake. Avoid cutting in too closely in front of a truck after you pass it. Wait until you see the whole of the truck in your rear vision mirror. Otherwise, the truck may not have room to stop suddenly if the need arises. It takes about 25 seconds to overtake a large truck on the open road. That is a long time if you are on the wrong side of the road. Be aware that, on open highways, strong winds can be dangerous when overtaking a big truck.



IMPORTANT RULE!

You must not overtake at the following places:

- Where the road is not clearly visible
- When the movement of traffic in the opposite direction doesn't allow you to proceed safely.
- At intersections and roundabouts.
- When vehicles stop due to movement of traffic obstruction or due to a stop sign.
- On curves, crests of hills, slippery roads, next to pedestrians crossings and roads with solid long lines.
- In places where the signs forbid drivers to overtake.

(Article 55, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)



Driving on Freeways

A freeway is a high-speed multiple laned road. Traffic, travelling in opposite directions, is separated by central dividers and there are ramps for entry and exit.

Speed limits are usually higher on freeways and traffic can be heavy, so driving is demanding and can be dangerous.

When travelling on a freeway, ensure that you maintain your position in your lane at all times. When traffic is light, you should drive in the far right lane unless you have to overtake a slower motorist. In heavier traffic, you may travel in the centre lane. Never travel in the left lane unless overtaking. Once you have overtaken the slower moving vehicle, return to the centre lane. You **must not** overtake on the hard shoulders of the road.

Unfortunately, many vehicles using these roads travel at speeds well above the legal speed limit. As a safe driver you will not be doing this, but you need to realise that these vehicles will approach you very fast, seemingly from nowhere. It is critical that you are checking your mirrors constantly to look out for them. They represent a very significant danger.

As traffic is moving at high speed, it is important to keep scanning the road to see what other vehicles are doing. Use your mirrors frequently and make sure that you check your blind spot before changing lanes.

Freeway speeds can be dangerous - never change lanes without checking your mirrors first.



*The maximum speed limit for cars on freeways is 120km/h where signed.
For trucks, the maximum speed limit will be 80km/h if signed.
Where signed, there is a minimum speed of 60km/h.*

Except in the case of an emergency you should not:

- Operate a non-motorised vehicle on or near a freeway
- Walk on foot on or near the freeway
- Stop or reverse your vehicle
- Drive at a speed unsafe for the lane you are travelling in.
- Stop, park or drive on a shoulder, central divider, or roadside area.

If you must stop, move to the edge of the road and put on your hazard warning lights to alert other drivers.

To safely return to the freeway after pulling on to the shoulder or central divider area in an emergency, wait until there is a large gap in the traffic. Then increase speed while still on the shoulder, check your mirrors, signal and check your blind spots for other vehicles. Move into the nearest lane when it is safe. You will need to increase your speed to that of the freeway traffic as soon as safely possible.



IMPORTANT RULE!

Vehicles must not be driven below the set minimum speed or at an unnecessarily slow speed which will impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic.

(Article 40, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Entering a Freeway

When on the entry ramp, you should signal your intention early and check mirrors and your blind spot to merge safely. Ensure that you keep a safe space behind other traffic as they may stop suddenly.

As you drive along the entry ramp, you may need to increase your speed so that you are travelling at the same speed as the freeway traffic. Time your merge so that you do not cause any other vehicle to have to alter its path or speed. Once you have completed the merge, ensure that you cancel your indicator.



There are a number of signs on freeways that provide information about exits, routes, travel distance and destinations. Road markings will assist in making sure you are in the correct lane for where you want to go. Do not make unnecessary lane changes.

Take note of the signs and plan ahead for your exit.

Leaving a Freeway

Exit signs are there to assist you to choose which lane to drive in depending on your destination. Make sure you are in the correct lane well before your exit. Ensure that you signal your intention to exit the freeway.

Once you are on the exit ramp, you should slow down and obey the speed limit that applies to the road you are entering.

