

Auto Guide



Supplement to the Tribune

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Weird driving laws around the world you'll find interesting

By Laura Jeeves

Most of the laws you come into contact with are to be expected and make sense, such as refraining from using your mobile phone when behind the wheel and wearing your seatbelt. However, in many places around the world, there are some rather strange regulations, to say the least.

Here are some of the weirdest driving laws from around the world:

- The UK - An archaic law still stands that you're not allowed to flag down a taxi if you have the plague! And if you have any other ailments, you must alert the driver.
- Switzerland - It is illegal to wash your car on a Sunday.
- Finland - If you don't have the appropriate license, you cannot play music in a taxi.
- Luxembourg - You must install windshield wipers in your car... even if it doesn't have a windshield!
- Alabama - You can't drive barefoot or (wait for it) while wearing a blindfold.
- Alaska - It's illegal to tie a dog to the roof of your vehicle.
- California - A woman can't drive in this state if she's wearing a bathrobe. In the city of San Francisco, you aren't allowed to wash your car with used underwear! (We can't say we disagree with that last one.)



It's illegal to drive while wearing a blindfold in Alabama.

- Colorado - Taking a trip to Denver? Don't rent a black car... you won't be able to drive an automobile that color on a Sunday.
- Florida - You must feed the parking meter if you tie an elephant, goat or alligator to it. (This is no longer a law.)
- Illinois - It's illegal to drive a car without a steering wheel.
- Indiana and Maine - It's illegal to sell cars on Sundays.
- Louisiana - A woman's husband is required to wave a flag in front of her car before she can drive it.
- Massachusetts - It's illegal to drive with a gorilla in the backseat.
- Montana - You must have a chaparrone while hauling sheep in your truck.
- Tennessee - It's illegal to shoot any game other than whales from a moving car. What?
- The Philippines - In Manila on a Monday? You can't drive if your license plate ends in the numbers one or two.
- Saudi Arabia - If a woman wants to take on delivery work, they're out of luck. Females aren't allowed to drive at all in this country.

No matter where you are in the world, you'll find some unusual driving laws, from not getting behind the wheel in a bathrobe to not being able to hail a taxi if you've got the plague.



It's illegal to drive in Massachusetts with a gorilla in the backseat.

Wildfires a serious concern for vehicles, passengers

As we enter wildfire season the non-profit Car Care Council reminds car owners to have their cabin air filters and engine air filters inspected and changed regularly to ensure they are providing maximum protection from smoke and debris.

"Cabin air filters are the first line of defense against contaminants that reduce vehicle cabin air quality for vehicle owners and their passengers," said Nathan Perrine, executive director, Car Care Council. "The Car Care Council recommends that motorists in areas impacted by wildfires and those in surrounding states have their cabin air filters replaced. This simple, yet important, service will help ensure vehicle longevity as well as clean air inside the car."

The cabin air filter is responsible for cleaning the air entering the passenger compartment. Under normal circumstances, it helps trap pollen, bacteria, dust and exhaust gases that may find their way into a vehicle's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system, compromising interior air quality and damaging the system. The filter also pre-



vents leaves, bugs and other debris from entering the HVAC system, which could also cause problems.

Most cabin air filters are accessed through the panel in the HVAC housing, which may be under the hood or placed within the interior of the vehicle. A cabin air filter should not be cleaned and reinstalled. Instead, it should be replaced every 12,000 to 15,000 miles or per the owner's manual. In areas with heavy airborne contaminants, such as soot, smoke and debris from wildfires, it should be changed more frequently.

"It's important not to overlook the engine air filter," continued Perrine. "Engine air filters trap dirt particles, including soot, which can cause costly engine damage. They also play a critical role in keeping smoke and debris from contaminating the airflow sensor on fuel-

injected cars. As a rule of thumb, air filters should be inspected at each oil change and replaced annually or when showing other signs of contamination."

To learn more about vehicle air filters, visit www.carcare.org and view the "Air Filter Maintenance" video on the Car Care Council's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/carcaretips.

The non-profit Car Care Council is the source of information for the "Be Car Care Aware" consumer education campaign promoting the benefits of regular vehicle care, maintenance and repair to consumers. For the latest car care news, visit the council's online media room at <http://media.carcare.org>. To order a free copy of the popular Car Care Guide, visit the council's consumer education website at www.carcare.org.

