Initial License

First-time drivers

If you are a New Jersey resident, you must have a valid New Jersey driver's license or validated permit to operate a motor vehicle. First-time drivers must complete the Graduated Driver License (GDL) program, which introduces driving privileges in phases, to obtain a basic license, requiring you to pass various [tests](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/knowledgetest.htm). If you are under 21 years old or have never had a driver's license, New Jersey requires that you complete a period of supervised driving before getting a basic driver's license. Before practice driving the permit holder must have the permit validated at any MVC [Driver Testing Center](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/locations/facilitylocations.htm).

**There are three initial GDL permit processes in New Jersey. Find the process below that corresponds to your age.**

The early bird road (For drivers age 16 enrolled with a[licensed driving school](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/driveschool.htm)).

Get a student learner's permit

* Visit a[motor vehicle agency](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/locations/facilitylocations.htm) (with Driver Testing area) with a [**licensed driving instructor**](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/driveschool.htm) and your [primary ID document](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/6pointid.htm). (Must also provide social security number).
* Pay the $10 fee.
* Pass the [vision test.](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/visiontest.htm)
* Pass the [knowledge test](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/knowledgetest.htm), or submit blue high school test waiver card if the written test was taken and passed in high school.
* Complete six full hours of behind-the-wheel instruction in a dual-controlled vehicle, with a licensed driving instructor.
* Return to a[motor vehicle agency](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/locations/facilitylocations.htm) (with Driver Testing services) with a**licensed driving instructor** to have the permit validated and schedule a road test appointment (six months after validation for under 21 years of age). The permit must be validated prior to any supervised practice driving.
* Practice supervised driving\* (see below) for at least six months, and until 17 years of age.

*If your validated permit is lost or stolen, and you are under 17 years old, you must purchase a duplicate permit for $3. If you are now 17, you must purchase a $10 GDL Auto Permit. Applicants must:*

* *Be accompanied by the parent/guardian.*
* *Bring*[*6 Points of ID*](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/6pointid.htm)*.*
* *Pay the appropriate fee.*

The young adult (For drivers age 17 or older).

Get an examination permit (not a student permit)

Applicants, age 17 but under age 18, must submit signed consent of a parent or legal guardian to begin the permit process.

* Visit a motor vehicle agency (with Driver testing area) with your [6 Points of ID](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/6pointid.htm).
* Complete Auto Permit Application (Form BA-412C found only at [motor vehicle agencies](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/locations/agency_services.htm)).
* Pay the $10 fee.
* Pass the [vision test](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/visiontest.htm).
* Pass the [knowledge test](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/knowledgetest.htm), or submit blue high school test waiver (only valid if under 18 years old).
* Get the permit validated for practice driving.
* [Schedule](https://www27.state.nj.us/tc/driverlogin.do?url=njmvcdtclient) the road test (six months after validation for under 21 years of age).
* Practice supervised driving**\*** (see below) for at least six months.

Permits are valid for two years and must be carried when operating a vehicle. If your permit is lost or stolen , you must request a $3 duplicate permit.

**\*You must observe the following restrictions during the six- month supervised driving period if you are under 21 years of age:**

* Display a [reflectorized decal](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/drivertopics/decals.htm) on each license plate (front/back); decals available at [motor vehicle agencies](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/locations/facilitylocations.htm), $4 per pair.
* No driving after 11:01 p.m. and before 5:00 a.m.
* You must be accompanied in the front seat by an adult supervising driver who is at least 21 years of age, and who possesses a valid New Jersey driver’s license, and has a minimum of three years driving experience.
* Parent(s), guardian(s) or dependant(s) are allowed as passengers. A dependant is a permit or probationary driver's child, not siblings.
* Only one additional passenger is allowed unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.
* You cannot use cell phones, hand held video games or any other hands-free interactive, wireless communication device.
* Seat belts must be worn at all times.
* GDL Exemptions for hours-related exemptions for employment or religious reasons are as follows:
  + Permit and probationary drivers under 21 are eligible for hours-related exemptions for employment or religious reasons
  + Drivers must carry legible documentation on letterhead signed by the employer, organization or religious institution stating the reasons for this request
  + Include signature, title, address and telephone number of designated official

