

3. Car and Truck Registration and Safety

The state of Iowa and county governments are responsible for registering all Iowa motor vehicles.

Each car, truck, truck-tractor, trailer, motor home, motorcycle or moped is registered to its owner with a registration number and a license plate number. Each plate number refers to only one vehicle. If your vehicle is stolen, this information helps the police find and return your vehicle.

If you sell or trade your vehicle, you must take the plates off the vehicle. If you get another vehicle within 30 days, you can put those plates on that vehicle, but you must apply for a new title and registration for the replacement vehicle within 30 days of the date you bought it. If you do not replace the vehicle in 30 days, you must turn the plates in to your county treasurer.

New Vehicles

If you traded your old car or truck for a **NEW** car or truck, you can put the old plates on the new car or truck. To do this, you must pay the required tax and fees within 30 days. Most dealers will collect the fees and send the paperwork to the county treasurer for you. Then, when you pick up your new vehicle, the title and registration paperwork will already be done.

If you have never owned a vehicle in Iowa, or are trading one kind of vehicle for another (for example, a car for a motorcycle), the dealer may collect the fees and give you a "Registration Applied For" card. It is valid for 45 days and should be put on your car, truck, motorcycle or moped. Use it until your metal plates arrive.

If you take all the fees and paperwork to the county treasurer yourself, you can pick up your license plates right away.

If you are a non-resident, you must apply to the county treasurer in the county where the vehicle will be garaged or where the driver lives.

New Residents

If you are new to the state, you have 30 days from the time you move into the state to register your vehicle in Iowa.

Buying or Transferring a Used Vehicle

If you buy or trade a vehicle and do not go through a dealer, the procedure is the same. However, you will have to make sure the forms are filled out correctly.

If the vehicle is nine model years old or newer, make sure the seller completes the odometer statement on the back of the Iowa title. If there is not an odometer statement on the back of the title, the odometer statement form is available from the county treasurer or on line at www.iamvd.com (click on Office of Vehicle Services.) This is to make sure the mileage reading is accurate. Tampering with a vehicle's odometer or falsifying an odometer statement is a violation of state and federal laws. Punishment for breaking these laws can be a fine and/or prison sentence.

The seller must also provide a damage disclosure statement to the buyer when ownership of a motor vehicle is transferred. This statement, which must be given to the buyer at or before the time of sale, is required even though there has been no damage to the motor vehicle.

The damage disclosure statement is required for all motor vehicles except:

- motor trucks and truck tractors with a gross vehicle weight rating of 16,000 pounds or more;
- vehicles more than seven model years old;
- motorcycles;
- motorized bicycles;
- special mobil equipment; and
- new motor vehicles with a true mileage of 1,000 miles or less, unless the vehicle has sustained damage for which the cost of repair exceeds 50% of fair market value of the vehicle.

Damage: Damage must be disclosed if it exceeds 50% of the fair market value of the motor vehicle before it became damaged. The amount of damage shall be based on estimates of the RETAIL cost of repairing the vehicle, including labor, parts, and other materials if the vehicle has not been repaired; or on the ACTUAL RETAIL cost to repair, including labor, parts and other materials if the vehicle has been repaired. All repair charges, including sales tax, must be included.

Example: A vehicle had a retail value of \$22,000 at the time it was damaged and the cost to repair it was \$13,000. The cost to repair it is more than 50% of the retail value of the vehicle at the time it was damaged. Therefore, the "Yes" box in Section #1, Question #2, must be checked.

Fair market value refers to the average retail value found in the "National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Official Used Car Guide." NADA guides may possibly be available through a library, insurance agent, auto dealer, or at: <http://nadaguides.com/>.

The **seller** must complete if any of the following conditions apply:

- the Iowa title was issued prior to January 1, 2005;
- the Iowa title is not available;
- the face of the seller's Iowa title contains no indication that the vehicle was previously salvaged, titled as a salvage, rebuilt, or flood and the seller knows or reasonably should know that the vehicle was previously salvaged, titled as a salvage, rebuilt, or flood in another state; or
- the motor vehicle is a new vehicle sold in Iowa with 1,000 miles or less that has sustained damage exceeding 50% of its fair market value.