Ramp exits on Emirates Routes have a numbered system, which shows the approximate kilometres of that exit from the starting point of the route. This may help you with planning.

If you have missed your exit, stay calm and keep driving on the freeway until you reach the next exit. Remember, this is a high speed road, so you **must** never reverse on a freeway. It is extremely dangerous and you are also breaking the law.



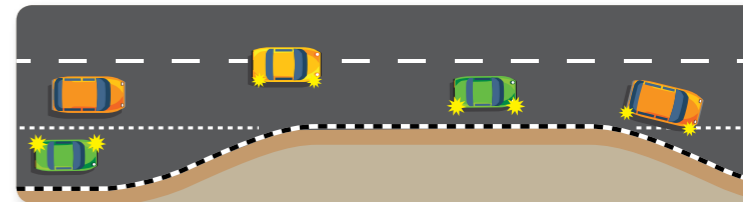
Plan ahead, obey the speed limit and watch out for signs and road markings that will help you to reach your destination.

Interchanges

Interchanges in Dubai are often complex and can be confusing to new drivers. Here some tips on how to deal with interchanges:

- Plan ahead. Check a map before you travel, so you know exactly which exit to take.
- Keep watching the overhead directional signs and position your vehicle carefully.
- As with any other situation, signal your intentions early.
- Watch the traffic movements and make appropriate adjustments. Check mirrors and blind spots.
- Whether exiting or entering, ensure you do so safely by focusing on the driving task.
- When you exit, make sure you signal early to indicate you will be moving into a lane of the main stream of traffic. Move into your lane as quickly as it you can do so safely, making sure that you do not interrupt vehicles moving across from the main stream of traffic to enter the interchange, at the same time as you are exiting.

In the diagram on the right the following critical points need to be considered depending on which car you are driving:



- Green car entering the freeway: Use your indicators to signal your intentions early. Allow the orange car to pass and merge at a speed which does not disturb the flow of traffic.
- Orange car on the freeway: Maintain your speed. Be mindful of the green car on your right and the yellow car trying to change lanes.
- Yellow car changing lanes to exit the freeway: Keep your signals on. Check your mirrors and do a headcheck so that you are aware of the orange car behind you in the adjacent lane. Control your speed and be ready for the green car suddenly slowing down or stopping.
- Orange car exiting the freeway: Keep your signal on as you exit the freeway and adjust your speed according to the traffic flow.

Parking

As a driver, you will need to park your car. This may be in your own driveway, outside your place of work, at the shopping centre or at your place of worship.

Parking is not as easy as it seems. You may need to park your car in a quiet residential street or on a heavily congested road. Take note of the important points described in the road safety message below.

You **must** obey parking signs and road markings in that area that tell you how to park your car and how long you can stay there. This will help to prevent you from being a hazard to other road users or getting a parking fine.



IMPORTANT RULE!

A person **must not** cause a hazard to any person or vehicle by opening a door of a vehicle or leaving a door of a vehicle open.

(Article 9, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)



Before you park, ask yourself:

- Have I chosen a safe and legal place to park?
- Can I park my car safely without blocking or hindering other traffic or road users?
- Do I have a clear view of the traffic coming from behind as well as the traffic travelling alongside the left of my vehicle?
- Can I be seen by other drivers?

Stopping and Parking Rules

There are a number of places where you **must not** stop or park your vehicle. If you do park in these areas you could be a hazard to other road users and will be fined.



IMPORTANT RULE!

You **must not** park a vehicle:

- At places where there is no permission to park
- At pedestrian crossings, on the footpath, on bridges, viaducts or in tunnels
- Next to curves, on crests of hills or next to solid centre lines which cannot be crossed
- Where it will impede any traffic signals, signs or road markings
- In front of the entrance to houses, parking areas, petrol stations, hospitals, emergency stations, fire stations, police stations, military areas, schools or educational institutions
- Places where you will block stationary vehicles from proceeding
- Residential areas (if driving a heavy vehicle or heavy mechanical vehicle) unless they are used for construction
- 15 metres from intersections or in front of public transport stations.

