



The Golden Rule of Safe Driving

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone drove carefully and considerately and always followed the rules? In the real world we often have to put up with rudeness, ignorance and just plain stupidity on the road. Defensive drivers learn to be alert for the mistakes of others, so they can avoid collisions caused by them. They avoid acting out of anger or revenge when another driver makes a mistake. And they practice the golden rule of safe driving: Set a good driving example even if others don't.

Here are some examples of how you can put the golden rule of safe driving into daily practice:

- **Use your signals**—even when others don't. Be considerate when making lane changes and passing people.
- **Follow at a safe distance.** If others cut in front of you, keep dropping back to maintain a proper distance.
- **Don't fight tailgaters.** Get out of their way, if you can.
- **Be polite with your lights.** Remember that the person who is blinding you with their bright lights probably just forgot to turn them down. Resist the urge to turn your lights up to teach them a lesson.
- **Be respectful of drivers who are slow or hesitant.** Age or physical disability may make driving difficult for them.

The golden rule has two advantages. It makes the road safer for everyone, and it gives you that good feeling you get when you know you've done the right thing.