The buyer must complete if:

- the vehicle was purchased from a non-resident and that owner's state does not require a damage disclosure statement; or
- the vehicle was acquired through a transfer by operation of law.

Transfers of operation by law include the following: Inheritance, devise or bequest, dissolution decree, order in bankruptcy, insolvency, replevin, foreclosure or execution sale, abandoned vehicle sale, artisan's lien sale, landlord's lien, storage lien, judgement in an action for abandonment of a manufactured or mobil home, repossession.

You (the buyer) and the seller must complete the back of seller's title.

You then take the signed title and odometer statement to the county treasurer's office to pay the title, use tax and registration fees. You have 30 days from the date you purchased the vehicle to file these papers with the county treasurer. After 30 days you must pay a \$10 title penalty. The seller is required to tell the buyer where and when the vehicle was last registered.

Renewal (Vehicle Registration)

Vehicle registrations expire in your birth month. If you were born in May, the registrations on all your vehicles expire May 31. If you were born in January, all your vehicle registrations would expire January 31. There is a one-month grace period following the expiration date. This gives you time to get your registration renewed without a penalty or without getting a ticket.

If the vehicle you drive is owned by a corporation, its registration month is assigned by the county treasurer.

All trucks and truck-tractors with a gross weight of more than five tons will be registered on a calendar year basis. Their registrations will all expire on December 31 each year.

License plates are now being used for several years. When you renew your license plates, you will pay the required fee for each vehicle. When license plates are issued, you will be issued a validation sticker for the **rear** license plate of each vehicle. Put this sticker in the lower left corner of your **rear** license plate. Each year those plates are renewed, you will be given a new year validation sticker to place over the previous sticker.

Your registration receipt should be carried in your vehicle.

Credits and Refunds

If you trade, sell or junk your old vehicle before getting another one, you may be able to get credit on the registration fees you paid on your old vehicle and have it applied toward the registration fee of the replacement.

To do this you must:

- sell, trade or junk your vehicle;
- claim the credit within 30 days from the date the vehicle was sold, traded or junked;
- indicate that credit is due on your replacement vehicle title application (no credit will be given for amounts less than \$10.)

When you transfer a vehicle to a spouse, parent or child, you may also transfer the fee credit and plates. The relative you are transferring the credit and plates to must apply for the title within 30 days of the transfer. Write on the back side of the registration receipt that you are transferring fees and plates. If a motor vehicle is leased and the lessee purchases the vehicle when the lease expires, the lessor shall, within 30 days of the purchase, assign the registration fee credit and registration plates of the leased motor vehicle to the lessee if that assignment is requested by the lessee.

Refunds are made if:

- you sell or junk your vehicle;
- your vehicle was currently registered by the county treasurer and has since been registered with the Office of Motor Carrier Services;
- official errors and overcharges have been made;
- you put your vehicle in storage when you enter the U.S. Armed Services in time of war and you surrender your plates to the county treasurer for military storage before the end of your registration year; and
- the excess credit for your sold, junked or traded vehicle is \$10 or more.

To do this you must:

- file your claim at the county where your vehicle records are maintained;
- submit the registration plates for the sold or junked vehicle; and
- file your claim for a refund within six months of the date the vehicle was sold, traded or junked.

Refunds of less than \$10 will not be granted.

For further information, contact the Iowa DOT's Motor Vehicle Information Center at 800-532-1121.

Special Plates

Personalized license plates are available for most vehicles registered by the county treasurer.

For more information on specialized plates, contact your county treasurer or the Iowa DOT Motor Vehicle Information Center at 800-532-1121, or visit our Web site at dot.state.ia.us/mvd/ovs/index.