Do you need a windshield replacement or a repair?

By Shalini Mittal

If you see any chip or crack in your automobile’s windshield one fine morning, then you have to take time to decide whether you’ve to repair or replace the entire windshield and get it fixed. However, replacing the whole windshield is always not mandatory if it gets cracked, damaged, or chipped. The cost incurred in a windshield repair is much less than an entire replacement. But the question arises of knowing whether you’ve to repair or replace your car’s windshield. Here are a few ways to know the answer.

Coin Test

The first step to know whether the windshield has to be repaired or replaced requires assessing the crack or damage. A damaged or cracked windshield looks

quite unattractive and is not a suitable safety hazard. You can estimate using coin test to know about the damage. If you see the crack even after placing the coin on the hit mark, you would probably need a replacement. However, this won’t help you assess the damage in case of internal windshield damage.

Size of Crack

First thing to consider is assessing the size of crack. You need to simply repair if the crack or chip is smaller in size (quarter – 2-inch length). But there are a few limitations about the size of the chip on repair and depends on the type of cracks such as half-moon, bullseye, or tar. The type of cracks based on these specifications and sizes up to 2 inch can be easily repaired. However, you’ve to replace the windshield if the requirements are not met. Repair of

the windshield can be done within 30 minutes.

Location of the Damage

If you want to decide whether you need windshield replacement or repair, consider location an important factor. You have to replace the windshield if the damage is extended to the outer edge. If the edge is cracked, you must change the windshield as the glass becomes unstable and loose. You should replace it if you see cracks in the driver’s line of sight. The repair can affect the driver’s vision by causing slight distortion.

Amount of Damage

Car damage may aggravate if you ignore the small chips and cracks initially. Check the number of cracks/damage before repairing or replacing it. You can simply repair the windshield if there are two or a few cracks. Your glass may get shattered if there



are more than two cracks. So go for an entire windshield replacement to avoid this risk. In case of a car accident, replacing your windshield is recommended since the glass weakens due to the impact and the supporting frame loosens.

Depth of Crack

Heavy construction materials, gravel roads, stones, and pebbles often damage the windshield. This impact damages the top laminated layer. A PVB layer bonds both inner and outer glass to make

windshield glass. If you see a small chip, you can assess that the damage results from low impact and can be repaired. In case of the deep impact of the object that penetrates the windshield, you’ve to replace it.

1 in 5 vehicles on the road has an Open Recall—yours could be one of them

(NAPSI)—Considering young drivers are at a higher risk of motor vehicle crashes, it’s important for guardians to encourage safe behaviors such as wearing a seatbelt, observing the speed limit, and avoiding distractions. They should also make sure teens’ vehicles are as safe as possible. One easy way to make vehicles safer is to check for and repair open safety recalls.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 1 in 5 vehicles on United States roads has an open safety recall.

Recalls don’t always affect performance, so a vehicle could have a recall without the driver knowing. And, if an automaker does not have a vehicle owner’s current address on file, the owner may

not receive recall notices.

Checking for and repairing open safety recalls is a key step in keeping loved ones safe on the roads. It’s as important as regular maintenance services such as oil changes, tire rotations and wiper blade replacements. Parents and guardians can set a good example by modeling safe driving habits and ensuring their teen’s vehicle is road-ready and recall-free.

Serious Risks of Unrepaired Recalls

Unrepaired safety recalls pose a serious risk to drivers, passengers, and other road users.

The Takata airbag recall, for example, has been linked to numerous severe injuries and deaths worldwide. Defective Takata airbag inflators can

rupture, even in minor collisions, sending metal shrapnel flying throughout the vehicle’s cabin and causing serious injuries. According to CARFAX, there are still 6.4 million vehicles on the roads with these recalled airbags.

Even if a recall doesn’t appear to affect daily driving, the risk can increase over time. Age and exposure to hot, humid climates makes Takata airbag inflators more likely to rupture. Simple actions, such as getting recalled parts repaired, can be the difference between life and death in the event of a crash.

How to Check for Recalls

Checking for recalls is quick, easy, and free. With families preparing to hit the roads for the holidays, now is an excellent time to ensure their

vehicles are safe. Drivers should visit CheckToProtect.org and enter their license plate number, upload a photo of their license plate, or lookup their 17-character Vehicle Identification Number—also known as a VIN—to instantly learn if they have any safety recalls on their vehicle.

