

Section 1 The Driver's License

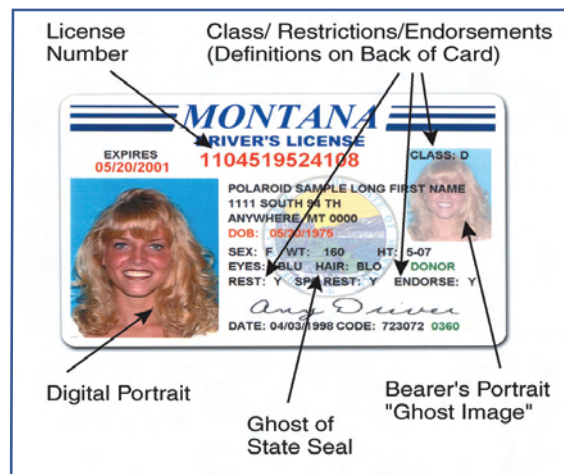
Understanding Your License

Most drivers who get into trouble while driving a vehicle don't find out or understand their legal responsibilities.

Getting a Driver License

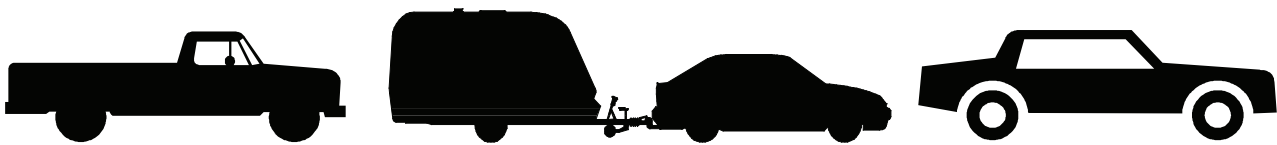
- Anyone who operates a motor vehicle or motor-driven cycle on public roadways in Montana is required to have a driver's license
- Proof of mandatory vehicle liability insurance must be in effect and in the vehicle when you are driving.
- Drivers may have only one valid driver's license at any time.
- When you move to Montana and become a resident you need a Montana Driver License within 60 days.
- Drivers must have their license with them whenever they drive.
- The driver license must not be loaned to anyone.

Types of Driver Licenses



CLASS D License

- Most drivers hold a CLASS D license.
- In order to obtain your driver license you need to pass the vision, knowledge and skills tests.
- Class D licensed drivers may drive any non-commercial vehicle which weighs less than 26,000 pounds.



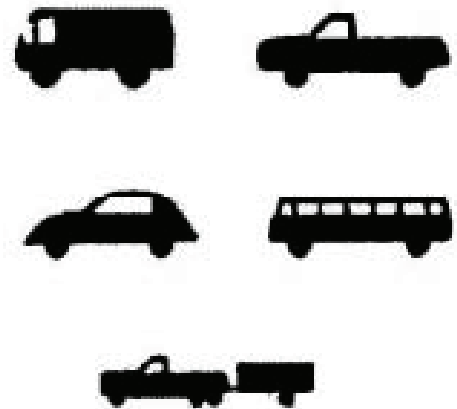
Commercial Driver Licenses - Class C, B or A

The Commercial Driver License Manual is a study guide to help beginning truck and bus drivers qualify for a commercial driver license (CDL). To obtain a commercial license you will need to pass the vision and knowledge tests, as well as a skills test in the size of vehicle you wish to drive and meet other requirements listed in the CDL Manual.

Class C License

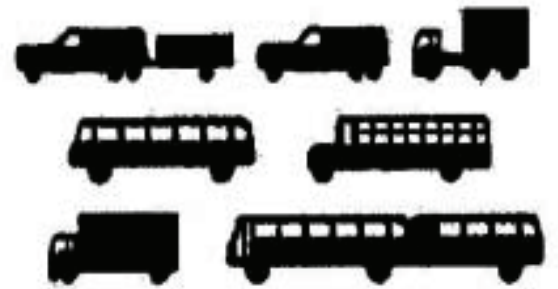
A CLASS C license is required for vehicles carrying some types of liquids or gases and hazardous material requiring placards. Additional endorsements, such as TANKER or HAZARDOUS material, may be required.

A CLASS C with a PASSENGER endorsement is required for any vehicle carrying 16 or more passengers, including the driver, and all school buses which weigh less than 26,000 pounds.



Class B License

- Holders of a CLASS B license may, with any appropriate endorsements, operate all vehicles within CLASSES C and D.
- Holders of a CLASS B may drive vehicles which weigh more than 26,000 pounds



Class A License

- Holders of a CLASS A license may, with the appropriate endorsements, operate all vehicles within CLASSES B, C and D.
- Drivers who operate vehicles with more than one trailer must have a double/triple endorsement.
- Holders of a CLASS A may drive vehicles which weigh more than 26,000 pounds



Change of Address



**Tell the driver services, Field Operations Bureau
within 10 days**

Report your change of address to the Field Operations Bureau within 10 days. Driver Exam Station locations and hours can be found at the Montana Motor Vehicle Division Web site: www.doj.mt.gov/driving.

