

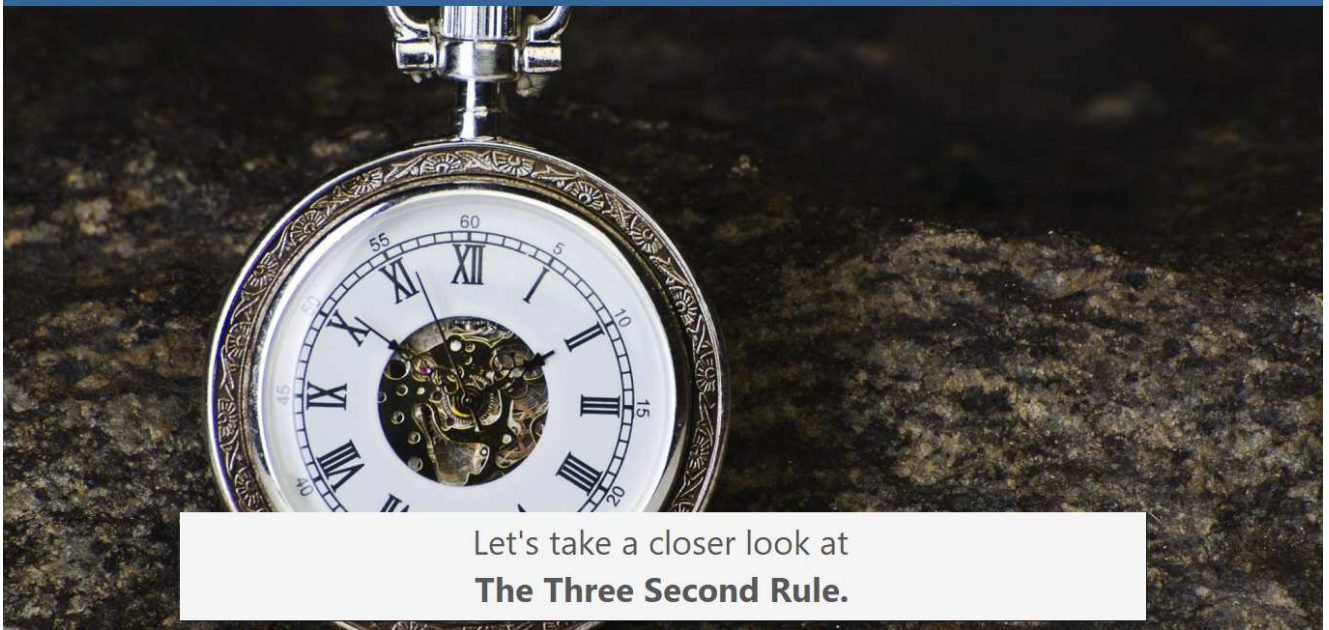
The Three Second Rule

The Three Second Rule

Welcome to this **Perfect Driver** course. Throughout this course, we are going to look at the law, skills, techniques, and ideas to help you become a better, and safer driver.

In this lesson, we'll look at **The Three Second Rule**.

The Three Second Rule



Let's take a closer look at
The Three Second Rule.

The Three Second Rule

The Three Second Rule

In this lesson, we look at the **three second rule**.

This is a rule used to help ensure you are following other cars at a safe distance.