For teen drivers, ensuring vehicles are recall-free adds an extra layer of protection as they travel to and from school, extracurricular activities, and social gatherings.

How to Get Your Free Recall Repair

If the ChecktoProtect.org lookup tool indicates that a vehicle has an open safety recall, drivers should call an authorized dealer immediately to schedule a repair appointment. Even if the nearest



authorized dealer isn’t close to where drivers live, it’s important to get the recall repaired

to protect the drivers and their passengers.

See *RECALL* on Page 6

Auto Guide

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Looking to buy a vehicle? Follow these tips

(Family Features) One purchase typically rises to the top this time of year: used vehicles. When making this purchase, it's important to consider several factors to make a smart financial decision.

Make Sure the Purchase Fits Within Your Budget

Data from Kelley Blue Book and Cox Automotive suggests average used car prices are around 50% less than new vehicle prices. Trusted used car companies and dealerships often feature a wide selection of inventory, including different makes and models, so customers can select a vehicle that excites them and fits within their budget.

"While there are several considerations to keep in mind when shopping for a vehicle, consumers should never exceed their budget," said Laura D. Adams, personal finance expert, host of the "Money Girl" podcast and a paid Enterprise Car Sales spokesperson. "A vehicle that is near new is often an excellent sweet spot for consumers looking for quality without wanting to make the leap to purchase an expensive, new vehicle."

Searching for a vehicle with a retailer you trust can help make it easy to stay within your budget. For example, with Enterprise Car Sales, the price listed is the price you'll pay.

Keep the Monthly Payment Low

The more you can invest in the down payment on a vehicle, the lower your monthly cost will typically be and the less interest you will typically pay over the length of the loan. This can lead to lower, more manageable monthly payments.

"In setting a budget for a quality used vehicle, it's important to consider the



initial down payment, the monthly payments, and the interest," Adams said. "When consumers can put a little more toward the initial down payment, while staying within budget, they often thank themselves later when they have lower monthly payments and less interest accrued."

There are many online resources that can help consumers make this calculation. For example, an auto loan calculator can show you how a down payment can affect interest charges.

Purchase a Reliable Vehicle

No matter who you buy from, ensuring you are purchasing a high-quality, reliable vehicle is of the utmost importance. Do your research before signing on the dotted line and conduct a test drive if you can.

"When conducting your search, it's important to put companies and dealerships you trust at the top of your

list," Adams said. "Maintenance costs can sometimes creep up down the road, so it's important to make this significant purchase from a company or dealership you trust."

Some dealers also provide additional benefits to help protect a purchase. For example, all vehicles purchased through Enterprise Car Sales are "Enterprise Certified," pass a rigorous inspection by ASE-certified technicians and come with a 12-month or 12,000-mile limited powertrain warranty (whichever occurs first), 12 months of roadside assistance and a 7-day or 1,000-mile (whichever occurs first) buyback policy.

With a little research and careful planning, you can find a reliable used vehicle that excites you. Visit enterprisecarsales.com for more information.

Source: Enterprise Car Sales

Five tips to get your car road trip prepared

By Tarkine Creative

If you're preparing to vacation soon, it is extremely crucial that you make certain your vehicle is road trip prepared, so you have a safe and enjoyable drive. These five tips can aid you to reach your destination safely, so you can relax, unwind and also enjoy some beautiful scenery..

1. Examine your tire pressures

It's super-important that your car's tires are totally pumped up, particularly for lengthy trips. To identify the suggested tire stress, refer to your vehicle's manual or you can normally situate this information on the automobile's door framework. If you can't find the details in both of these, a simple search on google ought to be adequate.

2. Liquids

It's vital that your vehicle is well-lubricated. Before hitting the road, analyze your vehicle's dipstick. Just pull the dipstick out, wipe it with a towel, pop it back in and then pull it out again to check the level of your oil. If your vehicle requires a top up, make certain you acquire the appropriate oil as well as also comply with the directions. If



Treat your car to a professional car detailing service.

you're not comfortable doing this on your own or need a complete oil change, we suggest taking your auto to an auto mechanic for some TLC.

3. Analyze your windshield

Check for any chips or cracks on your windshield-- they can become a hazard when driving as it can hinder your vision. It would be wise to have all damage taken care of before you hit the road.