Change of Address

If you move, you must notify the county treasurer in the county where your vehicle is now registered. This must be done within 10 days. If you move out of the county, the treasurer where you are moving from will forward the records to the new county where you will be living.

Lost or Damaged Certificates, Cards and Plates

You can get replacement license plates from your county treasurer. The cost is \$5 for one or two plates.

If your certificate of title or registration is lost or damaged, apply to the county treasurer's office where the vehicle is registered. You will receive a duplicate copy of the original. A replacement title costs \$15 and a duplicate registration costs \$3.

Refusing Registration

A county treasurer can refuse to register your car, truck, motorcycle or moped if:

- you have an unpaid traffic ticket or parking violation;
- the application contains false information;
- there is no odometer certificate (for a title transfer);
- the required fees have not been paid;
- the county treasurer has reasonable grounds to believe that the vehicle is stolen or embezzled and issuance would constitute fraud against the rightful owner;
- if you are required to have SR;
- if the Child Support Recovery Unit has issued a certificate of noncompliance; or
- you are under the age of eighteen years and do not have an Iowa driver's license, unless you are part owner of a vehicle with a person eighteen years old or older.

Fines

You may have to pay a fine of \$10 to \$100 for registration violations.

Motor Vehicle Storage

If you are going to store your vehicle, you can turn the plates in to the county treasurer before your registration year expires. You will not have to pay yearly registration fees when the vehicle is stored for longer than a year. When you want to use it again you will only have to pay the current year's fees.

Persons With Disabilities

Parking Identification Permits

If you are disabled, you may qualify for a disability parking identification permit. A statement is required from your physician, chiropractor, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner on his or her letterhead stationery verifying you are disabled and whether the condition is temporary or permanent. Your condition must meet the criteria in the definition of a disabled person. There is no charge for the device. Organizations and persons in the business of transporting the disabled may obtain a persons with disabilities parking device. Contact your local driver's license station, county treasurer, or the Iowa Department of Transportation, Office of Vehicle Services, P.O. Box 9278, Des Moines, IA 50306-9278, for further information, or to apply for a disability parking device. Applications are available on line at www.iamvd.com (click on Office of Vehicle Services.)

Before You Drive - Vehicle Maintenance and Equipment

Before you drive, make sure your trip is needed. If you drive, your safety, and that of the public, depends a lot on what you do before driving. This includes adjusting your seat and mirrors, using seat belts, checking your vehicle, maintaining a clear view, and making sure there are no loose objects in your vehicle that could be a hazard.

Trip Planning

The cost of driving is not going down, but there are ways you can help reduce your driving costs. First, determine your overall transportation needs. For each trip determine if it is necessary. If so, there may be times you do not need to drive yourself. You might ride with someone else, or you could take public transportation if it is available.

The best way to prolong the life of your car and save on fuel is to use it as little as possible. Trip planning can make your life easier, and help cut down on your driving.

- Take public transportation when it is available.
- Avoid driving during heavy traffic. It causes extra wear and tear on you and the vehicle.
- Use car pools or share rides whenever possible.
- Plan and combine your trips. Make a list of the things you need and the places you need to go. Go to as many places as possible on any one trip. Take the shortest distance between places. Try to reduce the number of places you need to go. This will cut down on the number of trips you need to take.
- Call ahead to make sure what you need is available, or what you are picking up is ready.

By doing these things, you can help cut down on the amount of traffic on the road, cut your travel costs, and save yourself time and effort.

Check Your Vehicle

How safely you can drive starts with the condition of the vehicle you are driving. It is the duty of drivers to make certain the vehicles they drive are safe to operate. A vehicle that is in bad shape is unsafe and costs more to run than one that is well maintained. It can break down or cause a collision. Also, if a vehicle is in bad shape, you might not be able to get out of an emergency situation. A vehicle in good shape can give you an extra safety margin when you need it, and you never know when you will need it. You should follow the recommended maintenance schedule listed in the vehicle owner's manual. Following these preventive measures greatly reduces the chance your vehicle will have a problem.