Montana's Graduated Driver License Law (GDL)

Effective July 1, 2006

WHO: Anyone under age 18 who has not been issued a driver's license or driving permit before July 1, 2006



STEP ONE – INSTRUCTION PERMIT

Traffic Education Learner's License

WHEN: Starts with traffic education learner's license or permit obtained in a state-approved driver education program as early as age 14 ½ or without driver education, with a learner's license obtained from a driver exam station as early as age 16

HOW LONG: Minimum of six months

CONDITIONS: 50 hours of supervised driving - 10 hours must be at night

Supervision to be provided by a licensed parent/guardian or licensed driver age 18 or older authorized by a parent/guardian

Each occupant must wear a seat belt

Remain free from traffic violations and alcohol/drug offenses

STEP TWO – RESTRICTED LICENSE

WHEN: Starts with successful completion of Step One - Instruction Permit, and parent/guardian certification of no alcohol/drug or traffic offenses, and 50 hours of supervised driving

HOW LONG: One year

CONDITIONS: Each occupant must wear a seat belt; may not drive between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., some exceptions* may apply; for the first six months may have only one unrelated passenger under age 18 unless supervised by a licensed driver age 18 or older; and for the second six months may have up to three unrelated passengers under age 18, unless supervised by a licensed driver age 18 or older.

Penalty for Step Two Violations

First Offense – not less than 20 hours or more than 60 hours of community service

Second Offense – suspension of driver's license for six months

STEP THREE – FULL PRIVILEGE DRIVER'S LICENSE

WHEN: Upon successful completion of Steps One and Two or reaching age 18, whichever comes first.

*Exceptions to night driving restrictions include emergencies, travel to and from school, church or work and farm related activities.

Learner's License/Instruction Permit

A Traffic Education Learner's License and Instruction Permit allow a person to **PRACTICE DRIVING** to become a safer driver.

The learning driver must always drive with a **LICENSED DRIVER** in the front seat. The learner **MUST HAVE** a Learner's License with him/her. Anyone under age 18 with a Learner's License must drive with a parent, legal guardian or someone over age 18 approved by the parent.

TO GET A LEARNER'S LICENSE, A PERSON:

- Must be **15 YEARS OLD** and participate in or have successfully completed a state-approved traffic education course. **OTHERWISE**, he/she **MUST BE 16** years or older, and
- Must pass the vision and written tests.
- A learner's license is valid for one year from the purchase date on the receipt for the learner's license.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY – Who will pay damages after a crash?

If the driver is under 18, a **PARENT OR OTHER RESPONSIBLE ADULT MUST SIGN** the driver license application and have it notarized or witnessed by a driver license exam office employee. This means that the parents have notified the state that they will pay the damages if the drivers has a crash.



MOTORCYCLE LEARNER LICENSE

A regular learner's license is **NOT VALID** for the operation of a motorcycle. Motorcycle only instruction permits require special testing and supervision. Motorcycle only licenses limit drivers to motorcycles, motor scooters or motor-driven cycles.

Motorcycle Endorsement

Persons who ride motorcycles, motor scooters or motor-driven cycles must **APPLY FOR** a Montana driver license before getting a **MOTORCYCLE ENDORSEMENT**.

Motorcycle riders **MUST OBEY** all road, traffic signs and rules.

Driving a motorcycle is dangerous and requires different skills than driving a car.

Most motorcycle crashes happen because of the Rider's Error.

In most car - motorcycle crashes, the car driver does not see the motorcycle.

The law requires motorcycle drivers **UNDER** 18 years of age to wear a motorcycle **HELMET**.

To get a motorcycle endorsement a person must review the Motorcycle Supplement, a study guide to help new riders safely operate a motorcycle or scooter.

- Take a written test.
- Take a driving test (or successfully complete a Montana Motorcycle rider Course: RSS. For course information, call 1-800-922-BIKE).
- Pay a 50 cent per year fee.

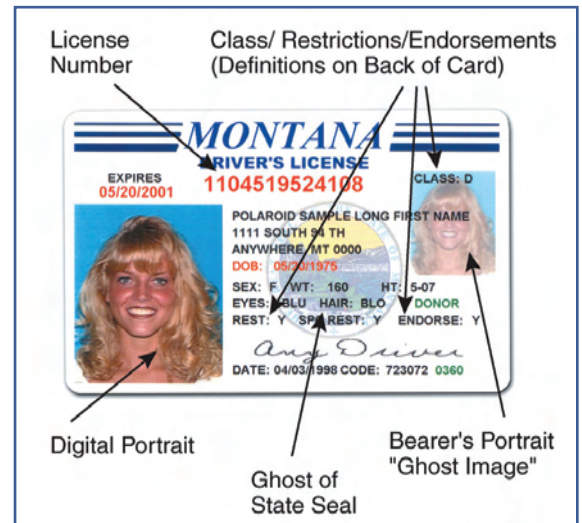
Use your head Wisely - Put a Helmet on it!