(Article 49, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

Driving in heavily congested traffic can be particularly dangerous when you are wanting to park or leave a parking space. People often walk in front of and behind vehicles that are at a standstill or moving slowly to cross the road. Watch for hazards.

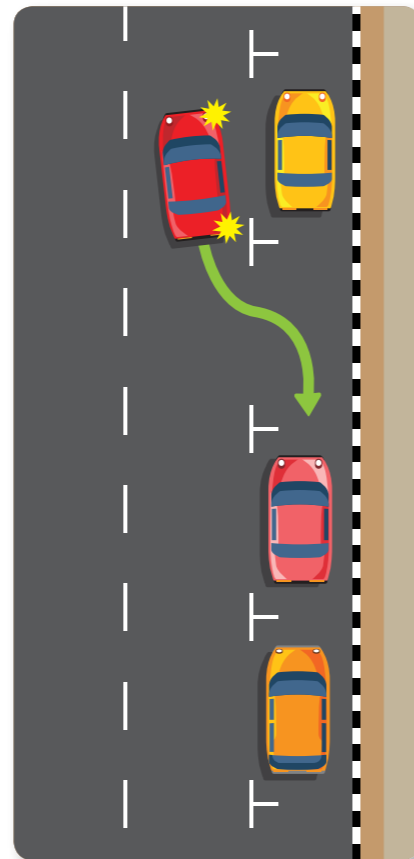
Parallel Parking

This is the usual way to park unless signs tell you otherwise. You **must** park completely within the parking bay, in line with and close to the curb or edge of the road.

Most parking spaces or parking bays are clearly marked on the road surface to fit one vehicle. If you are choosing a parking space that is not marked, you must firstly identify that there is enough room for your vehicle. As a simple guide there should be a space of no less than one and a half times the length of your vehicle.

If parking bays are not marked, you **should**:

- Leave one metre between you and the vehicles in front and behind, so there is room for you and the other vehicles to move in and out
- Park with your vehicle facing the direction of travel
- Not block the path of other vehicles or pedestrians.



Angle Parking

Angle parking is usually on the right side of the road. However, there are occasions where it is also available on the left, for example at shopping centres.

You **must** park at the angle indicated by the signs or marked bays.

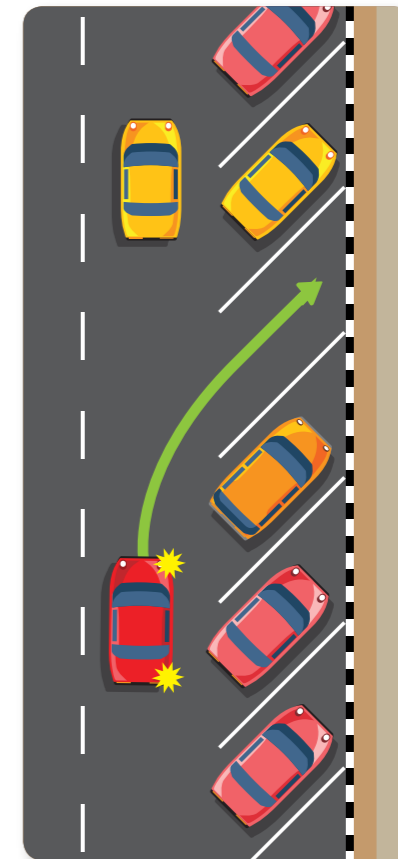
Most angle parking bays are at 90° or 60° to the road.

If you are parking in a 90° angle parking bay, you can either drive in forwards or reverse in. If you are reversing in, you will have a better view of the traffic when you leave.

If you are parking in a 60° angle parking bay, you need to drive forwards into the parking bay and reverse out when you leave.



Whenever you are parking, remember to give way to all pedestrians and other vehicles! Do a headcheck on both sides if you are reversing out, in case there are people close to your car that you have not seen.