A few simple checks will prevent trouble on the road.

Braking System

Cars and trucks need two separate brake systems, a foot brake and a parking brake. Motorcycles and mopeds need at least one. It is very dangerous if they are not working properly. If they do not seem to be working properly, are making a lot of noise, have an unusual odor, or the brake pedal goes to the floor, have a mechanic check them.

Lights

Make sure the turn signals, brake lights, taillights and headlights are operating properly. These should be checked from outside the vehicle. Brake lights tell other road users that you are stopping and turn signals tell them you are turning.

All cars and trucks need two headlights on the front of the vehicle: one on the right and one on the left. You also need at least one red light on the back of the vehicle. It should be visible for at least 500 feet. A white light to illuminate the rear license plate is also required.

If a vehicle is equipped with turn signals, they must work. Turn signals are required for all cars, trucks and trailers wider than 40 inches.

Backup lights and side running lights are not required, but are a good safety precaution.

Daytime running lamps (DRL) are beginning to appear on new model vehicles. DRL conversion kits are now available in after-market auto supply stores. Research has shown a reduction in accidents and fatalities when DRLs or headlights are used during daytime travel. It is also legal to use low beam headlights during daytime hours. This could help approaching vehicles see you better.

An out-of-line headlight can shine where it does not help you and may blind other drivers. If you are having trouble seeing at night, or other drivers are flashing their headlights at you constantly, have a mechanic check the headlights.

Windshield, Wipers and Clean Glass Surfaces

It is important that you are able to see clearly through all windows, including the windshield, and by using mirrors. Here are some things you can do to help you.

- Damaged glass can break more easily in a minor collision or when something hits the windshield. It can also obscure vision. Have the windshield replaced if it has been damaged.
- Any window or windshield must be made of safety glass and permit clear vision. Windshield wipers are required for all windshields.
- Iowa law requires tinted windshields and windows to the immediate right or left of the driver to allow 70 percent of the light through.
- Windshield wipers keep the rain and snow off the windshield. Make sure they are in good operating condition. If the blades have not been keeping the windows clear, replace them.
- Keep the windshield clean. Bright sun or headlights on a dirty windshield make it hard to see. Carry liquid cleaner and a paper or cloth towel so you can clean your windshield whenever it is necessary.
- Keep your window washer bottle full. Use antifreeze wash in areas where the temperature could fall below freezing.
- Keep the inside of your windows clean, especially if anyone has been smoking in the vehicle. Smoking causes a film to build up on the inside glass.
- Clear snow, ice or frost from **all windows**. Clean the front, side and back windows before you drive.
- Do not hang things from your mirror while driving your vehicle or clutter up the windshield with decals. They could block your view.
- Keep the headlights, backup, brake and taillights clean. Dirt on the lenses can cut the light's effectiveness by 50 percent.

Tires

Worn or bald tires can increase your stopping distance and make turning more difficult when the road is wet. Unbalanced tires and low pressure cause faster tire wear, reduce fuel economy, and make the vehicle harder to steer and stop. If the vehicle bounces, the steering wheel shakes, or the vehicle pulls to one side, have a mechanic check it.

Worn tires can cause "hydroplaning" (see page 42) and increase the chance of having a flat tire during a trip. Check tire air pressure with an air pressure gauge when the tires are cold. Check the vehicle owner's manual for the proper pressure.

Check tread with a penny. Stick the penny into the tread "head" first. If the tread does not come at least to the top of Lincoln's head, the tire is unsafe. You need to replace it.

Steering System

If the steering is not working properly, it is difficult to control the direction you want to go. If the vehicle is hard to turn or does not turn when the steering wheel is first turned, have the steering checked by a mechanic.

Suspension System

Your suspension helps you control your vehicle and provides a comfortable ride over varying road surfaces. If the vehicle bounces a lot, or keeps bouncing after a bump or after you stop, you may need new shocks or other suspension parts. Have a mechanic check it out.

