

Warning Signs for Older Drivers

The driving behaviors listed below could cause safety problems. They are ranked from minor to serious. Many of the less serious issues may be overcome with changes in driving behavior or physical fitness, while the more serious behaviors may require your immediate action. Since driving ability seldom changes drastically in a short time, you should be able to track changes over time to get a clear picture of overall driving ability.

Here's how to use this list.

- Observe driving over time, keeping notes to help you understand **changes** in driving ability.
- Look for a **pattern** of warning signs and for an increase in the frequency of occurrence.

Driving Behavior Warning Signs – When Noticed, How Often	
1. Decrease in confidence while driving.	16. Uses a “copilot.”
2. Difficulty turning to see when backing up.	17. Bad judgment on making left hand turns.
3. Riding the brake.	18. Near misses.
4. Easily distracted while driving.	19. Delayed response to unexpected situations.
5. Other drivers often honk horns.	20. Moving into wrong lane.
6. Incorrect signaling.	21. Difficulty maintaining lane position.
7. Parking inappropriately.	22. Confusion at exits.
8. Hitting curbs.	23. Ticketed moving violations or warnings.
9. Scrapes or dents on the car, mailbox or garage.	24. Getting lost in familiar places.
10. Increased agitation or irritation when driving.	25. Car accident.
11. Failure to notice important activity on the side of the road.	26. Failure to stop at stop sign or red light.
12. Failure to notice traffic signs.	27. Confusing the gas and brake pedals.
13. Trouble navigating turns.	28. Stopping in traffic for no apparent reason.
14. Driving at inappropriate speeds.	29. Other signs:
15. Not anticipating potential dangerous situations.	