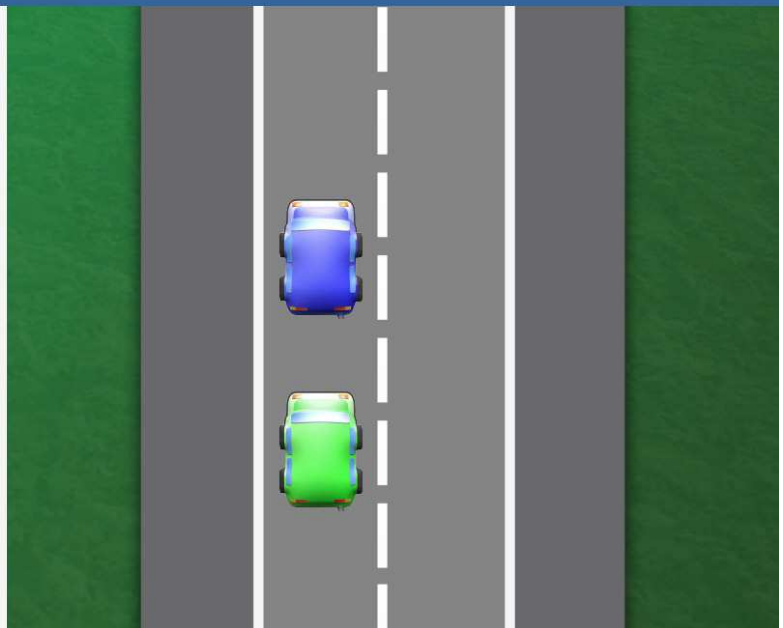


The Three Second Rule

One of the most important techniques any driver can pick up is learning to follow cars at a safe distance.

A safe distance means that you should be able to come to a complete halt if the car in front of you suddenly stopped dead.

How far this is depends on speed and conditions, but let's have a look at a good way to work this out.

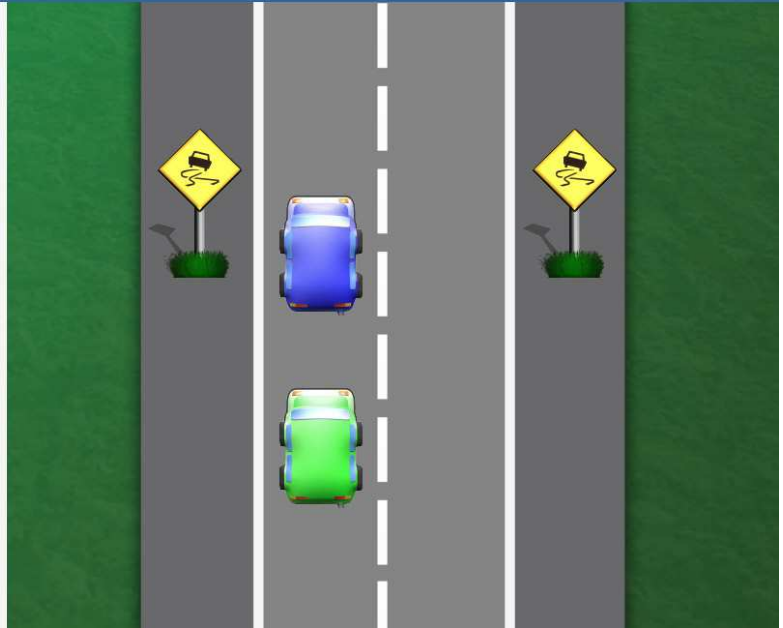


The Three Second Rule

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The most basic and probably best method to determine a safe travelling distance is the **three second rule**.

Using this rule, you reach the spot where the car in front is in three seconds. You can use landmarks on the side of the road to help you calculate this.



