



Signs on trucks

Heavy vehicles come in many different sizes. Distinctive signage is used to identify the type of vehicle, dependant on its length.

Western Australian laws provide safety measures for oversize vehicles that exceed the Vehicle Standard Regulations to help avoid potential conflict, including the use of one or more pilot escorts to oversee the transport task. There may also be a Police escort for larger trucks.

Pilots provide you with advance warning of an oncoming oversize vehicle. Accredited pilots have the legal authority to direct road users in the course of their duties because of their critical role in the safe passage of oversize vehicles.

Rotating amber lights on oversize vehicles notify road users that extra care is needed when approaching and overtaking.

Quite often, oversize vehicles travel close together in convoy. Before you overtake or pull back onto the left hand side of the road, make sure it is safe to do so.

Whether you are visiting one of Western Australia's beautiful regional tourist areas, or travelling across picturesque metropolitan Perth, all road users need to be aware of those they share the roads with to maximise safety.

Speed kills - slow down

Slow down when the road surface or weather conditions are poor. Dust, rain, mud, smoke and fog reduce visibility and make driving on roads more dangerous.



Fatigue is a silent killer

Pull over and give yourself and your passengers a break during the journey.

Main Roads has published a Guide to Roadside Amenities that shows you where rest areas are on all main roads throughout the State. For a free copy of the guide please call 138 138.

For additional information please contact:

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Heavy Vehicle Operations

Sharing the Roads with Trucks



Tips for a Safe Journey

Keep left

On single carriageways, drive closer to the left hand side of the road rather than the centre line. This gives you and oncoming traffic a greater margin for error and reduces the effect of wind buffeting created by passing trucks. On country roads, steer to the left hand edge of the road, particularly when driving on a curve to the right, as most drivers tend to drift in the direction they are looking.

Keep your distance

Tailgating is dangerous because it leaves you less time to stop. The driver of the vehicle in front will not see you very well or be aware of your intentions, particularly when overtaking. Leave plenty of space between you and the vehicle in front and enjoy the extra room to move.

Remember: *If you can't see the driver's side mirrors, the driver can't see you!*

Reversing trucks

Reversing a truck takes significant skill as the drivers only have their mirrors to guide them. Leave plenty of room and make sure that you stay in sight of their mirrors whether you are a pedestrian, cyclist, motorcyclist or a driver of a car.



Cyclists can increase their safety by using the sealed shoulder or bicycle lane.



Sharing multi-lane roads with trucks

Lane widths are usually greater than 3.2 metres and as most trucks are no more than 2.5 metres wide and cars are around 1.9 metres wide, you have plenty of room. Drive your car in the middle of the lane, instead of to the left, to make you feel more comfortable.

Turning trucks

At intersections and roundabouts, allow extra space for trucks as they often need to swing wide to turn either left or right, and may need to use both lanes to turn. If a truck driver signals to turn, wait until the truck has completed this manoeuvre before you continue your journey.

If a truck is turning into the road you are on, keep back from the intersection to give the truck driver more road space. Pedestrians should stand well clear of all turning vehicles.

Indicate your intentions

Always use your indicators when turning, changing lanes or overtaking to let other road users know what you are doing. Truck drivers need extra space to clear intersections and railway crossings, so indicate early.

Merging

Where two lanes of traffic merge into one, give way to any vehicle in front of you and leave enough room for other vehicles, particularly trucks, to merge safely

Trucks braking and accelerating

Truck drivers need more space to stop than smaller vehicles. Remember to not cut in front of them when approaching traffic signals, roundabouts and other locations where traffic queues form. Trucks accelerate slowly, so be patient as the truck driver moves through several gears to get going.

Overtaking

Take your time when overtaking heavy vehicles, stay back several car lengths without crossing the centre line and:

- When it is safe to pass, indicate, move over the centre line, accelerate and overtake quickly;
- Use your left indicator to signal your return to the left lane;
- Maintain your speed if you overtake and then slow down;
- Allow for oncoming vehicles when overtaking as they may be travelling faster than you think;

- Be prepared for the effect of wind buffeting when you pass a truck; and
- Be careful overtaking on wet roads.

Signs indicating that overtaking lanes are ahead give you advance notice of a safe length of road to overtake. Use overtaking lanes to pass trucks and return to the left lane as soon as you can.

Remember: *Never try to overtake a truck on a curve or hill where visibility is limited, even if the truck is moving slowly. If you cannot see past the truck, wait for a better opportunity.*

Caravans

Preparing your caravan for a long journey includes extending rear-view mirrors so you can see behind and spreading the load in the car and caravan to increase stability. Due to the load you are towing and a generally lower speed, it is safer to not overtake trucks

Headlights

Dip your headlights to low beam when approaching an oncoming vehicle or when following a vehicle:

- As soon as an approaching vehicle's lights are dipped;
- When you are within 200 metres of an approaching vehicle; or
- When you are driving less than 200 metres behind another vehicle.