

Quick tips

for parents of beginning teen drivers



HOUSE RULES COMMON FOR TEENAGE DRIVERS

The graduated licensing law sets restrictions on beginning teenage drivers. But many parents – nearly 80 percent – apply their own “house rules” that go beyond what Washington law requires.

According to the 2005 PEMCO Northwest Insurance Poll, 16 percent of Washington parents enforce a curfew, requiring their children to be home by a certain time. Approximately 12 percent require their teenagers to maintain good grades (typically described as a 3.0 grade-point average) to keep their driving privileges.

Other house rules include:

- No driving at night or in bad weather (9 percent of parents)
- Driving is permitted only to school or work (7 percent)
- Parents must know where the kids are going and who they’re with (6 percent)
- No eating or using cell phones while driving (4 percent) (Read PEMCO’s news releases about [eating](#) and [cell phones](#).)
- Teen drivers must pay for their own gas, insurance, and repairs (4 percent).

Parents of the latter group say that when teens pay out of their own pockets, they drive more carefully to avoid expensive tickets or accidents.

PEMCO encourages parents to take an active role in enforcing the graduated licensing law, and also to consider using house rules for their teenage drivers. Graduated licensing sets uniform expectations for all 16- and 17-year-olds, but parents know the rewards and consequences that can best motivate their own children.

The PEMCO Poll revealed other house rules used by Washington families:

- Lose car privileges if you get a ticket
- No driving friends around
- Never let a friend drive the car
- Household chores must be done before borrowing the car
- No driving out of town unless agreed to in advance
- No radio or music in the car for the first six months.

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