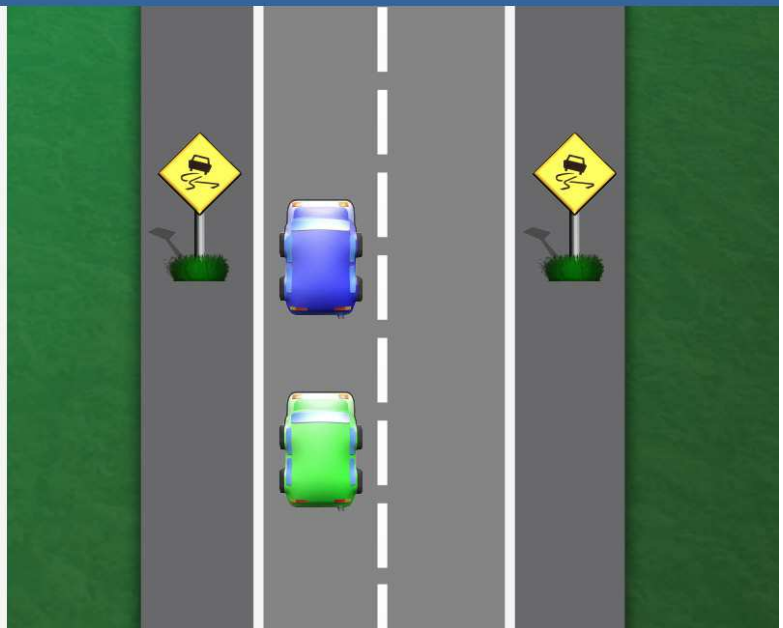
The Three Second Rule

In this case, we'll look at the **Slippery When Wet** sign.

To use the three second rule, start counting when the blue car (in this case, the car in front is blue) reaches the **Slippery When Wet** sign.

You should reach the same sign in three seconds, or close to it.

How close do we think you are at the moment?



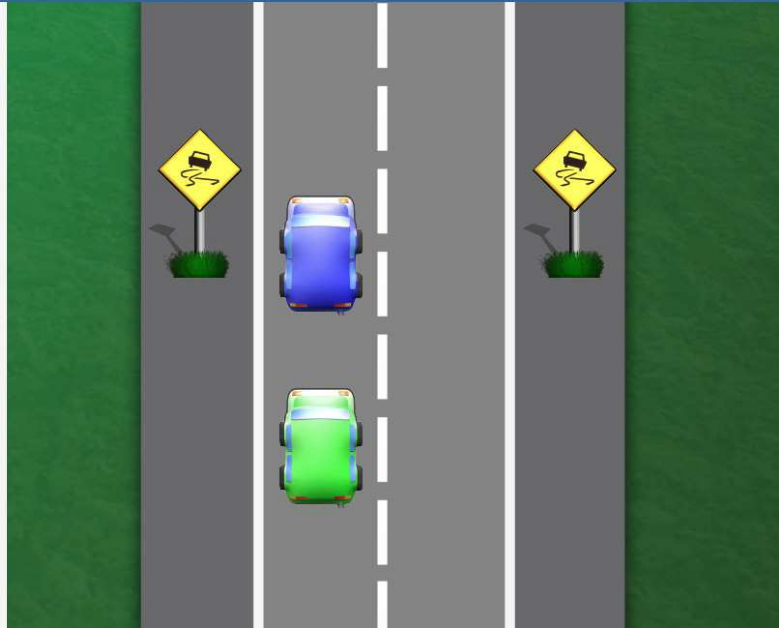
The Three Second Rule

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Currently, the green car is probably closer to two seconds behind the blue car.

So, the green car needs to drop back a bit, which we've just done.

Try the same three second count again.



The Three Second Rule

This looks much better.

The beauty of the three second rule is that no matter what speed you are travelling, it can still be applied.

At faster speeds, you travel further in three seconds, so the space between you and the car in front increases accordingly.



The Three Second Rule

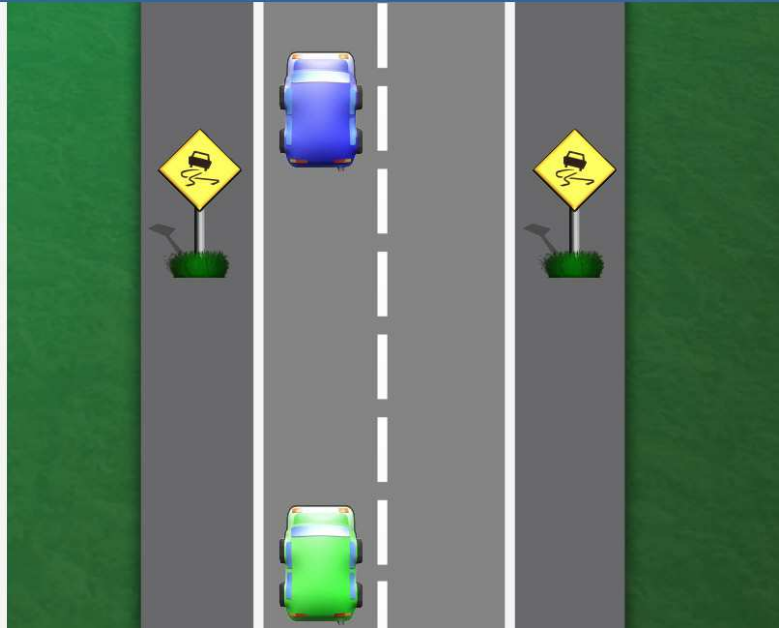
The Three Second Rule

What the three second rule **does not** cater for is road conditions, weather, and even time of day.