4. Inspect your headlights as well as brake and tail lights

You'll want to ensure your auto's headlights and brake lights are in good working order as well as are clean so you're risk-free when traveling as well as you prevent a fine from the cops. Broken tail lights are one of the main

reasons for accidents so make sure you carry a few spare bulbs with you. You can find them for only a few dollars from local auto supply stores.

5. Deep clean

If you're driving around with stagnant coffee cups, empty chip packages and crumbs on the floor, we're really feeling a little sad for you-- there's absolutely nothing like that clean-car sensation. Begin your road trip the proper way and give your automobile some love by hiring a professional car detailer!

So, regardless of where you're going, before you head out make sure you adhere to these easy tips to make your road trip a safe and satisfying one.

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Traffic fatality numbers for 2024 decrease from 33-year high

There were 731 people killed in traffic crashes on Washington roads in 2024, which was an 9.6 percent decrease from the prior year, according to preliminary data released by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission. [1] At the same time, the preliminary total for 2024 is 36 percent higher than the number of people killed on Washington roads in 2019.

Traffic enforcement efforts have increased statewide, resulting in larger numbers of traffic stops for speeding, distraction, and suspected driver impairment. Enforcement fell dramatically during and immediately following the COVID-19 pandemic. Some cities have also increased their use of automated enforcement for speeding, particularly in school zones and in other areas where pedestrians travel.

A number of policies have been put in place in recent years to address the recent traffic safety crisis. Washington may be starting to see benefits from these actions in reduced fatalities on Washington roads.

“This is obviously a welcome

change to see our annual fatality numbers decline after experiencing large increases over the previous four years. Law enforcement and other traffic safety partners have worked hard to reverse the deadly trend we experienced in 2020-2023. And we still have a lot of work to do to further reduce these historically high fatality numbers,” said Shelly Baldwin, director of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission.

Driver impairment by alcohol and/or other drugs remains the most common risk factor involved in fatal crashes. The initial total involving impaired driving was 348 traffic deaths, which represents 48 percent of all fatalities. This number often rises as additional evidence is processed and recorded in these cases. Final numbers will be released in late 2025 or early 2026.

Speed remains another major factor in fatal crashes, as excessive speed increases both the likelihood and severity of a crash. In 2024, 247 people were killed in crashes involving excessive speed, which represented 34 percent of all fatalities. There

is a substantial overlap in crashes involving both speed and impaired driving. Among fatalities involving excessive speed, 62 percent also involved an impaired driver.

Motorcyclist fatalities saw a substantial decline, by nearly 20 percent, to 113 fatalities in 2024. Notably, these fatalities involving a speeding motorcyclist fell nearly 21 percent. Another particular bright spot was the decline in fatalities of people who were not wearing seat belts or using child passenger restraints. Fatalities involving unrestrained vehicle occupants fell 18 percent in 2024, compared to 2023.

A record number of pedestrians were killed in 2023. These numbers appear to have declined only slightly in 2024 to 155, compared to 160 pedestrians who were killed in 2023. Pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists are all more vulnerable in crashes with motor vehicles.

Distracted driver-involved fatalities increased in both 2023 and 2024, involving 136 and 138 deaths, respectively. This is a concerning change as these numbers had previously fallen to 90 in 2020,



after Washington passed a distracted driving law in 2017. However, distracted driver-related fatalities are still fewer than the state experienced prior to the law change.

Through its Target Zero efforts, the state is also focusing attention on land use planning and traffic designs which help ensure that people who walk, roll, and use transit have safe places to travel wherever they need to go. WSDOT and local jurisdictions are increas-

ingly using roundabouts, which dramatically lower the number of fatal crashes at these intersections, and other engineering measures which calm vehicle speeds, increase visibility and separate road users in time and space.

“The bottom line is that four driver behaviors contribute to at least 75 percent of traffic fatalities annually: impaired driving, speeding, distracted driving, and failure to wear seat belts,” said Mark McKechnie, WTSC external relations director. “In order

to make our roads safer, we should drive sober, at safe speeds, without distractions, and buckle up. And we should encourage those we care about to do the same.”

For additional data and ten-year trends, you can view our data dashboards at <https://wtsc.wa.gov/dashboards/>.

[1] All 2024 data included here and percentages related for 2024 are preliminary and subject to change as additional information is collected and analyzed during 2025.