Getting Your License

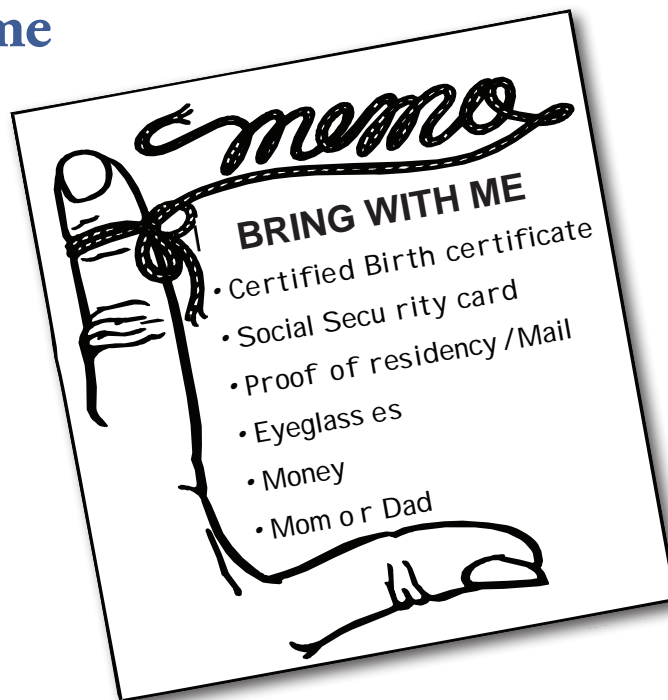
To Get Your license you must:

- **STUDY** your driver's manual.
- **FILL OUT** the license application form.
- If you are under 18, a parent or other responsible adult must sign for you. They will have the financial responsibility to pay for damages if you have a crash.
- Have your original **BIRTH CERTIFICATE** (or certified copy) and a second ID.
- **MAIL** showing your name and physical address.
- Have **PROOF OF RESIDENCY** and Authorized Presence –that is proof that you are either a U.S. citizen or legally authorized to be in the U.S.
- Provide your **SOCIAL SECURITY CARD**.
- Bring your **EYEGLASSES** if you wear them.
- Pay the **DRIVER LICENSE FEE**.



You must pass the vision and written tests before you may have a Learner's License.

Bring with me



Driving is a privilege which must be continually earned to be retained.

Testing Requirements

You must pass both the vision and written tests before getting a Learner's License

Vision Test

- You must see well enough to drive. If you need glasses or corrective lenses to pass, you will be required to wear them while driving.

Written Test

Shows how much you know about safe driving, traffic laws, rules and signs.

Practice Driving:

Driver education and the Learner's License begin the process of learning to drive, but many, many hours of practice are needed to become a safe driver. Like sports and music, learning to drive responsibly requires skills, practice and good habits. New drivers need lots of practice to gain enough experience to recognize and handle daily driving hazards and unexpected situations safely.

Driving Test

Shows how well you control your car and obey traffic signs, lights, speeds and laws.

Before you take your driving test:

1. Your car must be safe and have:
 - working headlights, taillights, brake lights and turn signals
 - safety belts, mirrors
 - clear windshield without cracks through the line-of-sight; and
 - doors which open and close properly.
2. You must show your vehicle registration.
3. You must show that your car is insured.
4. If your car is unsafe, you may not take the driving test.
5. Driver license receipts are valid for one year and three test attempts are permitted within that one year period.



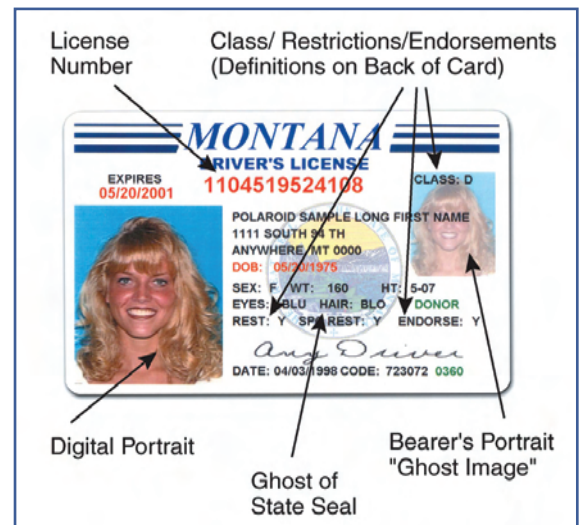
Facts about your license.

