Wisconsin Drivers License Guide
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Obtaining your Wisconsin driver’s license is one of the most gratifying moments in your life.

The purpose of this guide is to make sure you receive your license quickly and easily. Getting your driver’s license in Wisconsin should be a smooth process that only requires knowledge and preparation. That is where we come in; we are here to help you understand the application and preparation process.

The organization of this guide helps you review topics as quickly as possible while covering a wide array of necessary information. Filled with information, our guide includes topics on obtaining your teen driving license, standard driver’s license or ID card. Our guide also covers the procedures for renewal, replacement or information updates on these identification options. We will make getting ready to drive on Wisconsin roads a simple and convenient process.
All Drivers

Before applying for your first driver’s license, you must understand the responsibilities associated with operating a vehicle. A driving license is a privilege granted by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), a branch of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT). With irresponsible vehicle operation, you can receive a suspension or complete revocation of your driving privileges. If you are a young or new driver, you can apply for an instruction permit or a probationary driving license as a way to familiarize yourself with road regulations and vehicle operation. Such licenses require supervision and restrictions to help facilitate a safe driving environment.

DMV Tests

Passing any tests required by the DMV helps the state determine if you are ready to begin your journey with a standard or beginner’s license. Starting your driving journey at a younger age can help you become a safe and responsible Wisconsin driver in the years to come. Continue reading below for more information on the required tests administered by the Wisconsin DMV.

Vision Exam

Getting your vision checked before you obtain your learner’s permit or driver’s license ensures that you are capable of driving with or without glasses or corrective contact lenses. You must have 20/40 vision with a field of vision of at least 70 degrees. If you fail your vision exam, you may receive a referral to visit a vision specialist for corrective lenses and further evaluation. A vision specialist will fill out a Certificate of Vision Examination form and submit it to the DMV.

The vision specialist can help determine if you need corrective eyewear or certain driving restrictions to accommodate for your vision. If you have a prolonged or degenerative vision condition, you may need to perform these tests and visits with a vision specialist regularly. If the approveres your vision for driving, you may retake the vision exam to continue your journey in applying for a Wisconsin driver’s license.
Knowledge Exam

A knowledge exam, sometimes referred to as a written exam, is a necessary step for many Wisconsin residents who wish to operate a vehicle. Residents applying for an instruction permit must pass a knowledge test to complete the application process. Wisconsin applicants may click here for more information on the types of applicants that require knowledge testing. The Wisconsin DMV offers the knowledge exam at testing centers on touch-screen computers. Applicants may locate their nearest testing center here. Knowledge driving tests do not require appointments, and applicants may walk in to any office to complete the exam.

The Wisconsin DMV offers an online practice test so hopeful drivers may prepare for the knowledge exam. Applicants should also study the Motorists’ Handbook issued by the WisDOT to understand the topics covered by the test. Applicants can review their knowledge of road rules, traffic signs and other important driving tips before taking the test. It is important that applicants study and prepare for the knowledge exam, because the DMV have restrictions on the amount of times drivers may take the exam.

Currently, drivers may take the knowledge test up to five times in one year. For any additional attempts in the one-year period, drivers must receive special permission from the DMV. With the additional attempts, the DMV requires applicants to provide proof that they have received additional help to improve their chances of passing the knowledge exam. Knowledge exams can take up to 45 minutes to complete, so drivers should plan their visit accordingly to provide adequate testing time. The DMV offers knowledge exams in a variety of languages and audio assistance options.
Driving Skills Test

Taking a driving test is necessary for the DMV to determine your practical driving skills. The first part of the exam, which includes a safety check, will show the examiner that you have a safe vehicle that meets Wisconsin state standards. When you go to take your driving test, you must provide an insured vehicle that passes DMV safety requirements. Continue to read the paragraphs below to understand better what will happen during your test from start to finish.

To begin, you must make an appointment with the DMV office by visiting a DMV office in person, by phone or online with the WisDOT DMV website. When scheduling an appointment by phone, you should call the center closest to you. You cannot make appointments more than 11 weeks in advance, but you may check availability frequently to see if the DMV has any new openings. If you need to cancel your appointment, you must do so within 24 hours or face a $15.00 fee. The driving skills exam costs $15.00, regardless if you pass or fail the exam.

This the first part of the driving test involves an inspection of important car functions. If the chosen vehicle does not meet safety standards, applicants cannot use the vehicle to complete the driving skills examination. The inspection will ensure that your vehicle functions properly and does not pose a risk to you or other drivers on the road. The inspector will examine the following items:

- Brake lights and brakes.
- Tires.
- Tail lights, headlights and license plate lights.
- Windows.
- Exhaust System.
- Speedometer.
- Horn.
- Mirrors.
- Safety belts.
- Windshield wipers and defroster, if necessary for the testing conditions.
Once the road test begins, the examiner will judge and grade you based on your ability to obey instructions, perform tasks and safely operate the vehicle. Your exam instructor may ask you to perform any of the following tasks as part of the driving skills exam:

- Lane changes
- Following traffic
- Parallel parking
- Backing up
- Passing
- Making a U-turn
- Pulling over
- Turning

For more details on driving skill tasks and grounds for automatic test failure, you may review the driving handbook or study guide.