Your Responsibilities in a Crash

Dubai's population has grown rapidly over the past few years. This has led to an increase in the number of vehicles and road users on the road and a steady increase in the number of crashes each year.



IMPORTANT RULE!

In the case of a traffic accident, all road users must give every possible assistance to the victims, especially those who are injured.

(Article 12, Executive By-Law, UAE Federal Traffic Law Number 21, 1995)

If you are involved in a crash, there are certain things you **must** do immediately.

Do not move a victim unless the situation is so dangerous that this is the only choice. You must be careful that you do not make the injuries worse. For example, moving a victim can cause more harm if they have a back or neck injury.

Your Legal Responsibilities in a Crash

When you are involved in a crash, make sure that people in your vehicle and the other vehicle are not hurt. If anyone is hurt and requires an ambulance, dial 999 and an operator will assist you. Do not attempt to move the injured. Only offer first aid if you are qualified to do so. The police must be notified within 6 hours of a crash. Make sure you provide the police with a truthful account of what happened.

In Dubai, if a crash occurs where both vehicles can be driven, they should be moved to the side of the road to stop traffic build-up. Those who do not move their vehicle will be fined. If a vehicle cannot be moved, ensure that the warning signals are on.

The traffic police will arrive and will evaluate the crash and will fill out an accident form. One copy of the crash form will be given to both individuals involved in the crash and the licence of the individual who caused the crash will be taken. If you caused the crash, you will need to take the form to your insurance company. Whether or not your insurance company fixes your car, they will give you a letter that can be taken to the police station to get your licence back. If you did not cause the crash, then you can take the form to the other driver's insurance company, so that their insurance company can fix your vehicle.



If a victim inside or outside a vehicle must be moved to escape danger, do so carefully and gently because of the risk of spinal injury or increased bleeding.

Paid Parking in Dubai

Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) implements a systematic paid car parking management in Dubai.

Parking Locations:

Some strategic areas in Dubai are allocated for paid parking. These areas are clearly identified at the entrance by a large signage which indicates that the area is a paid parking zone. The signage also indicates the time parking payment is required.



Types of Paid Parking Locations:

Paid parking locations are segregated into 2 main categories (A & B). Code A refers to side road parking areas (Short stay max. 4 hrs.), while Code B refers to areas specifically created to be a parking yard (Long stay max. 24 hrs.). And there are other special parking categories like code E, F, G with special conditions like:

- No Parking Permits allowed
- Parking Time is different from the timings in A & B.

That categorization is important especially if using the Seasonal Parking Cards and mParking System which are prized according to the location usage. There are signs placed prominently at parking areas which also point to the location of the paid parking meters. Parking tariffs are written in the parking meter. Another paid parking type is the Multi-Storey Car Parking (MSCP) that operates 24/7 with tariff of AED 3.00/hr.



Ways to Pay Parking Fees

There are several ways to pay the parking fees.

- Parking payment machine – using UAE issued coins (1 dirham, fifty fils), the parking payment issues paper parking ticket that must be displayed at the dashboard of the car.
- NOL Card – mainly used for public transport in Dubai but also usable for paying parking fees. Note: Red NOL card cannot be used in Parking meters.
- Seasonal Parking Card – This card provides the convenience of parking at any allowed parking space without the need for parking ticket or mParking. Validity of the cards range from 90 days to 365 days and the amount ranges from AED 450.00 to AED 2500.00. Please visit the www.traffic.rta.ae to get more information and to buy these cards online and have it delivered to your location.
- M-parking or payment over the phone via SMS – This mode of payment can be used by both non-registered and RTA registered customers. Registration will be not be required for Dubai registered private plate numbers starting with the alphabet character A-K & M). Registration is required for motorists who own non-Dubai registered private plate number in order to use the mParking service). To register, please visit <http://www.mpark.rta.ae> or call toll free 800 9090.