Three seconds should be increased to **five or more** seconds in the following scenarios:

- Night-time driving.
- Wet weather driving.
- Poor road conditions (gravel, dirt, ice, snow).

In all of the above conditions, you should already be driving more slowly and carefully.

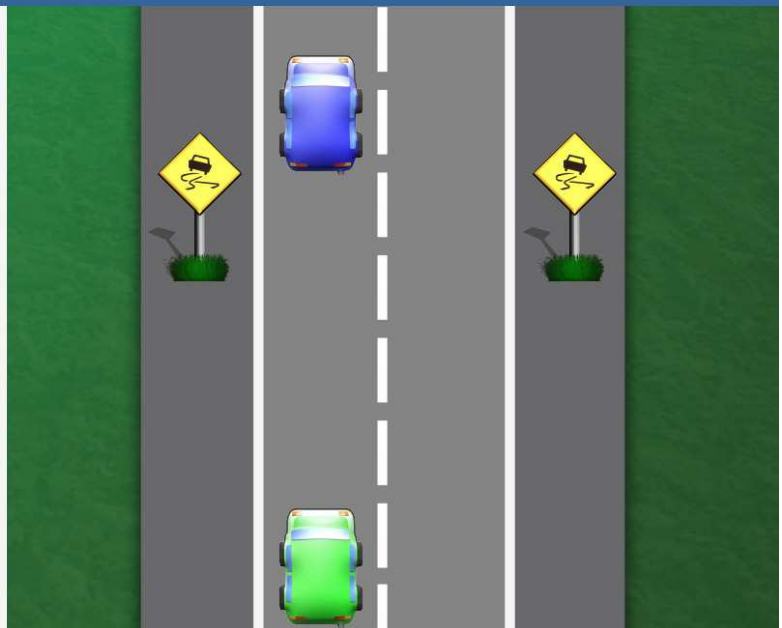


The Three Second Rule

If you are having any trouble determining a safe distance to follow, err on the side of a larger distance.

Just remember - imagine that the car in front of you hits a brick wall and stops immediately - would you be able to stop in time?

If you run into a car from behind - a rear-end collision - the **legal fault will lie with you**, regardless of why the car in front stopped or behaved like it may have.