If you fail your driving skills exam, you may reschedule a new at least seven days after the test and depending on the availability of appointments. If you do not show up for your appointment, the DMV will make this as a failed test attempt and you must pay the $15 fee. The driving exam instructor will provide feedback so you may improve your skills for the next attempt.
Driving With a Disability or Medical Condition

If you are a resident with a disability or medical condition, you may apply for a driver’s license. When necessary, you or your doctor must submit a Medical Examination Report (MV3644), a Certificate of Vision Examination by Competent Authority (MV3030V) or other evaluation as determined by the Medical Review & Fitness Unit. When applying for any available driving credentials, you must pass a knowledge test, a driving skills exam and a vision screening as necessary. If you required special or modified equipment to operate a vehicle, you should check with the DMV requirements and restrictions before ordering and installing the equipment. Click here for more information on permits and license plates for disabled drivers and passengers. The DMV also provides a form that residents, law enforcement or certified medical professionals may use to report an unsafe driver. Residents may read more about driving with a disability or medical condition here.
Teen Drivers

If you are a teenager on the brink of entering adulthood, you can apply for a beginner’s license provided by the DMV to help you gain your independence. The sections below will outline the types of licenses you may apply for as well as the necessary documents and associated fees. It is important that you carefully read each step and fully understand the application process to prepare for the responsibilities of the road. By completing these, you will take those first steps towards becoming a safe and educated driver. The state of Wisconsin offers a Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL) program in which you hold an instruction permit and then a probationary driver’s license. These types of licenses are not restricted to teens, although applicants of different age ranges have different requirements.

Step 1: Instruction Permit

A Class D instruction permit is a type of Wisconsin driving permit that allows teens to practice driving with supervision and restrictions. Applicants of all ages must:

- Provide [proof of U.S. citizenship or legal presence](#). The DMV will not accept photocopies of these documents.
- Submit [original proof of name and birth date](#). The DMV will not accept photocopies of these documents.
- Provide proof of identity. The DMV provides a list of accepted documents [here](#).
- Submit a completed driver’s license application [MV3001](#). Drivers may download the form, receive it from a DMV location or fill out the application [online](#).
- Pass the road sign, knowledge and vision exams.
- Present payment for a Class D instruction permit.
In addition to the standard requirements listed above, applicants younger than 18 years of age must:

- Be at least 15-and-a-half years of age.
- Be enrolled in a driver education program approved by the DMV. The class instructor must complete the necessary section on the license application document (MV3001). Applicants must take their first behind-the-wheel course within 60 days of the date listed by the instructor on the license application.
- Have the signature of a parent, sponsor or guardian.
- Attend school, homeschool or a high school program. Instruction permit applicants may hold a high school diploma or an equivalent degree. Habitual truants cannot apply for an instruction permit while under the age of 18.
Drivers at least 18 years of age or older they must provide proof of Wisconsin residency. Instruction permit applicants may use the credentials for 12 months and renew or replace the card when necessary. Drivers who do so must prove that they are currently taking a certified course or that they passed the required driver's education classes. Class D instruction permits cost $35. Applicants may make payments by cash, checks, credit cards or debit cards. The DMV currently accepts Visa, Discover, American Express and MasterCard payments, although the DMV charges a convenience fee for all card payments. Driver should make all checks out to Registration Fee Trust when submitting payment. The Wisconsin DMV will issue a 45-day, temporary driving permit and mail out the official permit.

**Restrictions**

When you gain your instruction permit, you must follow the restrictions established by the Wisconsin DMV. You may only operate a vehicle with a driver who holds a standard license with two years of driving experience. Your supervising driver must at least 19 years of age and be your parent, guardian, spouse or certified driving instructor. You may also drive with a motorist 21 years of age or older, as long as this supervising driver has two years of driving experience and a standard Class D license. If you are under the age of 18 and wish to drive with a licensed driver 21 years of age or older, this driver must have written authorization from your guardian or parent.

**Step 2: Probationary License**

After obtaining an instruction permit, teen drivers may obtain a probationary driver’s license issued by the Wisconsin DMV. A probationary license is the first license issued to all Wisconsin driving license applicants and the second step for teens in the GDL program. This type of license has certain restrictions that applicants must follow based on their age, although it otherwise functions like a Class D driver’s license. One important distinction between a probationary license and a standard driving license is that a probationary license has a slightly different points system. Drivers with a probationary license receive double the amount of points for a moving violation after their first conviction.
Residents younger than 18 years of age applying for a probationary license must:

- Be at least 16 years of age.
- Provide proof of U.S. citizenship or legal presence. The DMV will not accept photocopies of the accepted documents.
- Complete and pass a driver education course before submitting their application.
- Hold an instruction permit for six months. Applicants must also not have any traffic violations for six months.
- Have a parent or guardian provide sponsorship for their application.
- Submit a completed driver’s license application. Submit a log detailing at least 30 hours of behind-the-wheel driving practice. Ten hours of required 30 hours must be night-driving practice. Adult sponsors or a certified driving instructor must confirm the practice in a driving log.
- Attend school, homeschool or a high school program. Probationary license applicants may hold a high school diploma or an equivalent degree. Habitual truants cannot apply for a probationary license while under the age of 18.
- Receive a passing grade on the driving skills exam.
- Submit payment for license fees.
The probationary license is valid for two years from the applicant’s next birthday. Class D probationary licenses cost $28. Applicants may make payments by cash, checks, credit cards or debit cards. The DMV currently accepts Visa, Discover, American Express and MasterCard payments, although the DMV charges a convenience fee for all card payments. Driver should make all checks out to “Registration Fee Trust” when submitting payment. The Wisconsin DMV will issue a temporary driving license and mail out the official permit. The temporary permit is only valid for 45 days.

