

Prevent Collisions: Drive Defensively

A preventable collision, according to the National Safety Council, is “a collision in which the driver failed to do everything reasonable to avoid it.” The National Safety Council advises drivers to follow three simple rules for preventing collisions.

1. Recognize the hazard.

Scan the road ahead—to the next intersection in cities, or to the next hill or curve on the highway. Check the traffic to your side and behind you by looking in the rearview and side mirrors every five seconds.

Recognizing a hazard in advance gives you time to avoid it.

2. Understand defensive driving techniques.

Once you recognize a possible hazard, use your knowledge of defensive driving principles to choose the best way to avoid a collision in each situation.

3. Act correctly and in time.

After you’ve chosen the best defense against the hazard, take correct action in time to avoid a collision. This is where your alertness and driving skills pay off.

Driving Defensively

The National Safety Council defines defensive driving as “driving to save lives, time and money in spite of the conditions around you and the actions of others.”

Defensive driving saves lives.

Drivers can learn the necessary skills to avoid collisions.

Approximately two-thirds of all collisions are considered to have been preventable. By driving defensively, collisions and deaths can be prevented.

Defensive driving saves time.













Avoiding collisions saves you time lost due to injury and car damage.

Defensive driving saves money.

You’ll save money that could be lost due to injury, missed work and car or other property damage.



Be a Safe Driver

-  Be aware of the five characteristics of defensive driving: knowledge, foresight, alertness, judgment and skill.
-  Check the road for hazards and learn how to react to them.
-  Keep a safe distance between you and the next driver.
-  Use the proper signals.
-  Be alert and ready to react.
-  Obey speed limits, traffic rules and signs.
-  Give yourself plenty of time to get to your destination.
-  Be patient and courteous to other motorists.
-  Never tailgate.
-  Never drive while intoxicated.
-  Never drive when sleepy, ill or angry.
-  Adjust your driving to the road conditions.