Exhaust System

The exhaust system helps remove toxic gases from the engine, helps reduce noise from the engine, and helps cool the hot gases coming from the engine. Fumes from a leaky exhaust can cause death in a very short time. Never run the motor in your garage, or sit in the car with the motor running without opening a window.

Cut-outs, bypasses or similar devices are not allowed. Catalytic converters must be maintained in good working order. Fortunately, most exhaust problems are leaks which are easily heard. Have them fixed.

Engine

A poorly tuned engine may lose power that is needed for normal driving and emergencies; may not start; gets poor fuel economy; pollutes the air; and could stall on you when you are on the road causing a traffic problem. Follow the procedures recommended in the owner's manual for maintenance.

Loose Objects

Make sure there are no packages or other objects on the rear shelf or back seat that could hit someone on the head in the event of a sudden stop or accident. Make sure there are no objects on the floor that could roll under the brake pedal so you could not stop the vehicle.

Horn

The horn may not seem like it would be important for safety, but as a warning device, it could save your life. It should only be used as a warning to others. The horn must be loud enough to be heard at least 200 feet away, but should not make too loud or harsh a sound.

Mirrors

You must be able to see at least 200 feet behind you in your rearview mirror. If your view is blocked by a load, you must have an outside mirror. Vans or van-type vehicles must have both left and right outside mirrors.

Adjust Seat and Mirrors

You should always check the driver's seat and mirrors before you start to drive to make sure they are set right for you. Make any adjustments to the seat and mirrors before you drive.

- Adjust your seat so you are high enough to clearly see the road. If necessary, use a seat cushion. Do not move the seat so far forward that you cannot easily steer. In an air bag-equipped vehicle, there should be a 12-inch clearance between you and the steering wheel hub.
- Adjust your rearview mirror and side mirrors. You should be able to see out the back window with the rearview mirror, and to the sides with the side mirrors. A good adjustment for the side mirrors is to set them so that when you lean forward slightly, you can see the side of your vehicle.
- If you have a day/night mirror, make sure it is set correctly.
- Head restraints are designed to prevent whiplash if you are hit from behind. They should be adjusted so the head restraint touches the back of the head.

Seat Belts and Child Restraints



All passenger cars and pickup trucks manufactured since 1966 are required to have seat belts. They offer the best chance of survival and reduced injuries if you are in an accident. If you ride in the front seat, your chances of being seriously injured or killed in an accident are reduced at least 50 percent if you are wearing a seat belt.

Iowa law requires ALL drivers and other persons riding in the front seats of automobiles, trucks, motor homes or buses to wear seat belts or harnesses unless:

- The person is a child under 6 years old and is properly restrained in an approved child seat or belt. For optimum safety, it is recommended that children under age 12 not ride in the front seat whenever possible. Children required to use a front- or rear-facing safety seat should never be placed in the front passenger seat of a vehicle equipped with an active passenger-side air bag. See the section concerning the child restraint law on page 26.

- The vehicle is not required to have seat belts or harnesses.
- The driver or passenger must get in and out of the vehicle often to do his or her job, and the vehicle is not driven faster than 25 mph.
- The driver is a rural mail carrier delivering the mail between the first and last stops on the route.
- The passenger is riding on a bus.
- The driver or passenger is unable to wear a seat belt or safety harness for medical reasons. A person seeking an exemption from wearing seat belts or harnesses must have the need for that exemption certified by a physician on a form available from the Iowa DOT. The certification is valid for the maximum of 12 months, but can be renewed at the end of each 12-month period if necessary.
- The front seat passengers in a vehicle owned, leased, rented or primarily used by a physically disabled person who uses a collapsible wheelchair.
- The passenger is being transported by an authorized emergency vehicle in an emergency situation.

Wear your lap belt snugly across your hips. If you are pregnant, you can safely wear the belt across the pelvis, as low under your abdomen as possible.

In addition to protecting you from injury, as a driver, seat belts help you keep control of the vehicle. If you are struck from the side or make a quick turn, the force could push you sideways. You cannot steer the vehicle if you are not behind the wheel.

