

When you are convicted of a traffic violation, the court notifies the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). DMV does four things:

- posts the conviction to your driving record;
- assigns demerit points to you according to the severity of the offense;
- issues an order of suspension, if applicable; and
- notifies your insurance company upon request.

This brochure lists many of the traffic violations that occur most frequently.<sup>1</sup> These violations are grouped according to the number of DMV demerit points assigned to each violation. You will find the number of years that the conviction stays on your DMV record in parentheses beside each violation.

The length of time that a **conviction** stays on your record depends on the severity of the violation. If you receive an order or notice of revocation, suspension, disqualification or cancellation, your convictions could remain on your record for even longer than specified in this brochure.

**DMV demerit points** remain on your record for two years from the date that you commit the offense. The dates that demerit points are removed from your driving record are not related to the dates that convictions are removed from your record.

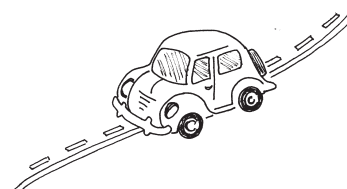
Your insurance company may also assign **points on your insurance record**; however, DMV demerit points are not related to insurance company points. Insurance company points are developed by individual companies.

Be sure to read *A Different Kind of Crash Course (PRO14)* for more information about how DMV's driver improvement program works.

<sup>1</sup> This is not a complete listing of Virginia's traffic violations. Additionally, demerit points will be assigned to your record for traffic convictions incurred in other states.

## SIX POINT VIOLATIONS

- Driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (11 years)
- Driving after illegally consuming alcohol (persons under 21 years of age) (3 years)
- Attempting to elude police
  - felony offense (11 years)
  - misdemeanor offense (3 years)
- Driving while your license is suspended or revoked (11 years)
- Reckless driving—speeding in excess of 80 mph (11 years)
- Reckless driving—general (11 years)
- Reckless driving—speeding 20 or more miles above the speed limit (11 years)
- Reckless driving—on parking lots, etc. (11 years)
- Reckless driving—racing (11 years)
- Reckless driving—passing or overtaking an emergency vehicle (11 years)
- Reckless driving—passing a school bus (11 years)
- Reckless driving—failing to give a proper signal (11 years)
- Reckless driving—faulty brakes/improper control (11 years)
- Reckless driving—passing on the crest of a hill (11 years)
- Reckless driving—passing two vehicles abreast (11 years)
- Reckless driving—driving two vehicles abreast (11 years)
- Reckless driving—passing at a railroad crossing (11 years)
- Reckless driving—driving too fast for conditions (11 years)
- Reckless driving—with an obstructed view (11 years)
- Speeding 20 mph or more above the posted speed limit (5 years)
- Driving under suspension or revocation before giving proof of financial responsibility (11 years)



## FOUR POINT VIOLATIONS

### Traffic lights

- Failure to obey a traffic signal (3 years)



### Stopping/yielding

- Failure to stop/yield before entering a highway (3 years)
- Failure to yield right-of-way (3 years)
- Failure to yield right-of-way at traffic circle (3 years)
- Failure to yield right-of-way at "T" intersection (3 years)
- Failure to yield while turning left (3 years)
- Failure to stop and yield right-of-way, private road (3 years)
- Failure to yield right-of-way for U.S. Armed Forces/National Guard (3 years)
- Failure to drive to the right and stop for police/fire vehicles (3 years)
- Failure to yield right-of-way to pedestrians (3 years)
- Failure to stop for pedestrians with white cane (3 years)



### Speeding

- Speeding 10-19 mph above posted speed limit (5 years)
- Speeding generally (no speed indicated) (5 years)
- Speeding, vehicles with special permits (5 years)
- Speeding at a school crossing (5 years)
- Speeding in business/residential district (5 years)
- Speeding in city or town (5 years)
- Speeding on a bridge (5 years)
- Speeding while towing (5 years)
- Speeding in highway work zone (5 years)

### Side of the road

- Failure to keep to the right of the highway or street (3 years)
- Driving the wrong way on a one-way street (3 years)

- Failure to keep to the right when crossing an intersection or railroad crossing (3 years)

#### **Following/signaling**

- Following too closely (3 years)
- Failure to signal before moving from a curb (3 years)
- Improper signal (3 years)

#### **Railroads**

- Failure to obey railroad crossing signal (3 years)
- Failure to stop at a railroad grade crossing (3 years)
- Failure to stop a passenger-carrying vehicle at a railroad grade crossing (3 years)

#### **Other violations**

- Improper backing (3 years)
- Failure to obey highway lane markings (3 years)
- Disregarding an officer's signal (3 years)
- Passing a left-approaching vehicle (3 years)
- Passing when unsafe (3 years)

### **THREE POINT VIOLATIONS**

#### **Signs/signals**

- Failure to stop at the scene of a crash—misdemeanor offense (3 years)
- Failure to obey highway signs (3 years)

#### **Driving/Passing**

- Improper passing (3 years)
- Improper driving (3 years)
- Coasting gears in neutral (3 years)
- Failure to give way in favor of an overtaking vehicle (3 years)
- Driving through safety zone (3 years)
- Improper passing on the right (3 years)
- Driving on a sidewalk (3 years)

#### **Speed**

- Speeding 1-9 mph above the posted speed limit (5 years)
- Impeding traffic, slow speed (5 years)

#### **Turning/Backing**

- Improper U-turn (3 years)
- Improper turn (3 years)
- Changing course after signaling (3 years)
- Violation of right turn on red (3 years)
- Violation of left turn on red (3 years)

#### **Lights**

- Driving without lights/excessive lights (3 years)
- Failure to dim headlights (3 years)

#### **Licenses/Permits**

- Operating a vehicle in violation of a restricted license (3 years)
- Permitting an unlicensed person to drive (3 years)
- No driver's license or improper driver's license (3 years)

#### **Restraints**

- Violating the Child Restraint Law (3 years)

#### **Other violations**

- Following/parking within 500 feet of a fire apparatus (3 years)
- Driving over a fire hose (3 years)
- Failure to leave an accident at the direction of an officer (3 years)
- Failure to report an accident, unattended property, less than \$250 damage (3 years)
- Drinking while operating a vehicle (3 years)



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# The Virginia Driver Improvement Program

# MOVING VIOLATIONS AND POINT ASSESSMENTS