Restrictions
Teen motorists younger than 18 years of age must follow the restrictions of the probationary license established by the DMV. For the first nine months of holding the probationary license, drivers under the age of 18 have restrictions on hours of operation and passengers. From 5 a.m. to midnight, teens may drive by themselves and to any destination. During this window of time, teens may drive with any amount of immediate family members. Teens may also drive one person with two years of driving experience and a standard Class D license—this person must be a driving instructor or spouse at least 19 years of age or a person 21 years of age or older. Additionally, drivers may operate the vehicle with one other person, such as a non-immediate family member or a friend.

From midnight to 5 a.m., teens with a probationary license may drive alone only if they are travelling to school, work or home. During this time, teens may transport any of the passengers listed in the paragraph above. From midnight to 5 a.m., teens may drive anywhere else only if they have a supervising driver. The supervising driver must be a person with two years of driving experience and a standard Class D licenses. This driver may be:

- A parent, guardian or spouse. The spouse must be at least 19 years of age.
- A driving instructor at least 19 years of age.
- A driver 21 years of age or older.
Additionally, teens may drive with immediate family members and one additional person.

The Wisconsin DMV may extend these restrictions for moving violations and license suspensions. For more information on the extension of probationary license restrictions, teens may review the Motorists’ Handbook issued by the Wisconsin DMV.
Getting your first Wisconsin driver’s license is an important step, no matter if you are a new resident, an adult who has never held a driver’s license or a teenage participating in the GDL program.

Depending on your previous driving experience, the application requirements can change. A probationary license is the first type of driving license that most applicants receive, regardless of age. However, if you are not yet 18 years of age, your probationary driver’s license has certain restrictions. Continue reading below to learn how to get a Wisconsin driving license as an adult.
First Driver’s License

If you are at least 18 years of age but have never held a driving license or permit, you must apply for an instruction permit and hold the credential for seven days. You may use the instructional permit for 12 months and renew or replace the card, if necessary. You may renew in person or online, if eligible.

Instruction Permit

To apply for an instruction permit as an adult, you need to:

- Provide proof of U.S. citizenship or legal presence. The DMV will not accept photocopies of the documents.
- Submit original proof of name and birth date. The DMV will not accept photocopies of the documents.
- Provide proof of identity. Click here for accepted documents.
- Submit a completed driver’s license application (MV3001). You may download the form, receive it from a DMV location or fill out the application online.
- Pass the road sign, knowledge and vision exams.
- Present payment for a Class D instruction permit.
- Provide proof of Wisconsin residency.
When you gain your instruction permit, you must follow the restrictions established by the Wisconsin DMV. You may only operate a vehicle with a driver who holds a standard license with two years of driving experience. Your supervising driver must at least 19 years of age and be your parent, guardian, spouse or certified driving instructor. You may also drive with a motorist 21 years of age or older, as long as this supervising driver has two years of driving experience and a standard Class D license.

Class D instruction permits cost $35. Applicants may make payments by cash, checks, credit cards or debit cards. The DMV currently accepts Visa, Discover, American Express and MasterCard payments, although the DMV charges a convenience fee for all card payments. Driver should make all checks out to Registration Fee Trust when submitting payment. The Wisconsin DMV will issue a temporary driving permit and mail out the official permit. The temporary permit is only valid for 45 days.
Probationary License

After holding the instructional permit for seven days or more, you may move on to the next step and apply for a probationary license. A probationary license is the first license issued to Wisconsin driving license applicants. This type of license functions like a Class D driver’s license, although a probationary license has a slightly different points system than a standard license. If you hold a probationary license, you will receive double the amount of points for a moving violation after your first conviction. To apply for a probationary driver’s license in Wisconsin as an adult, you must:

- Submit a completed driver’s license application (MV3001). You may download the form, receive it from a DMV location or fill out the application online.

- Provide proof of U.S. citizenship or legal presence. The DMV will not accept photocopies of the documents.

- Submit original proof of name and birth date. The DMV will not accept photocopies of the documents.

- Provide proof of identity. Click here for accepted documents.

- Provide proof of Wisconsin residency.

- Pass the driving skills exam. For more details on driving skill tasks, you may review the driving handbook or study guide.

- Submit payment for a probationary driver’s license.
Getting a Driver’s License as a New Resident

If you are a new Wisconsin resident, one important task you must perform is transferring your out-of-state driving credentials. You must make sure to complete this transfer no more than 60 days after establishing Wisconsin residency.

The Wisconsin DMV will issue a Class D license or a Class D probationary license, depending on your age, driving experience and the validity of your current license. If you are younger than 21 years of age, have less than three years of driving experience or your out-of-state license is expired by at least six months, you will receive a Class D probationary license. If none of the exceptions applies to you, the DMV will issue a standard Class D driver’s license.

If you are transferring out-of-state credentials and applying for your first Wisconsin driver’s license you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age. A driver’s education course if not necessary if you are 18 or older.
- Provide proof of Wisconsin residency.
- Provide proof of U.S. citizenship or legal presence. The DMV will not accept photocopies of the accepted documents.
- Submit a completed driver’s license application.
- Provide you Social Security Number.
- Pass a vision exam. If your current driver’s license is expired for more than eight years, you must also complete the knowledge and skills tests.
- Submit payment for license fees.
- Submit your out-of-state credentials to the Wisconsin DMV.
- Provide proof of identity. Click here for accepted documents.