Seat belts should be worn even if the vehicle is equipped with air bags. While air bags are good protection against hitting the steering wheel, dashboard or windshield, they do not protect you if you are hit from the side or rear, or if the car rolls over. Also, an air bag will not keep you behind the wheel in these situations.

Some people still have incorrect information about using seat belts. For example:

“Seat belts can trap you inside a car.”

It takes less than a second to undo a seat belt. This information tells of a car that caught fire or sank in deep water. Accidents like this seldom happen. Even if they do, a seat belt may keep you from being “knocked out.” Your chance to escape will be better if you are conscious.

“Seat belts are good on long trips, but I do not need them if I am driving around town.”

Over half of all traffic deaths happen within 25 miles of home. Many of them occur on roads with speed limits of less than 45 mph.

“Some people are thrown clear in an accident and walk away with hardly a scratch.”

Your chances of not being killed in an accident are much better if you stay inside the car. Seat belts can keep you from being thrown out of your vehicle into the path of another one.

“If I get hit from the side, I am better off being thrown across the car; away from the crash point.”

When a car is struck from the side, it will move sideways. Everything in the car that is not fastened down, including the passengers, will slide toward the point of crash, not away from it.

“At slow speed, I can brace myself.”

Even at 25 mph, the force of a head-on crash is the same as pedaling a bicycle full speed into a brick wall or diving off a three-story building onto the sidewalk. No one can “brace” for that.

Child Restraint Law



1. ***A child under one year of age and weighing less than 20 pounds must be secured in a rear-facing child restraint system.***
2. ***A child under six years of age who does not meet the description in #1 must be secured by a child restraint system.***
3. ***A child at least six years of age but under eleven years of age shall be secured by a child restraint system or a safety belt or safety harness.***

All child restraint systems must be used in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.

Safety seats must meet federal motor vehicle safety standards and must be used properly.

There is a fine for violation of this law. The fine for the first violation can be waived by the court if you prove you have obtained a safety seat.

Supplemental Restraint Systems (Air Bags)

Air bags help save drivers and front seat passengers from death or serious injury in motor vehicle accidents. Please remember that wearing your seat belt is part of the supplemental restraint system. Your air bag is a **supplemental system**; alone it may not prevent serious injuries. Air bags may not inflate in side or rear-end crashes.

Handling Emergencies

All drivers sooner or later will find themselves in an emergency situation. As careful as you are, there are situations that could cause a problem. If you are prepared, you may be able to prevent any serious outcomes.

Brake Failure

If your brakes stop working, try the following things.

- Pump the brake pedal several times. This will often build up enough brake pressure to allow you to stop.
- If that does not work, use the parking brake. Pull on the parking brake handle slowly so you will not lock the rear wheels and cause a skid. Be ready to release the brake if the vehicle starts to skid.
- If that does not work, start shifting to lower gears and look for a safe place to slow to a stop. Make sure your car is off the roadway. Do not drive without brakes.

Many newer vehicles have ABS (antilock braking system). Be sure to read the vehicle owner’s manual on how to use the ABS. The ABS will allow you to stop without skidding. In general, if you need to stop quickly:

With ABS - If you have an antilock braking system and you need to stop quickly:

- Press on the brake pedal as hard as you can and keep pressing.
- You might feel the brake pedal pushing back when the ABS is working. Do not let up on the brake pedal. The ABS will only work with the brake pedal pushed down.

Without ABS - If you must stop quickly and you do not have an antilock braking system:

- You can cause the vehicle to go into a skid if you brake too hard.
- Apply the brakes as hard as you can without locking them.
- If the brakes lock up, you will feel the vehicle start to skid. Quickly let up on the brake pedal.
- As soon as the vehicle stops skidding, push down on the brake pedal again. Keep doing this until the vehicle has stopped.

In most cases, you can turn the vehicle quicker than you can stop it. You should consider turning in order to avoid an accident.

