

Texting And Driving

Consequences And Prevention Tips



Texting while driving can have serious consequences, even if you don't get into an accident. Read below for tips on how to prevent this dangerous behavior and learn more about its potential consequences.

Preventing Texting and Driving



1. Turn off your ringer.

Many of us are conditioned to grab our phones as soon as we hear them chirp. Switching your phone to silent mode while you're driving can prevent you from being distracted by incoming messages.



2. Put your phone away where you can't get it.

Removing the temptation to check your phone might mean stashing it in your glove compartment or console. Keeping it completely out of reach can prevent you from feeling compelled to check it.



3. Always pull over to return a message.

If you're expecting an important text or get an emergency message, don't try to answer it while you're driving. Pull over as soon as you can find a safe place and answer once you're parked.



4. Set up boundaries.

There are many apps that can help you control your phone usage while driving. They can reply to texts automatically, put your phone in "do not disturb" mode, or lock you out of text messages altogether.



5. Use a "designated texter."

If you're traveling with friends or family, you can give your phone to someone else to handle texting duties. This will allow you to focus on the road without missing messages.

General Consequences of Texting and Driving

Laws concerning texting while driving vary from state to state. However, you may experience these consequences if you're pulled over for using your phone while on the road:

Fines

Depending on the state, you may have to pay fines up to \$500.

Criminal charges

Some states consider texting while driving a misdemeanor.

Jail

If you are texting and driving and cause a collision that includes injuries, you may be sentenced to jail time.

Driver's license

You may have your license suspended or revoked if you are caught using your phone while driving.

Insurance

Points against your driving record can increase your auto insurance premiums.

Safety classes

Depending on the circumstances, you may need to complete mandatory road safety classes if you are caught texting while driving.