With sufficient credit on your mobile phone, use this service by sending parking details to PARK (7275);

- Example (for non-registered): B45678 123A 2 send to 7275. B represents the plate code, 45678 represents the plate number, followed by space, 123A represents the parking location, followed by space and the 2 represents the number of hours the car is allowed to park. Once payment is successful, a confirmation message will be immediately sent back to your mobile phone. Note: Do not delete this message confirmation from your mobile phone. Ten minutes before the parking time expires, a reminder will be sent which gives you option to extend your parking. To extend, simply send back the letter Y. Extension is only good for 1 hour and at the same location.
- For registered customers, use the mParking by sending the username, followed by space, parking location and the number of hours and send to 7275. If you do not include information for the hours, duration will be set at 1 hour. Example: Ali1 123A 2 or Ali1 123A send to 7275. Once transaction is successful, a confirmation notice will be sent to your mobile phone. A reminder will be sent 10 minutes before the time expires with option to extend your parking. To extend, simply send back the letter Y. Extension is only good for 1 hour. Should there be no confirmation notice, use other methods of payment to avoid being fined.
- In MSCP, payment can be done on the exit, or by:
- Using POF (Pay-On-Foot) machine allowing users to exit from an expressway.



Parking Violations and Fines

Parking violations (AED)

Parking violations (AED)	Fines
1 Non-payment of the parking fees or lost ticket (in MSCP)	150.00
2 Exceeding the paid parking duration	100.00
3 Staying more than the maximum allowed parking time	100.00
4 Using parking area in a wrong way	200.00
5 Parking on the disabled parking (without the appropriate permit)	500.00



Part 6: Eco Friendly Driving Habits



Eco friendly driving means driving in a way that saves fuel so that there is less harm to the environment. It can also save you money.

Put Your Money in the Bank Instead of the Fuel Pump!

There are obvious maintenance tasks you can do to minimise your fuel use. Keeping your car tuned, changing your air filter and keeping your tyres properly inflated, all add to savings at the pump through reduced fuel use.

But did You Know that Another Huge Fuel Saver will not Cost You Anything at all?

That is right, it is free, and you can start right now. This important change involves your everyday driving habits. Believe it or not, the way you act behind the wheel can really affect how much fuel you use.



Saving fuel while you drive involves a less aggressive attitude behind the wheel. It is also a safer way to drive.

Harsh acceleration and braking can use up to 30% more fuel and can cause increased wear and tear on the vehicle. **Careful motorway driving** will improve safety and traffic flow.

These Easy Tips Can Really Make a Difference

- **Accelerate more gradually.** The harder you press the accelerator, the more fuel you are pouring down the hole. A smooth driving style can save up to 10% of fuel used.
- **Braking.** Any use of the footbrake should be smooth and positive. By looking well ahead, you are able to see things happening which would require you to brake. Be prepared. Take your foot off the accelerator and start braking early.
- **Change gears earlier.** If your car has a manual transmission, try changing gears at a lower engine revs or move to a higher gear earlier. Move into higher gears reasonably quickly. The higher your engine revs, the more fuel it burns. Cars with manual gears are generally more fuel-efficient than automatics.
- **Engine speeds should be kept relatively low.** An engine speed of around 3000 rpm can save a lot of fuel.
- **Keep your speed down** as driving at 80-100 km/h means your emissions will be lowest. Driving over 110 km/h will rapidly increase your emissions. It can cost you up to 25% more in fuel to drive at 100 km/h compared to 80 km/h. Keep to all legal speed limits and plan well ahead for changes.
- **Try not to beat the lights.** The chances are that if you stop at a red light and then try to beat all the following lights, you will use more fuel and may still have to stop. If you drive at a more sedate speed you will usually find that by the time you reach the next light it will have turned green again.
- **Take the time of day into consideration.** If possible, stagger your work hours to avoid rush hour traffic. Sitting in stop and go traffic is the biggest waste of fuel there is. Try leaving home for work a little earlier. You will avoid some traffic and impress your boss.
- **Maintaining the correct air pressure in your tyres saves fuel and money.** One thing you can do to stretch your fuel is to check your tyre pressures. Low tyre pressure will make the tyres drag and use more fuel. Look in your owner's manual and see what the recommended tyre pressures are. Check them every time you fill up with fuel. Think of it as adding an extra 2 litres to your tank for free.