Make sure you have a good grip with both hands on the steering wheel. Once you have turned away or changed lanes, you must be ready to keep the vehicle under control. Some drivers steer away from one collision only to end up in another. Always steer in the direction you want to go.

With ABS -

- One aspect of having ABS is that you can turn your vehicle while braking without skidding. This is very helpful if you must turn and stop or slow down.

Without ABS -

- If you do not have ABS, you must use a different procedure to turn quickly. You also step on the brake pedal, but then you let up and turn the steering wheel. Braking will slow the vehicle some, and it puts more weight on the front tires and this allows for a quicker turn. Do not lock up the front wheels while braking or turn so sharply that the vehicle can only skid ahead.

Lights

If your headlights suddenly go out:

- try the headlight switch a few times;
- put on the emergency flashers, turn signals or fog lights if the headlights do not come back on when you try the headlight switch; and
- pull off the road as soon as possible.

Flat Tire

If a tire suddenly goes flat:

- hold the steering wheel tightly and keep the vehicle going straight;
- slow down gradually. Take your foot off the gas pedal and use the brakes lightly;
- do not stop on the road if at all possible. Pull off the road in a safe place; and
- if a front tire blows, the emergency may be more serious. A front tire blowout will jerk the car violently towards the side of the car with the flat. Be careful not to overcorrect when steering after a front tire blowout. Try to straighten the car out; then, gradually move to the right shoulder of the roadway as soon as possible.

Engine Stalls

If the engine stalls while driving:

- keep a strong grip on the steering wheel. The steering wheel will be difficult to turn, but you can turn it; and
- pull off the roadway. The brakes will still work, but you will have to push very hard on the brake pedal.

Stuck Gas Pedal

If the motor does not slow down, or speeds up when you take your foot off the accelerator:

- keep your eyes on the road;
- quickly shift to neutral;
- pull off the road when safe to do so; and
- turn off the engine.

Steering Lock Systems

Many vehicles are equipped with steering lock systems intended to prevent theft. However, some of these locking systems may pose a significant safety hazard if the key is removed from the ignition while the vehicle is being operated. Never remove the key or allow passengers to touch the key while driving. If the key is removed, the steering wheel will lock. This may cause loss of control of the vehicle and could result in serious vehicle damage or personal injury.

Before driving an unfamiliar vehicle, always check what type of locking system the vehicle is equipped with. If not, you may have difficulty removing the key from the ignition when the vehicle is parked.

Review Questions (Section 3)

T/F

- _____ 1. If you sell your car, you must remove the plates after you deliver the vehicle to the purchaser. **True/False**
- _____ 2. If you buy a new car, you may put your old plates on it if you send all fees to the county treasurer within seven days. **True/False**
- _____ 3. The seller of a car must give the purchaser the odometer statement and the license plates of the car he or she is selling. **True/False**
- _____ 4. You should keep your registration in a safe place in your car at all times. **True/False**
- _____ 5. Your county treasurer may help you in obtaining personalized plates. **True/False**
- _____ 6. You have 30 days after you move to notify your former county treasurer of your new address. **True/False**
- _____ 7. You will pay \$5 per vehicle to replace lost license plates. **True/False**
- _____ 8. If you wish to avoid paying a registration penalty when you store your vehicle, you should turn in your plates and registration card to the county treasurer before they expire. **True/False**
- _____ 9. When you have your vehicle's headlights on, you must also have a white light shining on your rear license plate. **True/False**
- _____ 10. Motorcycles and mopeds need two separate brakes. **True/False**
- _____ 11. The horn on your motor vehicle must be heard clearly at least 200 feet away. **True/False**
- _____ 12. Front seat riders involved in an accident are twice as likely to have serious injuries or be killed if they do not use seat belts. **True/False**
- _____ 13. Children under the age of 3 need not be secured in a safety seat. **True/False**
- _____ 14. It is illegal to use your lights during daylight hours. **True/False**

Answers on page 72

