

# DRIVING ADVISORY SPEED

**Driving too fast is deadly. One in three fatal crashes involves someone speeding, and excess speed is a factor in one in eight incidents.**



**Speeding affects others too. A child hit at 20mph has a 90% chance of survival. At 30mph, they have a 50% chance of dying, while at 40mph their chances of surviving are near zero.**

Yet drivers still speed. Department for Transport (DfT) figures show that in free-flowing 30mph zones, 45% of van drivers speed, with 5% driving over 40mph. On motorways, 47% of van drivers exceed the 70mph limit, with 10% breaking 80mph.

The minimum penalty for speeding is a £100 fine and 3 penalty points, but if you're speeding and involved in a crash resulting in serious injury or death, you face a prison sentence of up to 14 years and an unlimited fine.



**Excess speed a factor:  
1 in 8 incidents**

**Speeding involved in:  
1 in 3 fatalities**

**Causing death while speeding:  
Up to 14 years in jail**

## Speeds you need to know about

**20**

Mostly used on urban roads. Unlike a 30mph zone, a 20mph road must have regular repeating signs to show the limit. Around areas such as schools, there might also be temporary 20mph limits at certain times of day.

**30**

Mostly, 30mph roads don't have repeating speed limit signs. Instead, there will be a 30mph sign on entry and the new limit posted on exit. Usually, a road with regular streetlights alongside the pavement will be 30mph.

**40**

40mph roads can be anything from urban streets to dual carriageways. These roads will have regular signs to remind drivers.

**56**

Most vehicles over 3.5 tonnes must be limited to 56mph.



60mph for a car or motorbike on a single carriageway and 70mph on a dual carriageway. For commercial vehicles (including pick-ups) over 2,040kg, buses or coaches over 12 metres in length, and when towing, the limit is reduced to 50mph on single carriageways and 60mph on dual carriageways.

**70**

The limit for most road users on the motorway network, unless otherwise stated. If towing a trailer, or if the vehicle is over 12 metres long or above 7.5 tonnes, the speed limit is reduced to 60mph.

**Not sure  
what speed you  
should do?**

Check the speed limits for your vehicle at [www.gov.uk/speed-limits](http://www.gov.uk/speed-limits)





### Did you know?

Around 1.5 million motorists a year go on Police-governed speed awareness courses as an alternative to points or prosecution.

RED Corporate Driver Training offers proactive Speed Awareness courses that can help drivers keep under the limits, not only reducing risk but saving your business costly lost working time.

[Click here for more information](#)



### Speed Awareness

Managing speed is a skill, and sometimes the limit will not be appropriate for the conditions.



### Wet weather

Reduce speed by 30%, and be aware that stopping distances could double.

### Road conditions

Just because you're at or below the limit, should you be going slower? Traffic, ice, mud, bends, and potholes might mean going even slower is best.

### Slow to flow

Driving more slowly doesn't mean travel times hugely increase, especially if you drive cleverly. Approach junctions slower but keep moving.

### Braking distance

Ensure you're the right distance from the vehicle in front. The minimum gap is two seconds. Weather, extra weight, tyres, and road surface can all increase braking distances.

### Smooth driving

Whatever speed you're doing, being smooth with steering, accelerator, gear changes, and brake pedal will help you manage your speed better by keeping the vehicle more balanced.

### RED Advisories

RED has produced a series of advisory leaflets covering everything from towing to fatigue. To download a copy, click [here](#)



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