- **Keep your engine tuned.** Keeping your engine well tuned is another good way to stretch your fuel costs. An engine that grinds for ten seconds before firing up wastes enough fuel to take you four kilometres. Maybe it is time for a new set of spark plugs and a new air filter. Now is a good time to go get them.
- **Make sure you use the correct fuel.** Use the recommended fuel to get the best performance from your car. Check your owner's manual to see what the recommended fuel is.

**JOIN THE DRIVE FOR
GREENER MOTORING**





Part 8: Traffic Violations, Fines & Black Points

All traffic violations will result in some form of penalty. Penalties include blackpoints or fines that you must pay. Some might also involve your licence being suspended or cancelled for a period of time. The blackpoint system was introduced to encourage safer driving practices.

Serious violations are listed below. For information about other violations visit the RTA website: www.rta.ae

If you exceed 24 points in a year you will have your licence confiscated for three months the first time you do so. If you reach 24 points in a year again you will have your licence confiscated for six months. If you reach 24 points in a year for a third time your licence will be confiscated for twelve months and will not be given back until you pass a special course at a driving school.

Violation Type	Fine (Dhs)	Points
24 Points		
Driving under the influence of alcohol, drugs or similar substances	Decided by Court	24
Not stopping after causing an accident that resulted in injuries	Decided by Court	24
Driving a vehicle without number plates	1000	24
Dangerous overtaking by trucks	800	24
21 Points		
Falling or leaking load	3000	21
12 Points		
Causing death of others	Decided by Court	12
Driving dangerously (racing)	2000	12
Reckless driving	2000	12
Exceeding maximum speed limit by more than 60 km/h	1000	12
8 Points		
Causing a car to overturn	Decided by Court	8
Causing serious injuries	Decided by Court	8
Jumping a red light	800	8

6 Points	Fine (Dhs)	Points
Causing moderate injury	Decided by Court	6
Causing serious damage to a vehicle	Decided by Court	6
Exceeding speed limit by not more than 60km/h	800	6
Overtaking on the hard shoulder	600	6
Entering road dangerously	600	6
Heavy vehicle lane discipline	600	6
Overtaking from a prohibited place	600	6
Failure to stop after causing an accident	500	6
Loading a heavy vehicle in a way that may pose danger to others or to the road	500	6
Overloading or having a protruding load from a heavy vehicle without permission	500	6
Not giving way to pedestrians on a pedestrian crossing	500	6
The following violations may result in a fine:		There are many other violations that result in either fines or blackpoints. The fines or blackpoints may not be as large as the ones listed here. However, they are all important and as far as blackpoints are concerned can quickly accumulate. Make sure that you have knowledge of these violations by visiting the RTA website at www.rta.ae
Not covering loads of trucks	3000	
Exceeding maximum speed limit by not more than 50 km/h	800	
Exceeding speed limit by not more than 40 km/h	700	
Exceeding speed limit by not more than 30 km/h	600	

Keep Learning and Enjoy Your Driving Experience

Road transport is a wonderful way of getting around and being in charge of a vehicle as a driver can be extremely rewarding. However, it comes with the important responsibility of ensuring that you and your passengers arrive safely. Once you have your licence and have learnt how to be a safe driver, you will enjoy the experience of driving solo.

Make sure that you keep learning. Build on your experiences and take in as much road safety information as you can. You will teach yourself more about driving than anybody else will. Here are some tips:

- Always ask yourself questions about your own driving. This way you are always thinking about it and trying to improve.
- Use an action plan and ask yourself where, when and why you should do something.
- Watch how others drive. This **may** give you clues about what to do.
- When trying to improve your driving, it helps if you can remind yourself what you should do (refer back to your reference materials).
- Ask other drivers how they would tackle a driving problem.
- Start to plan your own driving routes for normal driving, such as to work and back each day and to the local shopping centre.