The adult (For drivers ages 21 and up)

Get an examination permit (not a student permit)

* Visit any [motor vehicle agency](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/locations/facilitylocations.htm) to purchase an examination permit (**not** a special or student permit)
* Bring your[6 Points of ID](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/6pointid.htm) and proof of address
* Complete form Auto Permit Application (Form BA-412C found only at [motor vehicle agencies](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/locations/agency_services.htm)).
* Pay the $10 fee.
* Pass the [vision test.](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/visiontest.htm)
* Pass the [knowledge test](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/knowledgetest.htm).
* Get the permit validated for practice driving.
* [Schedule](https://www27.state.nj.us/tc/driverlogin.do?url=njmvcdtclient) the road test (three months after validation for 21 or over).
* Practice supervised driving\*\*(see below) for at least three months.

Permits are valid for two years. If your permit is lost or stolen, you must obtain a $3 duplicate permit.

**Note: To take your written test, or to have your test results validated (in order to practice drive), you must visit one of our agencies that offer this service.**

**\*\*You must observe the following restrictions during the three month supervised driving period if you are a 21 or older first-time driver:**

* You must be accompanied in the front seat by an adult supervising driver who is at least 21 years of age and who possesses a valid New Jersey driver’s lcense and has a minimum of three years driving experience.
* You cannot use cell phones, hand-held video games or any other hands-free interactive, wireless communication device.
* Seat belts must be worn at all times.

Get a probationary license upon completion of the supervised practice driving period, and successful completion of the scheduled road test requirement.

* Visit a[motor vehicle agency](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/locations/facilitylocations.htm) with your [6 Points of ID](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/6pointid.htm) and proof of address.
* Complete Auto License Application (Form BA-208 found only at motor vehicle agencies).
* Pay the $6 Probationary License fee.
* Receive the New Jersey probationary driver’s license.

We are required to capture a customer’s full face when taking a picture for a driver license or non-driver ID card; therefore we need to be able to see from the top of your forehead to the bottom of your chin.**If you have a medical or religious need to wear a head covering in your photo, please advise the MVC staff at the agency camera station.**

Practice unsupervised driving for at least one year

You must observe the following requirements and restrictions while driving with a probationary (formerly provisional) license:

* Display a [reflectorized decal](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/drivertopics/decals.htm) (for under 21 drivers only) on each license plate (front/back); decals available at motor vehicle agencies, $4 per pair
* No driving after 11:01 p.m. and before 5:00 a.m.
* Parent(s), guardian(s) or dependant(s) are allowed as passengers. A dependant is a permit or probationary driver's child, not siblings.
* Only one additional passenger is allowed unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.
* You cannot use cell phones, hand-held video games or any other hands-free interactive, wireless communication device.
* Seat belts must be worn at all times.
* GDL Exemptions for hours-related exemptions for employment or religious reasons are as follows:
  + Permit and probationary drivers under 21 are eligible for hours-related exemptions for employment or religious reasons
  + Drivers must carry legible documentation on letterhead signed by the employer, organization or religious institution stating the reasons for this request
  + Include signature, title, address and telephone number of designated official

Get a basic driver license

* Visit a[motor vehicle agency](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/locations/facilitylocations.htm) with your [6 Points of ID](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/license/6pointid.htm) and proof of address. (You must be at least 18 years old, and have had your probationary license for at least one year).
* Complete Auto License Application (Form BA-208 found only at [motor vehicle agencies](https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/locations/agency_services.htm)).
* Pay the pro-rated upgrade fee (usually $19.50).
* Receive the New Jersey basic auto license (expiration date will remain the same as your probationary license).