The probationary license is valid for two years from the applicant’s next birthday. Class D instruction permits cost $28. Applicants may make payments by cash, checks credit cards or debit cards. The DMV currently accepts Visa, Discover, American Express and MasterCard payments, although the DMV charges a convenience fee for all card payments. Driver should make all checks out to Registration Fee Trust when submitting payment. The Wisconsin DMV will issue a temporary driving license in person and mail out the official permit. The temporary permit is only valid for 45 days. When the probationary license expires, drivers may renew their license and receive a standard Class D driver’s license.
You must submit your application in person at a local DMV office and take a picture for your new state license. Also, the DMV will not accept photocopies of submitted documents.

Note: If you are at least 16 years of age but younger than 18, you may apply for a Wisconsin driver's license by performing additional steps. You must hold a driver's license or an instruction permit for at least six months without any traffic violations. You must also complete a driver's education course that offers hand-on driving lessons and classroom training. Your parent or guardian must complete the sponsorship section on the license application. If you are younger than 18 years of age and you hold a learner's permit from another country or state, you must follow the steps for the GDL program.

**Fees**

Fees for transferring an out-of-state license vary depending on the type of driver's license issued. A probationary license for Class D driving costs $28. A standard Class D driver's license costs $35. Applicants may make payments by cash, checks, credit cards or debit cards. The DMV currently accepts Visa, Discover, American Express and MasterCard payments, although the DMV charges a convenience fee for all card payments. Driver should make all checks out to Registration Fee Trust when submitting payment. The Wisconsin DMV will issue a temporary driving license in person and mail out the official permit. The temporary permit is only valid for 45 days. When the probationary license expires, drivers may renew their license and receive a standard Class D driver's license.

The Wisconsin DMV offers an electronic guide to help residents determine what documents they still need for their license application. Drivers may click [here](#) for the guide.
Renewing Your License

Driver’s license renewal is an important task that all Wisconsin drivers must perform. Motorists who do not renew their credentials can face legal or financial consequences for driving without a valid license. Probationary licenses expire two years after the applicant’s next birthday. Standard Class D licenses have a renewal period every eight years on the driver’s birthday. The Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles offers in-person driver’s license renewal for standard driver’s licenses, although online and mail options exist is specific scenarios.
In Person

When renewing your driver’s license, you must visit a Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles office. For eight-year driver’s licenses, you may renew the credentials up to one year before the expiration date. If you currently hold a probationary driver’s license, you may complete the renewal process up to 90 days before it expires. The Wisconsin DMV will send a renewal notice to the address on file 45 to 60 days before the date of expiration. To renew your driving license, you must:

- Present a complete license application in person at a DMV office. You may download the form (MV3001), receive it from a DMV location or fill out the application online.
- Provide proof of U.S. citizenship or legal presence. The DMV will not accept photocopies of the accepted documents.
- Provide proof of identity. Click here for accepted documents.
- Pass a vision exam. Knowledge and skill exams are only necessary if your license is expired for more than eight years. Medical exams may be necessary to determine driving competence, if necessary.
- Submit payment for renewal fees.
- Take a new photograph for your license.

A standard Class D driver’s license renewal costs $34. The DMV will charge a late fee of $5 if motorists do not renew their credentials by their birthday in the expiration year. Applicants may make payments by cash, checks, credit cards or debit cards. The DMV currently accepts Visa, Discover, American Express and MasterCard payments, although the DMV charges a convenience fee for all card payments. Driver should make all checks out to Registration Fee Trust when submitting payment.

The Wisconsin DMV will issue a temporary driving license in person and send the official license by mail. The temporary permit is only valid for 45 days. When the probationary license expires, drivers may renew their license and receive a standard Class D driver’s license.
Online
Online license renewal is only available to certain drivers with a probationary license. To check your eligibility, you may use the electronic Driver’s License Guide. You must let the guide access your DMV records to view your eligibility.

By Mail
Options to renew driving credentials by mail are only available to out-of-state drivers, including active duty military personnel. Drivers must make sure to complete all required parts of the out-of-state renewal procedure, otherwise the DMV will not process the renewal request. Drivers may renew their standard license up to one year before the expiration date. Residents with a probationary license make submit the renewal up to 90 days before expiration. Drivers who previously renewed online or by mail cannot renew by mail again, nor can motorists renew by mail if their most recent license does not display an updated photograph. To renew by mail, residents must:

- Complete a driver’s license application and fill out the mailing address section with their out-of-state address.
  - Motorists may download form MV3001 by clicking [here](#).

- Complete an eye exam no more than 90 days before submission.
  - Drivers may submit the Certificate of Vision Examination by Competent Authority ([MV3030V](#)) form or fill out the appropriate section on the license application.

- Send a statement that includes the reason for being out of state, the departure, return dates to Wisconsin, an out-of-state mailing address and contact information.

  - Send a statement that includes the reason for being out of state, the departure, return dates to Wisconsin, an out-of-state mailing address and contact information.

- Provide proof of residency.
  - The DMV requires a photocopy or original document that includes the driver’s Wisconsin address and name.

- Provide proof of identity.
  - The DMV will accept photocopies of the necessary documents.