Impaired driving isn’t about just alcohol

While we all know that driving impaired is dangerous, we may not all think about impairment in quite the same way. Driving while impaired isn’t always alcohol related and can even be caused by some substances you might not expect – like cannabis products, prescription drugs and even over-the-counter medications.

Some people also have the misconception that cannabis can counteract the effects of alcohol, but this is simply not the case. It’s important to remember, if you use cannabis before or after drinking alcohol, you triple your risk of a crash.

Stopping impaired driv-

ing takes all of us working together. And the best place to start is planning ahead for how you will get home before any alcohol or drugs are consumed. Options:

- Ask a sober friend or family member to pick you up
- Call a taxi or rideshare service
- Use public transportation
- Plan to stay over where you are
- Leave your car at home or park it where you won’t need to move it.

Of course, things don’t always go as planned

If you’re in a situation where someone who’s drunk or high is trying to drive, please step in:

- Arrange or provide a ride
- Offer your couch for the night
- Arrange for them to stay where they are
- Engage someone else to help, including calling 911

Common questions about impaired driving

Q. Can I be charged with a crime if I’m impaired by drugs and/or alcohol and sitting in my car but not driving?

A. Yes. This charge is called being in Actual Physical Control of a Motor Vehicle. This law is to reduce the risk of a person who is under the influence deciding to “sleep it off” in their car, only to wake up and think they are “safe”

to drive while still impaired. Q. Can I be charged with DUI if I’m under the “legal limit” for THC or alcohol?

A. Yes. The “legal limit” means that it is the level at which you are too impaired

to drive. You can be well below the “legal limit” and still be too impaired by drugs or alcohol to drive safely. In Washington State, those “per se” levels are 0.08 for alcohol and five ng/mL of THC as

measured by blood. However, the actual legal limit in the State of Washington is when driver is noticeably affected by alcohol (or drugs or combined influence).

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Is your child’s car seat safe?



Data collected from prior seat checks in Washington State, shows nearly a 70% misuse rate of child restraints. It is important to keep your child safe while riding in the vehicle. An important service to help ensure their safety is obtaining a car seat check from a nationally certified child passenger safety (CPS) technician.

A CPS Technician will conduct a one-on-one meeting with you to help you feel confident you are able to install and adjust the child restraint correctly. It is not a pass or fail evaluation of how you are using your seat.

Before the Car Seat Checkup:

- Be prepared to learn. The

technician is trained to teach you to install and use your car seat properly in your vehicle.

- Know your child’s current weight and height.
- Using the car seat instruction manual and the vehicle owner’s manual, try to install the car seat into your vehicle prior to your appointment.

Tip! Check the index of your vehicle owner’s manual for “child safety seats.”

Be sure to bring the car seat instruction manual AND the vehicle owner’s manual with you to your appointment.

If possible, bring your child with you as well as another caregiver to help while you are learning.

This one-on-one education

typically takes 20-30 minutes, depending on your car seat and vehicle. The technician will take all the time you need until you feel comfortable that your car seat is used and installed correctly.

Local Car Seat Checkup Locations:

- Snohomish Co. Fire Dist #4, 1525 Ave. D, Snohomish 360-568-2141
- Everett Fire Department, 2801 Oakes Ave., Everett, 25-257-8100
- Lake Stevens Police Department, 182 S. Lake Stevens Rd., Lake Stevens, 425-334-9537
- Monroe Police Department, 818 W. Main St., Monroe, 360-794-6300

Don’t be a statistic

- The Washington Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC) reports that 136 traffic fatalities involved a distracted driver in 2023.
- As of April 9, 2025, The Washington State Patrol reports that it has contacted or stopped 8,300 distracted drivers so far in 2025, and over 31,908 distracted drivers were stopped in 2024.
- In addition to a fine, having a distracted driving ticket on your record could increase your insurance premium, insurers report.

Distracted driving is broadly defined as activity that takes a driver’s attention off the road.



Washington State’s distracted driving law places tougher restrictions on cell phone use while behind the wheel along with violations for other distractions while driving, such as eating, reading or grooming.

And keep in mind, a distracted driving ticket could cost more than just the fine -- it could cost someone’s life.

How to Save on Auto Repairs

(BPT) - Regularly showing your car some love can save on auto repairs, and maintaining it is the best and most cost-effective way to do so.

