



Our 20 Favourite Crime Prevention Tips for

SAFER DRIVERS



1. Never cause an accident just because you think you are right!
2. Around other road users (including pedestrians), ‘**cover**’ your horn with your hand, ready to warn them of your presence in an emergency. Attempt to make eye contact with pedestrians wishing to cross at an intersection, before you make your manoeuvre.
3. As you approach a situation where you may need to brake suddenly, eg an intersection, or when children are about, ‘**cover**’ the brake pedal with your foot so you are ready.
4. ‘**Read the road**’ ahead by looking for clues, eg a petrol station up ahead may cause traffic to enter your lane. Turn on the radio in a major tunnel, to hear any emergency traffic announcements.
5. Leave space between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you, sufficient to stop safely. Use the ‘3 second rule’ – see when the car ahead passes a landmark and start counting: “One Mississippi, two Mississippi, three Mississippi” (each one takes a second to say). If you can’t count to three in the time it takes for you to reach the same landmark, then there is insufficient space for you to do an emergency stop.
6. When coming to a stop in traffic, you should be able to see the bottom of the rear tyres of the vehicle directly in front of you. This gives you room to manoeuvre if the vehicle in front should stall, roll back, etc. It also allows space to pull forward if a vehicle is approaching you too fast from behind.
7. When merging, pulling out into traffic, or changing lanes, indicate your intentions and check all mirrors. Remember the ‘**life-saver**’: double-check over your shoulder/s before you proceed. Be careful to judge the speed of traffic you may be joining.
8. Always give right of way to pedestrians wishing to cross, before you turn into or out of an intersection.
9. Choose the appropriate speed **before** a hazard – try not to brake and steer simultaneously. At the end of a hard brake, relax the pedal pressure to ‘soften’ the stop and prevent ‘jerking’. Allow sufficient time for every trip, so you don’t have to unnecessarily speed to get to your destination on time.
10. When you are in the centre of a road waiting to turn right, keep your wheels pointing forward, then if you are rear-ended, you won’t be pushed into oncoming traffic. Keep your foot on the brake pedal, using the brake lights to alert the traffic behind you.

FOR EMERGENCIES (Including anyone on your property)	000
TO REPORT ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS (Crime Stoppers)	1800 333 000
TO REPORT NON-EMERGENCY CRIME (Police Assistance Line)	131 444
IF YOU’RE NOT SURE (Hornsby Police Station)	9476 979
TTY—To ask for Police, type PPP	106
SPEAK AND LISTEN	1 800 555 727

ENGLISH

11. We all enter a roundabout as equals – no approach road has priority. Give way to those already on roundabouts, including those entering before you from your left. Roundabouts are designed to keep the traffic flowing.
12. Consider a crate, harness and/or safety strap to secure any pet, preferably in the backseat. Your pet’s head should not be outside the vehicle.
13. Treat merging lanes with no road markings like a ‘zipper’. Drivers stay in their current lane until the designated merge point. It’s not rude; merging at the end of the lane actually HELPS the flow of traffic. Take turns: one car from one lane, one from the other, and so on.
14. At traffic lights, do attempt to stop on amber, if safe to do so. Amber is not intended for “racing the lights to red” (also termed a ‘ripe orange’). Driving through amber is an offence carrying points/fine similar to driving through a red.
15. Approach a turn as two manoeuvres—1 to get in position and 2 to take the turn. To take position you may need to indicate a lane change, slow your speed and change down gears. Then for the turn itself, you may need to indicate again. Check mirrors before, during and after.
16. No part of your body should be outside the vehicle. Don’t let your passenger put their feet on the dash – the airbags will smash their knees into their face.
17. Use headlights in bad weather, or on country roads. Use full beam at night as much as possible when safe to do so without blinding other road users. Don’t wear sunglasses in a tunnel, as you need maximum vision and light, to see and be seen.



18. Before a long trip, ensure your vehicle is roadworthy. Check tyres, radiator, fuel, windscreen-washer fluid, etc. Plan your journey, including route, food, fuel and fatigue stops - regular breaks and/or ‘power naps’ to avoid driver fatigue (ideally 15 minutes every 2 hours).
19. To actually ‘see’ your blind spots, try this trick: Whilst sitting parked in the car, have a wheelie bin moved along both sides of your vehicle, while you view each mirror.
20. If you are taking prescribed medications, consult your doctor about any side effects that may affect your ability to drive safely. If you change your dosage, find out if you need to wait a few days before you are safe to drive again, or grab a lift instead.

And please report to council any damaged/obscured local traffic signs you encounter.

This information was compiled by volunteers with Neighbourhood Watch within Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby. Please contact your Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) at Hornsby Police Station for more information. Phone: 9476 9799. Tips and other resources are available to download free from the Neighbourhood Watch in Ku-ring-gai & Hornsby website: au-NHWKuringgaiHornsby.org/Tips/.

See also the community’s one-stop-shop of crime prevention information: WatchOut.org.au.

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