

Section 7: Other Important Information



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Whether you are learning to drive for the first time, new to Virginia or brushing up on your safe driving knowledge, there are additional requirements that all Virginia drivers should know.

Receiving License by Mail

You will receive your new driver's license in the mail. For security, DMV does not issue licenses in customer service centers.

Address Changes

If you move, you are required to notify DMV **within 30 days**. The postal service will not forward your license to another address. If DMV does not have your correct address, the postal service will return the license to DMV.

New to Virginia

If you are a new Virginia resident and drive, you must obtain a Virginia driver's license **within 60 days** of moving here.

Titles, Registrations, License Plates, Decals

Title and register your vehicle and obtain Virginia license plates within 30 days of moving to Virginia. License plates must be displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle. Decals indicating the month and year that the registration expires must be placed in the designated areas on the plates (except for vehicles displaying permanent plates).

You must have the vehicle registration card with you when operating the vehicle. You must also register your vehicle in your locality, if required. Check with your city or county government.

Safety Inspections

Your vehicle must pass an annual vehicle safety inspection and display a valid safety inspection sticker. In certain localities, your vehicle also must pass an emissions inspection. For more information about Virginia safety inspections, visit the Virginia State Police website at www.vsp.virginia.gov.

Tire Safety Inspection

Once every month, or before a long road trip, check your tires for wear and damage problems by using the penny test.

1. Take a penny and hold Abraham Lincoln's body between your thumb and forefinger.

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2. Select a point on your tire where the tread appears to be lowest and place Lincoln's head into one of the grooves.
3. If any part of Lincoln's head is covered by the tread, you're driving with the safe amount of tread. If your tread gets below that, your car's ability to grip the road in adverse conditions is greatly reduced.

Prior to entering the vehicle, check tire pressure using a tire pressure gauge. The recommended PSI (pounds per square inch) is located in the vehicle owner's manual or the driver's side door jamb of the vehicle.

Insurance Requirements

To register a vehicle and obtain license plates, you must have liability insurance or pay the \$500 uninsured motor vehicle fee. Insure your vehicle with a company authorized to do business in Virginia. At a minimum, your insurance policy must provide the following liability insurance coverage:

Liability Insurance Coverage Requirements			
	Injury or death of one person	Injury or death of two or more people	Property damage
Policies effective before Jan. 1, 2022	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$20,000
Policies effective on or after Jan. 1, 2022	\$30,000	\$60,000	\$20,000

Insurance companies may factor in their policy premium the driving records of any individual of driving age that resides within an insured's household. If you have any questions regarding the potential impact a newly licensed driver may have on your policy, you may wish to contact your insurance agent.

In some cases, liability insurance requirements may be higher. Refer to dmv.virginia.gov for more information about DMV's Insurance Verification Program and Financial Responsibility Certifications.

Paying the uninsured motor vehicle fee does not provide insurance coverage, but it allows you to register and operate the vehicle in Virginia for a one-year period.

Insure your Virginia-registered vehicle during the entire registration period even if it is not driven or is inoperable. Before you cancel your insurance, return the license plates to DMV and cancel the registration.

If you are caught driving without insurance and you did not pay the uninsured motor vehicle fee, DMV will suspend your driving privilege until you:

- ▶ pay a \$600 noncompliance fee or apply and be approved for a payment plan, and
- ▶ have your insurance company file a certificate that you have a policy with the required coverage limits. You will have to file this certificate of insurance for three years from the date you regain your driving privileges.

Applying to Register to Vote

You may apply to register to vote or to change your voter registration mailing address at any DMV office. Indicate your intentions on the voter registration section of the driver's license application. To apply to register to vote in Virginia, you must be a U.S. citizen, a resident of Virginia, and be at least 18 years old by the next general election. You must have had your voting rights restored by a circuit court if you have been convicted of a felony or if you have been declared mentally incompetent.

To check your voter registration status, contact your local registrar or the Department of Elections at 1-800-552-9745 or TTY 711.

Organ, Eye and Tissue Donation

To sign up to be a donor and save lives, check yes on your driver's license, learners permit, or ID card application. For more information about organ, eye, and tissue donation or to sign up online, visit www.donatelifevirginia.org.

If you are age 18 or older, your registered decision to be a donor will be honored. If you are under age 18, you can indicate your wishes to donate by checking yes; by law, your parents and guardians must make the final decision. It is important for all ages to share your decision to be a donor with your friends and family.