With rising costs associated with operating and repairing a vehicle, Mercury Insurance is offering some tips to reduce running costs while keeping your vehicle in optimal condition. These simple steps can show your second most costly investment how much you care.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the average cost of car maintenance and repairs is \$975 per year, or approximately \$80 per month. Several factors are driving up these costs, including complex vehicle technology; specialized tools needed for repairs; a shortage of skilled technicians; and rising labor costs.

“While we recognize that the cost of vehicle ownership is rising, being proactive can dramatically lower the burden of vehicle repairs

down the road,” said Kevin Quinn, Vice President of Auto Claims for Mercury Insurance. “We demand a lot out of our vehicles day in and day out, so keeping up with maintenance is critical and there are ways to do so without spending an arm and a leg.”

Here are some points to consider:

- Routine maintenance: Follow your car’s recommended maintenance schedule, including oil changes and filter replacements, to prevent major repairs and save you money in the long run.
- Shop around for quotes: Get estimates from multiple repair shops before committing to a repair.
- Buy your own parts: Consider purchasing parts on your own and bringing them to your mechanic to install, which can often be cheaper than buying parts directly from the shop.
- Check tire pressure:

Regularly monitor tire pressure and inflate them to the recommended level to improve fuel efficiency and tire lifespan.

- Choose a trusted mechanic: Find a reputable repair shop with a good reputation for quality work and fair pricing.
- Address issues promptly: Don’t ignore warning lights or small problems, as they can escalate into more expensive repairs if left unattended.
- Consider aftermarket parts: Depending on the repair, using aftermarket parts can sometimes be a cost-effective option.

By following these recommendations and giving your car some tender loving care, you can reduce the frequency of costly repairs in the future and extend the life of your vehicle. For more tips on all things related to car maintenance and ownership, visit Mercury’s blog.

Recall *Continued from page 3*

Authorized dealers will always repair a safety recall at no cost to the consumer, regardless of the age of the vehicle or whether it is under warranty. Drivers do not need to be the owner of the vehicle or a current or former customer of the dealership to get the free recall repair.

Recall repairs can take as little as one hour, and many dealers offer options such as ride share vouchers, loaner

cars, shuttles, and other services to ensure that consumers can get repairs completed without hassle. Dealers should be able to provide a time estimate when consumers schedule the repair appointment. If consumers call the dealer in advance, they can ask if they have the recall repair parts in stock to save time.

Recall repairs will not negatively affect the value of a vehicle. Drivers should consider

it a fix that will improve vehicle safety and save them money by preventing expensive damages in the future.

Addressing recalls as soon as possible not only helps ensure the safety of drivers and their families, but also contributes to making the roads safer for everyone.

For further facts, visit Check-ToProtect.org today.

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Washington sees a 32 per-
cent drop in vehicle thefts

Auto theft has decreased but remains a concern. Take precautions and consider Comprehensive Insurance coverage

• The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) reports that vehicle thefts nationwide have returned to pre-pandemic levels following a four-year surge.

• Vehicle thefts in Washington state dropped 32 percent from 2023 to 2024.

• Owners of vehicles stolen are "on the hook" without Comprehensive Insurance Coverage.

The National Insurance Crime Bureau's (NICB) 2024 Vehicle Theft Trends report reveals a significant drop in vehicle thefts across the United States from 2023 to 2024, following a four-year surge. Vehicle theft in Washington declined a dramatic 32 percent.

Despite the decline, the issue of vehicle theft remains a concern. In 2024, Washington state reported 29,471 vehicles stolen and ranked seventh in the nation for its vehicle theft rate, according to NICB.

In addition to taking auto theft prevention measures, The NW Insurance Council urges vehicle owners to consider optional Comprehensive or Other than Collision coverage to help protect themselves financially if their vehicle is stolen, because it is the only type of policy that will cover auto theft.

"It is encouraging news that fewer vehicles were stolen in Washington in 2024 than in 2023, but even so, auto theft remains a significant problem in the Northwest," said NW Insurance Council President Kenton Brine. "Insurers are paying much higher costs to repair or replace stolen vehicles than in the past, and those higher costs are contributing to insurance rate



increases for consumers."

Comprehensive or Other than Collision Coverage helps cover the cost of repairing or replacing a stolen vehicle. This policy also provides protection — up to the policy limits and typically after the deductible is met — for damage not caused by a collision. Covered incidents include fire, hail, windstorms, auto glass breakage, and even collisions with animals like deer.

