

Staying Safe

A Program of the Racine County Traffic Safety Commission and...



Safe Sober



DRIVING IN OUR OLDER YEARS



Growing older is not a reason to stop driving. While aging may bring changes, recognizing your limitations, planning your trips, driving the right car, and taking care of yourself and your car can make you a safer, older driver. However, there may come a time when you have to stop driving. Know the signs and listen to your family and friends when they talk about your driving.

Biggest Risk Areas

- Yielding right of way merging
- Left turns
- Heavy traffic
- Backing up and parking
- Following too closely in traffic (tailgating)

Tune Up Yourself

- Regularly have your eyes checked
- Do flexibility exercises
- Take a Driver's Refresher Course from AAA, AARP
- Stay mentally active
- Contact your local Aging and Disability Resource Center to learn about driver refresher courses and other transportation resources.

Tune Up Your Car

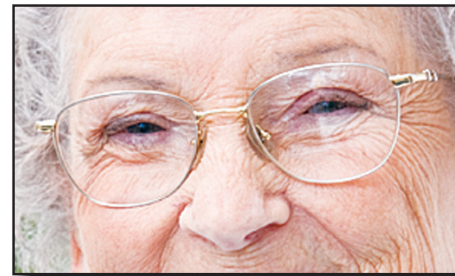
- Find good mechanics
- Check fluids, tire pressure when buying gas
- Do scheduled maintenance

Buy A Safe Car To Start With

- Power brakes, steering, seats, windows, door locks
- Automatic transmission
- Good line-of-sight, clear windshields, larger mirrors

DMV And Older Drivers

- No special testing now, but may change in the future
- Report from physician can cancel your license



SIGNS IT MAY BE TIME TO STOP DRIVING

- Have near misses or minor accidents
- Problems reading road signs
- Get lost in familiar areas
- Significant changes in health or medication
- Other drivers honk at you
- Surprised by other drivers or pedestrians
- Others comment on your driving

HAVE A SAFER TRIP

- Avoid poor conditions – rush hour, storms, night time, construction
- Pick well marked, lighted routes with easy parking
- Avoid left turn with no traffic signal
- Drive posted speeds. If slower than traffic, stay to the right
- Use seatbelts on all trips
- Adjust seats and mirrors for good visibility
- Consider using alternative transportation for longer or unfamiliar trips.

