

Avis's Guide to Safe Driving in New Zealand

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A warm New Zealand welcome from Avis.
The road ahead is an exciting one - but please, take the time to read our special road rules and driving tips. Safe motoring.

Seat Belts

Seat Belts save lives. By law, everyone in the vehicle (front and back seats) must use a seatbelt or approved child restraint. Child restraints are available from all Avis Rent a Car offices.

Keep Left

Drive on the *left* at all times. On multi-lane highways, keeps to the far left (slower) lane, particularly after overtaking.



Speed Limits

On the open road, the maximum speed limit is 100 kilometres per hour. In cities and towns, the maximum is 50 kilometres per hour. Exceptions occur, for example around road works, so be alert for signs (on the left of the road) that tell you to lower your speed.



Road Signs

STOP - You must stop, then give way to traffic approaching from the right or left.



GIVE WAY - Slow down, Stop if traffic is approaching from right or left, and follow the Give Way Rules.



Give Way Rules

The Give Way Rules require all traffic turning right to give way to a vehicle coming from the opposite direction and turning left. At an uncontrolled intersection, all traffic from the terminating road (bottom of the 'T') will have to give way to all traffic on a continuing road (top of the 'T').

No Passing Lines

You must not pass another moving vehicle where a solid yellow line appears on your side of the centre line.

Passing Lanes

On the open road, be patient and wait for passing lanes, which make it easy and safe to pass slow vehicles.

Motorways

On a motorway you must not:

- walk or cycle
- stop your vehicle (unless in an emergency)
- make a U Turn

Always indicate for at least 3 seconds before changing lanes. If you need to make an emergency stop, signal your intention and stop your vehicle as far as practicable to the left. Turn on your warning lights until help arrives.

Country Driving

Country roads may have hidden dangers. Be on the look out for loose stones, ice and single-lane bridges. When you reach a scenic attraction, don't drive and look at the same time. Never stop on a corner, no matter how tempting the view. In a country with 60 million sheep, look out for livestock being herded along the roads, proceed very slowly.

Speed Cameras & Random Breath Testing

DO NOT DRIVE IF YOU HAVE BEEN DRINKING ALCOHOL AND KEEP WITHIN THE SPEED LIMIT AT ALL TIMES.

Random breath testing is carried out and heavy fines apply for drunk driving. Speed Cameras produce an automatic fine, which is your responsibility as the vehicle renter.

What to do in an Accident

Stop and check if anyone has been injured. Give all the practical help you can and call an ambulance.

If Police Officers have not attended the accident, and injury is involved, you must contact the Police within 24 hours.

If the accident involves damage to property (eg a farmer's fence) and the owners cannot be located, contact the Police within 48 hours

Fill in your Avis Accident Report Form, located in your vehicle glove box.

Include the name, address, vehicle registration number and insurance company of any other person involved. For your protection, you should not admit liability under any circumstances.

Immediately notify your nearest Avis Rent a Car office.