The NW Insurance Council urges drivers to talk to their insurance company or agent to verify if the current auto insurance policy they have will help if the worst happens and their car or truck is stolen.

NICB and NW Insurance Council recommend that vehicle owners follow these tips to help guard against auto theft:

- Park in well-lit areas.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Never leave valuables inside your vehicle, especially if they are visible from outside the vehicle.
- Never leave your keys inside the vehicle.

• Don't leave the area while your vehicle is running.

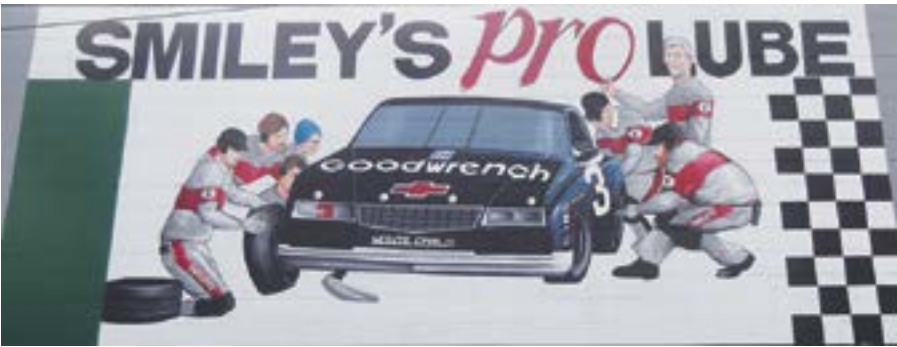
• If your vehicle is stolen, call law enforcement and your auto insurer immediately. Reporting a vehicle as soon as possible after it is stolen increases the chance of recovery.

How to Help Stop Auto Theft & Insurance Fraud

In some cases, auto theft is a form of insurance fraud when vehicle owners arrange to have their vehicles stolen with hopes of collecting the insurance money. If you witness or have knowledge of an auto theft, you can report it anonymously by calling toll-free 1-800-TEL-NICB (1-800-835-6422) or submitting a form on NICB's website.

For more information auto theft and insurance fraud, visit National Insurance Crime Bureau and NW Insurance Council.

NW Insurance Council is a nonprofit, insurer-supported organization providing information about home, auto and business insurance to consumers, media and public policymakers in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.



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Five tips that could save your life on the road

(NAPSI)—The next time you’re commuting to work, taking the family on a road trip, or even just learning to drive, chances are you’ll be sharing the road with large trucks; fortunately, there are safe ways to do so.

Sharing the road means also sharing the responsibility to drive in a way that keeps everyone safe. Poor driving habits or driving while distracted puts everyday drivers, truckers and others such as highway maintenance workers at risk.

So how to coexist safely? Try These Tips

Tip 1: If you can’t see the truck driver, they can’t see you. Can’t spot the truck driver in their side mirror? This means you’re following too closely in the truck’s blindspot and need much more space. Keep a safe distance (the length of half a football field) between your car and a truck.

Tip 2: Be patient. Many trucks have a speed limiter that prevents them from traveling more than 65 miles per hour. Tailgating won’t make a truck driver go any faster and instead puts you both in dangerous positions.

This tip also applies to trucks making turns or backing up. Many cars try to squeeze past or around a truck when the truck driver needs only a few seconds to complete a maneuver. The truck isn’t leaving a lane or space open for other drivers—it’s leaving room for the back trailer to follow. Why risk injury or damage to your vehicle when it only takes a few seconds for a truck to clear the intersection or enter a loading dock?

“I’ve had incidents where I was backing into a loading dock and a car drove down into the dock and out again just to get around me,” says Tom Blad, hardware technician at Trimble and former truck driver. “Simply because I was going to block their path for three or four seconds.”

Tip 3: Spend as little time driving beside a truck as possible. Traveling alongside or pacing a truck can be very dangerous due to the risk of a tire blowout—either the truck’s tire or your own. In fact, the NHTSA tracked more than 550 fatalities in 2022 from tire-related accidents. A single semi-truck tire weighs 500 pounds—certainly not an object you’d want hitting your car. If your own tire blows out, your vehicle may end up under the truck next to you.