- Submit payment.
Drivers may submit payment by check or money order made payable to Registration Fee Trust. License renewal is $34, although drivers must submit payment for the $5 late fee if they do not submit their request by the expiration date.

When mailing their renewal paperwork by first class delivery, applicants may submit the renewal paperwork to:

WisDOT
Driver Eligibility Unit
P.O. Box 7995
Madison, WI 53707-7995

For faster delivery, overnight or priority delivery, residents may send the paperwork to:

WisDOT
Driver Eligibility Unit
4802 Sheboygan Ave., Room 809
Madison, WI 53702

The Wisconsin DMV will send the paperwork to the mailing address listed on the application and statement.
Active Duty Military

If you are currently enlisted in the military and on active duty, your license does not expire during enlistment. When you return to Wisconsin, your license will expire within 30 days of your return. If receive discharge orders from active duty, your license will expire within 90 days. You may renew by mail or contact the DMV for an extension on the date of expiration. To ask for an extension, you must send a statement that specifies you are on active duty and includes the following information:

- Your full name
- Current Wisconsin address
- Your date of birth
- A temporary mailing address

A relative or friend may submit this statement for you. You must renew your license in person. However, if you cannot visit a DMV office, you may renew by mail.
Updating Your License Information

After changing your name or moving to a new address, you must make sure to contact the Wisconsin DMV to update your driver's license and other DMV records. If you fail to update your name, your driver's license can no longer serve as a primary form of identification. Neglecting an address update means you may not receive important correspondence.

Name Changes

If you legally change your name through marriage, court order or divorce, you must change your name on your driver's license. Once you complete your official name change with the Social Security Administration, you may make update to drivers records in person at a DMV location. You must make the necessary name changes no more than 30 days after the update. To make the update, you must:

- Complete a driver’s license application. Download form MV3001 by clicking here.
- Provide proof of identity. The DMV may require proof of name, date of birth, residency and legal U.S. presence.
- Provide proof of residency. The DMV requires a photocopy or original document that includes the your Wisconsin address and name.
- Provide proof of identity. The DMV may require proof of name, date of birth, residency and legal U.S. presence.
- Bring proof of your name change.
- Submit payment.
- Surrender your old driver’s license.

A duplicate Class D driver’s license costs $14. Residents may make payments by cash, checks, credit cards or debit cards. The DMV currently accepts Visa, Discover, American Express and MasterCard payments, although the DMV charges a convenience fee for all card payments. Driver should make all checks out to Registration Fee Trust when submitting payment. The Wisconsin DMV will issue a temporary driving license in person and send the official license by mail. The temporary permit is only valid for 45 days.
Address Changes

If you move to a new address, it is essential that you update the address on your driver's license and other DMV records no more than 10 days after your move. The Wisconsin DMV allows you to update your address records by phone, by mail, or online. When making the changes to DMV records, you do not automatically update your physical license. Updating the information on your card requires an additional step. Examine the sections below that best suit your needs.

By Phone
You may change your driver's license address records by phone by calling 608-266-2353.

By Mail
In order to change your residential address by mail, send a letter to the Wisconsin DMV office requesting the change. You must provide you old address, new address and driver's license number and send the letter to:

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)
Division of Motor Vehicles
P.O. Box 7917
Madison, WI 53707-7917

You may contact your local DMV office for more details on mailing your address change request.

Online
To make your address change online, click here and follow the prompts. This only changes DMV records and does not issue a replacement license.

Making Changes to Your Physical Driver's License
When you request a driver's license change of address, you only update DMV records. If you wish to update the information on the license itself, you must visit a DMV location or go online to request a duplicate license. Continue reading the next section for more details on replacing your Wisconsin driver's license.
During your time as a licensed driver, you may need to request a duplicate driver’s license for a variety of reasons.

In the event of theft, loss or damage, you must replace your license as soon as possible to maintain driving privileges. If you legally change your name or gender, you must replace your license to reflect this change. If you move to a new place of residence, you can choose to update your physical credentials, although the DMV does not require immediate replacement. If you notice any errors on your driver’s license, you should contact the DMV for a replacement as soon as possible. Without proper licensing, you cannot operate your car without facing financial or legal penalties from law enforcement. Some duplicate license requests are available online, although most requests must take place in person at a DMV office so you can provide proof of the change.
In Person
You may visit a DMV office near you to order a duplicate license for any reason including information updates or replacement. When applying for a duplicate license in person at a DMV service provider, you must bring:

- A driver’s license application. You may download the form (MV3001), receive it from a DMV location or fill out the application [online](#).

- Proof of identity. Click [here](#) for accepted documents.

- Your Social Security Number. The DMV recommends that you bring your Social Security card.

- Proof of legal residence in the U.S., when necessary.

- Proof of name change, when applicable.

- A court order or doctor’s report for a gender change request.

- Documents to prove your date of birth. These documents are necessary to update incorrect birthdate information.

- Payment for duplicate license fees.
Online

Online driver’s license replacement is only available for eligible residents. In the case of a lost or stolen driver’s license, you should check online here to see the availability of online orders before visiting a DMV office. You may also check eligibility online to see if you may order an updated driver’s license after an address change.

By Mail

Depending on eligibility requirements, drivers currently living outside of Wisconsin may request a duplicate license by mail only if their original license is damaged or stolen. Out-of-state residents can include active duty military members. Licensees should first check if they are able to make the request online. Drivers who previously ordered a replacement license by mail in the previous 12 months may not request a duplicate by mail again, nor can motorists renew by mail if their most recent license does not display an updated photograph. Drivers requesting a replacement license by mail must:

- Have a current license and Social Security Number listed with the DMV.
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Fill out a driver’s license application form.
- Submit payment.