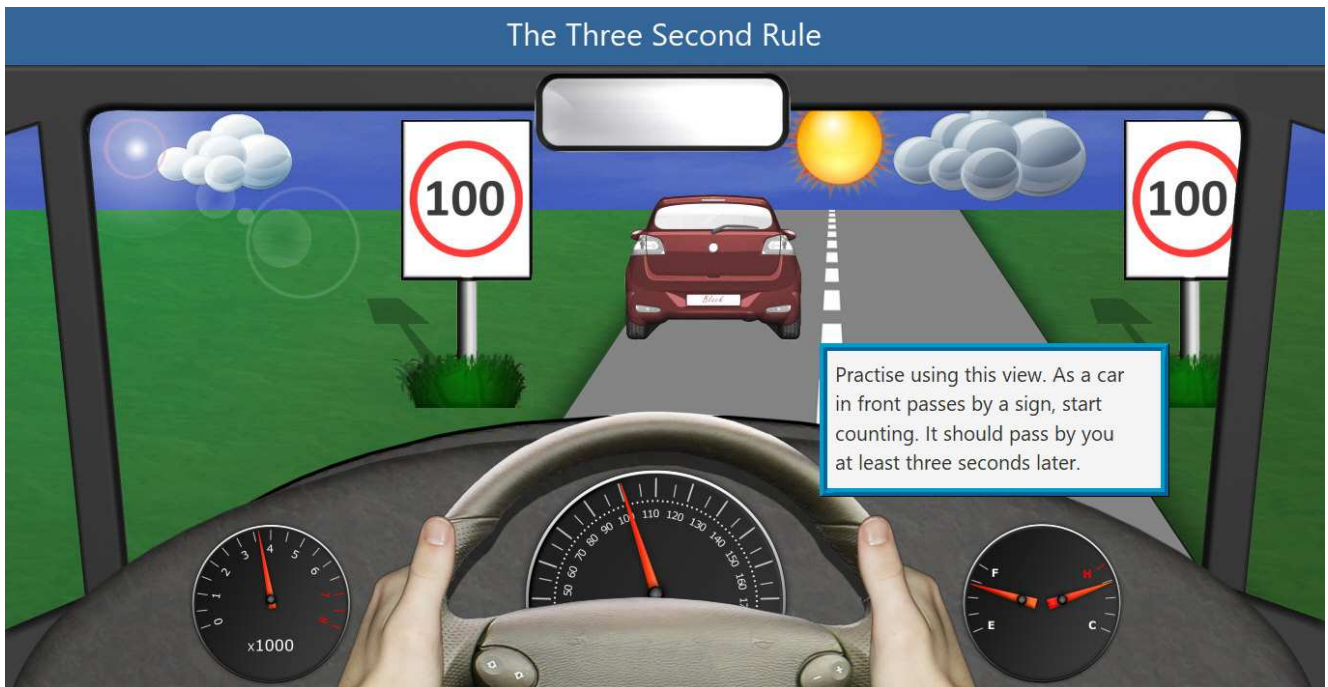
The Three Second Rule

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While a **three second rule** generally applies as a following distance for cars without trailers, you should at least double this time when you are towing a trailer - even more if the trailer or van is particularly large or heavy.



The Three Second Rule



The Three Second Rule

The Three Second Rule

When following a car in traffic, keep an eye on the brake lights of the car ahead. You'll notice these turning red before you notice the car in front slowing down. Apply **your** brakes accordingly.



The Three Second Rule



The Three Second Rule

SUMMARY

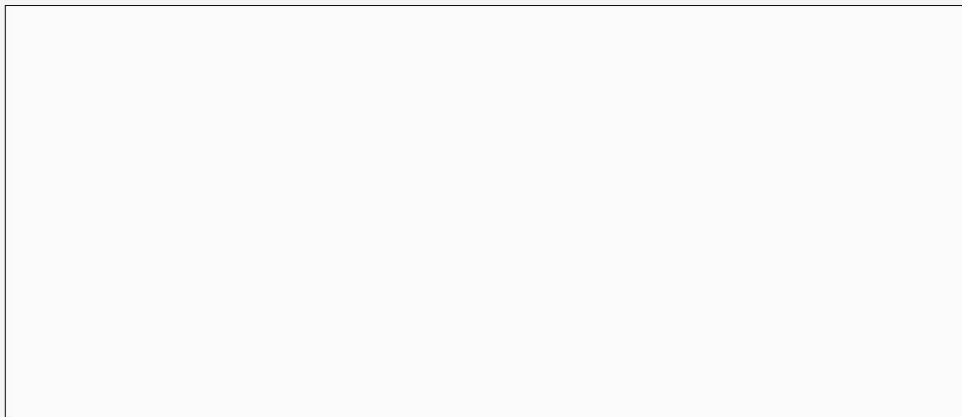
In this lesson, we discussed the **The Three Second Rule**. We looked at:

- Why we leave three seconds when following cars.
- How to determine three seconds.
- How three seconds changes to five under certain conditions.
- How a rear-end collision will legally be your fault.
- Watching brake lights of the car ahead.

FINISH LESSON

The Three Second Rule

Signature. It is very important that you use the mouse, or touch, to *sign* the form below. This helps us record your progress accurately.



SUBMIT SIGNATURE

CLEAR SIGNATURE

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