“Lingering next to a truck creates a dangerous situation where you may be sideswiped by the truck if it swerves or attempts to change lanes,” explains Gary Falldin, senior director of industry solutions at Trimble and the Minnesota Trucking Association’s 2016 Safety Professional of the Year. “Move at a safe and steady speed until you’re far enough past the truck to change lanes.”

Tip 4: Stay out of the “no zones.” Due to their large size and height, trucks have four significant blind spots around the truck: in front, behind, and along both sides.

When passing a truck, don’t immediately return into the lane in front of a truck. Make sure you can see the full truck—from its tires on the road to the tip of its roof—in your rear-view mirror first.

Many drivers don’t know that the right side of a truck is more dangerous than



Always remember that if you can't see the truck driver, they can't see you.

the left. With the steering wheel positioned on the left, the truck driver has less visibility over the hood and into the right lane. Remember to always pass trucks on the left (as long as it’s safe to do so).

Tip 5: Avoid the back of trucks. One of a truck’s most perilous “no zones” is located behind the trailer. While it’s not smart to tailgate or zip into gaps behind trucks on the go, this rule also applies when a truck is reversing on or off the road. Keep this in mind when driving and walking through parking lots or other roads.

“I can’t tell you how many times cars have tried to zip around behind me—it’s extremely dangerous,” says Matt Carter, Certified Transportation Professional, a Trimble sales engineering manager who also works as a hazardous material driver on weekends. “Just try to avoid the rear of a semi-truck altogether.”

For additional tips, check out the Sharing the Road Program from Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. For information on Trimble, visit <https://transportation.trimble.com>.

Bigger isn’t always better



2025 KIA K4

(BPT) - SUVs are undoubtedly the most popular vehicle style in the U.S. This category has revolutionized the industry, attracting consumers who never imagined they would drive a truck. Some automakers have discontinued sedans entirely, but the sedan remains a more practical and comfortable option for many drivers.

While SUVs offer ample cargo space, higher ground clearance and all-wheel drive, sedans provide benefits that SUVs cannot match, including maneuverability, fuel efficiency and superior performance.

Sedans also tend to be more suitable for single drivers, city dwellers and empty nesters, and they typically come

at a lower price point than SUVs or crossovers.

Kia is responding to this dynamic with two sporty sedans that feature advanced technology and enhanced performance.

The 2025 K4 compact sedan offers extra leg and headroom, creating a spacious feel despite its compact design. Meanwhile, the K5 serves anyone in need of a five-passenger midsize sedan, perfectly balancing roominess with a striking presence.

To succeed in the competitive compact segment, it is essential to exceed customer expectations. The K4 and K5 are engineered with this goal in mind.

Rent an RV and hit the road!

(NAPSI)—Thousands of Americans are opting out of airline tickets and hotel reservations in favor of RV rentals, a method of travel that allows for self-contained excursions with a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen all on-board.

RV travel is making its way into the mainstream. RVshare, the first and largest peer-to-peer RV rental marketplace, has seen RV bookings on the rise.

A Travel Sentiment survey conducted by RVshare found that nearly 70% of respondents plan to travel in the next three months, with the majority reporting that they will not be flying any time soon and would instead opt to travel via RV.

Don’t own an RV? No problem. RVshare lists more than 100,000 RVs across the U.S. for rent by owners looking to make a second income off their asset that otherwise might be sitting unused. With options ranging from a luxury motorhome to a confined camper, there is something for everyone at any price point.

Tips for Renting an RV:



- Use a trusted site: Use a trusted site like RVshare.com where your payment is protected and the owner of the vehicle is verified. RVshare also offers roadside assistance, 24/7 customer service, insurance and other perks to protect your trip and payment.
 - Have a plan before booking: Have an idea of where you plan to take your vehicle. Make a reservation to reserve a spot at the campground. If you’re not planning on staying at a campground, factor in that you’ll be using the generator for an extended period of time, which may cost extra.
 - Enter your destination, dates and filter by preferences: Start by filtering by your pick-up destination, the dates you’d like to rent the RV and filter any other preferences you may have, like pet-friendly or type of vehicle. Worried about driving a big rig? Find an owner who offers delivery for a hassle-free experience.
 - Review the full listing: The listing is full of information including pricing, fees, rental amenities including supplies on-board. RVs aren’t always outfitted and you may have to bring towels, linens and cookware.
- Interested in learning more about how to book an RV rental? Visit RVshare.com.

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