If you do this you will find that driving is a wonderful past-time.

ENJOY!

RTA Easy Licensing

Accessing your RTA Records

The RTA provides every Dubai driver license holder and Dubai vehicle registration owner with a 24 hour online Homepage to access their driving information and apply for driving related services. The Internet based service provides access in Arabic and English languages and displays information such as traffic fines and blackpoints.

To view your RTA driving records log onto www.rta.ae and select the “Licensing eServices” banner at the bottom of the page. On the next page select “New User” and enter your details. Registration is easy and fast.

RTA Services Online

The Online service also provides a wide range of RTA driving related services, such as vehicle registration renewal, driver’s license renewal and the replacement of products such as a lost driver’s license or vehicle plate.

The Online service allows client access to over 20 licensing related services. In most cases, such as vehicle registration renewal, the registration renewal transaction is completed in minutes. As part of that transaction, payment is made Online using a credit card and the person prints out a temporary Vehicle Registration approval at their home. The vehicle is registered as soon as the temporary Vehicle Registration approval document is printed and the vehicle can immediately be driven.

RTA Call Centre

The RTA Call Centre is also available 24 hours a day and can process most of the transactions that are available to you Online, such as vehicle registration renewal and driver’s license renewal. Simply call the RTA Call Center at 800 9090 and select Vehicle and Licensing Services.

To process business transactions through the Call Centre you will need a credit card or e-dirham and an email address that allows products such as the temporary Vehicle Registration approval to be sent to you.

RTA Trusted Agents

The fastest and easiest way to renew vehicle registration or a driver's license is through an RTA Trusted Agent. There are two types of Trusted Agents. There are selected Vehicle Insurers who are approved to renew vehicle registration for their clients and Opticians who are approved to renew driver's licenses for clients.

In the case of vehicle registration renewal you must purchase vehicle insurance. If you purchase insurance from an RTA Trusted Agent-Insurer they can also register your vehicle at the same time. They will give you the temporary Vehicle Registration approval to allow you to immediately drive your vehicle. If your vehicle is more than 3 years old it will first need a vehicle inspection.

The other Trusted Agent type is selected Opticians. For a driver's license you must pass an eye test. Do the eye test at an RTA Trusted Agent-Optician and have your license renewed at the same time. In this case the Optician will give you a temporary Driver License approval to allow you to immediately drive.

In all cases, whether it's a vehicle registration renewal or driver's license renewal you will be asked if you prefer to collect the final plastic registration card or driver's license from RTA or if you prefer the product to be delivered to you by courier. There is a small charge for courier delivery, but no additional charge if you collect the card.

Please note: RTA Trusted Agents do not charge any additional fees for processing RTA transactions on your behalf. You pay the same fees as you would with RTA.

A list of RTA Trusted Agent-Insurers and RTA Trusted Agent-Opticians is available on the RTA Internet at www.rta.ae, then select Licensing and press the "How To" button.

Renew your Vehicle Registration in 5 Steps

Option (A) - Renew Online or Option (B) Renew by RTA Call Centre **Anytime**



ONLINE

TEST your car at a vehicle test center if it is more than 3 years old or

CALL CENTRE

TEST your car at a vehicle test center if it is more than 3 years old



ONLINE

INSURE your vehicle (or)

CALL CENTRE

INSURE your vehicle



ONLINE

CREATE a profile on (www.rta.ae) (or)

CALL CENTRE

CALL RTA on 8009090



ONLINE PAY your vehicle renewal fees and fines (if any)

online using your credit card or e-dirham or

CALL CENTRE PAY your vehicle renewal fees and fines (if any) using your credit card or e-dirham



ONLINE PRINT your temporary vehicle registration approval to use your car. Have a courier deliver the the registration card (or)

CALL CENTRE PRINT your temporary vehicle registration approval to use your car, that is sent by email. Have a courier deliver the registration card