Fees

When ordering a duplicate license, you must submit a valid form of payment for your chosen method. A duplicate license costs $14. When you visit a DMV office in person, you may make payments with cash, checks, credit cards or debit cards. The DMV currently accepts Visa, Discover, American Express and MasterCard payments, although the DMV charges a convenience fee for all credit or debit card payments. When making payments by mail, you can only submit payments by check or money orders made payable to Registration Fee Trust. Online orders accept credit cards, debit cards and Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments. The Wisconsin DMV will issue a temporary driving license in person and send the official license by mail. The temporary permit is only valid for 45 days.
Reinstating Your License

Driver's license reinstatement is an important task you must complete after a license suspension or revocation.

You can temporarily lose your driving privileges for a variety of offenses, including Operating While Intoxicated (OWI), accumulating points on your driver's license and submitting false information for your license. License revocation and suspension both take away your driving privileges, but they have different penalties and reinstatement requirements.

The requirements for reinstatement can vary based on the type of violation and the severity of the offense. The DMV, along with the courts, will determine the suspension or revocation period and the necessary tasks you must complete before reinstatement. Depending on your eligibility, you may reinstate your license online, by mail or in person at a DMV service center. Reinstatement can include jail time, fees, submitting a proof of insurance form, attending a court hearing, installing an Ignition Interlock Device in your car or other penalties mandated by the DMV and Wisconsin courts.

Before completing your license reinstatement, you must make sure you are eligible for reinstatement. The DMV offers an online service that you can use to check the status of your driver's license. This tool will let you know if your license is valid or currently invalid through suspension, disqualification or revocation. You may also check the necessary reinstatement requirements online to see if you have any pending tasks that can interfere with your reinstatement. This online service will detail when you may apply for reinstatement. Continue reading below for all available methods for driver's license reinstatement.

You may review the Motorists' Handbook or Wisconsin point system for more details on offenses that can lead to a revoked or suspended license.
Online driver's license reinstatement is only available to eligible motorists. You may check your eligibility [here](#) and continue with the reinstatement process. When you reinstate your driving privileges online, you must make the necessary payments by credit card, debit card or an Automated Clearing House (ACH) service. If you need to visit a DMV office to finalize the reinstatement process, the system will notify you. If you can complete the entire process online, you will receive a temporary driving receipt that serves as a driver's license until you receive your official license from the DMV in the mail.

**By Mail**

If you are eligible to reinstate your license, you can choose to apply for reinstatement by mail. When you choose the by-mail option for reinstatement, you must have your driver's license in your possession and it cannot be expired. When you apply through the mail, you must write a letter and include your driver's license number, Social Security Number, current address, full name and date of birth. You must also include a check or money order issued to the Registration Fee Trust. Send all this information to:

Wisconsin Department of Transportation  
Driver Information Section  
4802 Sheboygan Avenue, Room 301  
P.O. Box 7983  
Madison, WI 53707-7983

You can check the status of your license online [here](#) or by calling 608-264-7133.
In Person

If you are eligible for reinstatement, you may visit your local DMV office to reinstate your license. When planning your trip to the DMV, make sure to arrive no later than 90 minutes before the office’s closing time. You must:

- Complete a driver’s license application. You may download the form (MV3001), receive it from a DMV location or fill out the application online.
- Bring proof of identity. Click here for accepted documents.
- Bring proof your date of birth and name.
- Show proof of legal residence in the U.S., when necessary.
- Payment for license reinstatement fees.
- Bring your adult sponsor, if you are younger than 18 years of age.

Active Duty Military

If you are currently enlisted in the military and on active duty, you may have relatives or friends submit your application for driver’s license reinstatement. Click here for more information.

Tip

If you need any information or clarification regarding your suspended license or under what condition it falls under, please contact the DMV at 608-264-7447 or through the email service.

Fees

When reinstating your driver’s license, you must submit payment for any necessary fees. The standard reinstatement fee is $60. If you received a license suspension or revocation for an OWI violation, you must pay $200. You reinstatement may include other fees not listed here, so you should speak with a DMV representative or check the eligibility requirements online for any additional fees. When you visit a DMV office in person, you may make payments with cash, checks, credit cards or debit cards. The DMV currently accepts Visa, Discover, American Express and MasterCard payments, although the DMV charges a convenience fee for all credit or debit card payments. When making payments by mail, you can only submit payments by check or money orders made payable to Registration Fee Trust. When you reinstate your driving privileges online, you must make the necessary payments by credit card, debit card or an Automated Clearing House (ACH) service.

Operating While Intoxicated (OWI)

Drivers who operate a vehicle with under the influence of alcohol or drugs can face serious operating while intoxicated (OWI) charges. Sometimes called driving under the influence (DUI) or driving while intoxicated (DWI), OWI traffic violations put the lives of all drivers at risk. Drivers younger than 21 years of age cannot have any alcohol in their system while operating a vehicle. Motorists with a Blood/Breath Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.08 or more will face severe penalties. Additionally, motorists driving with any controlled substance in their system can face OWI charges. Repeated OWI offenses have lower BAC limits and greater financial and criminal penalties. In 2010, Wisconsin increased penalties for OWI offenses. Drivers can read more about OWI laws here. Residents may check eligibility for license reinstatement by contacting the DMV or using the online eligibility tool.
Wisconsin ID Cards

If you are unable or unwilling to obtain a driver's license, it is important that you consider getting a state ID card.