When you have a driver's license, you should REMEMBER:

- You must have your license with you when you drive and you must give it to a police officer if they ask for it.
- Your driving record starts with your first driver license. All the information on your motor vehicle record is part of your permanent driving record. From year to year and from state to state your driving record is for life.
- You must not let another person use your driver license.

- Your first driver license is good until your 21st birthday.
If you are 21 years of age when you obtain your first license, it will be good for eight years from your last birthday.

- Your driver's license expires on your birthday.
- You may renew up to six months before the expiration date of your driver license.



- If your birthday passes and you have not renewed, your driving privilege stops on your birthday. If you are found driving after your birthday, you are driving in violation of the law and are eligible for a citation.
- If you do not get a new license three months AFTER your birthday, you must take and pass the written and driving tests again.
- You may have only ONE valid driver license at any time.
- If a Montana resident has a driver license from another state, it is only valid for 60 days. Commercial licenses are valid for 30 days.

NEW NAME or NEW ADDRESS

If you have a driver license and you change your NAME or ADDRESS, you must NOTIFY THE DRIVER SERVICES, FIELD OPERATIONS BUREAU, WITHIN 10 DAYS.

LOST LICENSE

If your license is **LOST OR DESTROYED**, report it to the police. A duplicate license will cost \$10.

Go to the driver licensing office and **APPLY FOR A DUPLICATE**.

You will need an original or certified copy of your birth certificate to get a duplicate license.

Only a licensed driver may drive your car. The driver and the owner of the car may be arrested if an unlicensed driver is allowed to drive it.

Vehicle License Plates and Vehicle Registration

Every motor vehicle must have front and back license plates.

Montana law requires that all vehicles must have license plates and be registered.

You must carry your registration slip and proof of liability insurance **IN YOUR VEHICLE**.

The registration slip is good for one year from day of application.

When vehicles are bought or sold, new registration is required.

You must show your registration, insurance card and driver license to an officer who asks for it.



SELF TEST Section 1 Understanding Your License

Directions: Choose only one answer.

1. Many drivers get into serious trouble while driving a vehicle because:
 - a. they forget to carry their license while driving.
 - b. they do not understand or inform themselves of the legal responsibilities of having their license.
 - c. they do not show their license when demanded by an officer.
 - d. they use their license for identification when cashing bad checks.

2. If you move, you must report your change of address to the Field Operations Bureau within:
 - a. two weeks
 - b. 15 days
 - c. 10 days
 - d. one month

3. Parents, when signing for their child under 18 years of age are indicating:
 - a. that their child had passed a driver's education course.
 - b. that their child is a careful driver.
 - c. that they are affirming their child's correct date of birth.
 - d. that they are accepting financial responsibility for any damage as a result of the minor operating a motor vehicle.

4. What is the earliest a Montana Driver's License can be renewed prior to the license expiration date?
 - a. 3 months
 - b. 6 months
 - c. 9 months
 - d. 12 months

5. When you go to take your driver licensing tests:
 - a. you must have your birth certificate (an original or certified copy)
 - b. you do not need any identification
 - c. you must go with your driver education teacher
 - d. you need to have fire and theft insurance

6. If you want to take the driving test and your car is not safe:
 - a. you may not take the driving test
 - b. you may take the test and get the trouble repaired later
 - c. you may borrow a driver education car
 - d. you must go with your parent

7. If you need to wear glasses to pass the vision test:
 - a. you will need to wear them at night
 - b. you will be required to wear them while driving
 - c. you may wear them only when you feel like it
 - d. you will need to have them in the car

8. Before you may get a learner's license you must:
 - a. pass the written test
 - b. ask the doctor if you may drive
 - c. be 18 years old
 - d. have collision insurance

9. Every driver must have proof of vehicle liability insurance:
 - a. if they have a crash
 - b. in their vehicle when driving
 - c. at home in a safe place
 - d. if they hit a deer on the road

10. Drivers must have their vehicle registration:
 - a. in their vehicles
 - b. at home in a safe place
 - c. at the insurance company
 - d. at the county courthouse

11. When any vehicle is bought or sold, the owner must:
 - a. keep the old registration card for five years
 - b. get a new registration card
 - c. use the old registration card
 - d. renew their driver license

12. If you transport hazardous types of materials:
 - a. you may need a hazardous material endorsement if the vehicle you are operating requires placards
 - b. you will need a Class D license
 - c. you do not need any special license
 - d. you can drive only at night

13. A Learner's License lets a person:
 - a. practice in a driver education car only
 - b. drive any time by themselves
 - c. drive only if they have a licensed driver in the front seat beside them
 - d. practice only in a parking lot