An ID card serves as a primary form of identification for residents of all ages, although it does not grant driving privileges. You cannot hold an ID card and a driver's license at the same time—you must surrender one credential to apply for the other. State identification cards, similar to driver's licenses, require renewal every eight years and information updates when necessary. If you are 65 years of age or older, you can apply for an ID card that does not expire. Continue reading below for more information on obtaining a Wisconsin ID card.
Applying for an ID Card

When applying for your first ID card you must visit a DMV office in person. If you currently hold a driver’s license but wish to exchange it for an ID card, you might be eligible to make the request online if you have held a license for eight years. To apply for a Wisconsin ID card in person, you must:

- Complete an identification card application. You may download the form (MV3004), receive it from a DMV location or fill out the application online.

- Bring proof of identity. Click here for accepted documents.

- Bring proof your date of birth and name. Provide proof of Wisconsin residency.

- Show proof of legal residence in the U.S.

- Provide your Social Security Number.

- Submit payment.

A state ID costs $28, although it may be free if you are obtaining the card for voting purposes. If you can order an ID online, you must make the necessary payment by credit card, debit card or an Automated Clearing House (ACH) service. When applying in person at a DMV office, you may make payments with cash, checks, credit cards or debit cards. The DMV currently accepts Visa, Discover, American Express and MasterCard payments, although the DMV charges a convenience fee for all credit or debit card payments. Make any checks payable to the Registration Fee Trust.
ID Petition Process

The ID petition process is available to Wisconsin residents who need identification for voting purposes. Applicants must apply in person at a DMV location. Applicants may bring the following documentation to the DMV:

- **Proof of identity**
- **Proof of Wisconsin residency**
- **Proof of date of birth and name**
- **Proof of legal residence or U.S. citizenship**

Applicants should bring the documents they have to the DMV and fill out the necessary paperwork. The DMV will issue a photo identification card by mail. This ID is valid for 180 days.
Renewing, Updating and Replacing a Wisconsin ID Card

Similar to a driver’s license, you state identification card requires renewal and information updates. If you need to replace your ID card for any reason, you must make sure to inform the DMV and apply for a duplicate as necessary. If you move to a new address, you should make the changes within 10 days of your move. If you legally change your name, you must notify the DMV no more than 30 days after the change.

Name Changes

If you legally change your name through marriage, court order or divorce, you must change your name on your ID card. Once you complete your official name change with the Social Security Administration, you may make update to DMV records in person at a DMV location. You must make the necessary name changes no more than 30 days after the update. To make the update, you must:

- Complete an ID card application. Download form MV3004 by clicking here.
- Provide proof of residency. The DMV requires a photocopy or original document that includes the driver’s Wisconsin address and name.
- Provide proof of identity. The DMV may require proof of name, date of birth, residency and legal U.S. presence.
- Bring proof of your name change.
- Submit payment.

Surrender your old driver’s license.

A duplicate ID card costs $16. Residents may make payments by cash, checks, credit cards or debit cards. The DMV currently accepts Visa, Discover, American Express and MasterCard payments, although the DMV charges a convenience fee for all card payments. Driver should make all checks out to Registration Fee Trust when submitting payment. The Wisconsin DMV will issue a temporary ID in person and send the official card by mail.
Address Changes
If you move to a new address, it is essential that you update the address on your ID card and other DMV records no more than 10 days after your move. The Wisconsin DMV allows you to update address records phone, by mail, or online. When making the changes to DMV records, you do not update your physical license. Updating the information on your card requires an additional step.

By Phone
You may change your driver’s license address records by phone by calling 608-266-2353.

By Mail
In order to change your residential address by mail, send a letter to the Wisconsin DMV office requesting the change. You must provide your old address, your new address and your ID number and send the letter to:

Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)
Division of Motor Vehicles
P.O. Box 7917
Madison, WI 53707-7917

Online
To make your address change online, click here and follow the prompts.

Making Changes to Your Physical ID Card
When you request an ID card change of address, you make changes to electronic DMV records. If you wish to update the information on the card itself, you must visit a DMV location or go online to request a duplicate license.

Replacing or Renewing a State ID Card
Online replacement and renewal options are only available to eligible residents. Residents may click here for a full list of restrictions for online renewal or replacement requests. Residents will receive a temporary ID card after completing their online transaction. This DMV will mail out the official card within 10 business days. The online renewal or duplicate application requires residents to input:

- Their Wisconsin ID number.
- The last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN). Applicants may provide their full SSN if they cannot provide their full ID number.
- Their date of birth.
- Their zip code.
- A valid credit or debit card number. The DMV only accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.
When applying in person, applicants must bring:

- A completed ID card application. Residents may download form MV3004 by clicking here.

- Proof of identity. Drivers may use their previous ID card or driver’s license.

- An accepted method of payment.

When applying for renewal or replacement by mail, residents must send:

- A completed ID card application. Residents may download form MV3004 by clicking here.

- A check or money order.

Residents may mail their renewal or replacement request to:

WisDOT
P.O. Box 7995
Madison, WI 53707-7995

A duplicate ID card costs $16. ID card renewals cost $28. Residents may make payments by cash, checks, credit cards or debit cards. The DMV currently accepts Visa, Discover, American Express and MasterCard payments, although the DMV charges a convenience fee for all card payments. Online ID orders accept credit card, debit card or Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments. Residents should make all checks out to Registration Fee Trust when submitting payment.
Vehicle Safety Tips

Before getting behind the wheel, it is important that your vehicle is prepared for the trip. This means checking the safety features and making any needed changes to your vehicle to guarantee a safe drive.
Emergency Kit

One of the essentials to safe driving is having a basic emergency kit available in your vehicle at all times. This kit should include items such as water, extra batteries, rope, first-aid kit, matches and a whistle. During the winter months, it is also important to carry items such as blankets, non-perishable foods, extra gloves and socks, and a shovel.

Inclement Driving Weather

If you live in an area with snow or icy conditions during winter, you must take extra precautions when driving. Even rainy weather can create hazardous driving situations. Consider the below tips below to drive safely during inclement weather.

Do Not Rush!

Ice, snow and rain can create slippery and dangerous roads. Instead of driving fast and risking an accident as you hurry to get to your destination, try leaving a few minutes earlier than usual. This will allow you to drive slower and avoid other dangerous drivers without being late for an appointment. You should also slow down further back than you might normally do in favorable weather conditions so you can avoid abrupt and dangerous stops or turns.

Do Not Panic If You Skid or Slip

In the event that your vehicle does skid or slip while driving, make sure you do not panic and slam down on your brakes. Instead, apply slow and even pressure on your brakes until you stop. You must also gently steer your vehicle in the direction you need to go. You must not make sharp wheel turns or brake suddenly. Following this advice will prevent you from spinning further out of control.

Check Your Vehicle

Before you leave your house, make sure your vehicle’s controls, brakes, tank, tires, antifreeze, and exhaust are all in working order. You should make sure your tires are not worn down are too smooth, as poor tire tread can cause an accident. If you need to, you can replace your tires during the winter with snow tires or add snow chains to help provide safe driving conditions. It is also important that you remove all ice and snow from your car before you begin driving. You should never leave your windows icy or covered in snow, as this can obstruct your vision.
Drinking and Driving

Driving while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is a dangerous situation that can kill or severely injure drivers and passengers alike. You can prevent a tragedy by planning ahead and making responsible choices. Before you begin drinking, arrange for someone else to be the designated driver. If they also become intoxicated, it is important that you take a taxi. If you need to stop someone from driving while intoxicated, take away his or her keys and call for alternative transportation.

If you see someone who you suspect is drunk and showing signs of intoxication while driving – such as making wide turns, weaving, swerving, breaking erratically or turning abruptly – call 911 and contact authorities immediately. Make sure to avoid impaired drivers on the road to ensure your own safety. This could mean you pulling over until they are at a safe distance from your car.

Phone Use

Driving while using your cellphone is incredibly dangerous. Distracted driving can cause accidents, injury and death. Wisconsin legislation banned texting while driving and using cellphones in a construction zone. If you need to use your cellphone, you should pull over and come to a complete stop or wait until you get to your destination. Additionally, you can use a hands-free device to make calls while operating a vehicle. Click here for more information on cellphone use while driving in Wisconsin.
Things to Avoid

Driving is not always a relaxing experience. There are certain actions that can be both an annoyance and dangerous to you while driving on the road. Read the below tips to see potential behaviors and actions that can help you improve your driving experience.

Car Accidents

One way to avoid car accidents is to ensure that your vehicle is safe to drive. You should perform routine maintenance on things like your brakes, tires and steering. Tires may lose traction or inflation and you can easily lose control of your vehicle. You should also check to see that your brakes are functioning correctly or if they need any maintenance or replacement. You can take your vehicle to a mechanic or car dealership to make sure everything runs smoothly and safely.

Wasting Gas

If you drive often, start looking for ways to save on those expensive trips to the pump. You should avoid sudden acceleration and excessive speeding to make the most of your gasoline. Another way to save on gas is to make sure that your vehicle is functioning properly. You can do this by checking that your tires are properly inflated, your engine is well tuned, and that you use the correct type of fuel in your vehicle.

Aggressive Driving

Some drivers may exhibit dangerous and aggressive behavior while driving. Some of these aggressive driving tactics can include verbal or physical harassment of another motorist and unsafe vehicle operation. Aggressive driving can lead to reckless and dangerous behavior that can cause serious injuries on the road. Drivers should pay close attention to the road and avoid aggressive drivers when possible.
Official Forms

- Wisconsin Motorists' Handbook
- Wisconsin Identification Card Application (MV3004)
- Wisconsin Driver's License Application (MV3001)
- Certificate of Vision Examination by Competent Authority (MV3030V)
- Medical Examination Report (MV3644)
- Driver Condition or Behavior Report (MV3141)
- Driver Report of Accident (MV4002)
- Wisconsin Graduated Driver Licensing Supervised Driving Log
DMV

Hours and Locations

You may find your closest Division of Motor Vehicles Office by clicking here or using the DMV location tool. You may use this tool to find your local office address, fax number and telephone number.

You may contact the DMV by email through the email service tool.

Phone numbers:

- General driver’s license and ID card inquiries: 608-264-7447
- Medical concerns or impaired drivers: 608-266-2327
- Fax: 608-267-3812

The WisDOT Central office is located at:

Hill Farms State Transportation Building
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

For more contact options, click here.