

What is Carpooling



Carpool

We may know the arguments for ditching the car and walking, cycling or using public transport, but for some of us, it simply is not a realistic option. When the distances involved or the lack of bus makes the car our transportation mode there is still the option of carpooling.

Changing from a solo commute to carpooling may require some adjustment and compromise, the "10 Tips for Successful Carpooling" may make the transition and ride go smoother.

Benefits of Carpooling

- When it's not your turn to drive, you can relax and enjoy the ride, prepare for your big meeting that day, squeeze in some extra work, or even take a nap!
- Meet new people and socialize!
- It saves time and money. Carpooling just once a week can save you money because you share the costs with other people.
- It prolongs the life of your vehicle. You put fewer miles on your own car when you share driving responsibilities.
- It reduces traffic. When three people carpool, there are two fewer cars on the road.

Environmental Benefits of Carpooling

In addition to saving money on gas and wear and tear on your car, there are many other advantages of carpooling.

- When you share a ride, you're helping to protect our environment
- Carpooling reduces emissions, which helps clean up our air. Driving your car 15,000 miles a year emits approximately 16,500 lbs of CO₂.
- Cutting 25 miles a week from your driving will save approximately 1,500 lbs of CO₂ over an entire year.
- Environmentally, the nearer to capacity a vehicle is driven, the more fuel efficient per person it becomes and the smaller the individual share of the pollution generated.
- Fewer cars means less noise pollution, reduced congestion and should help to improve journey times.



Information and Etiquette

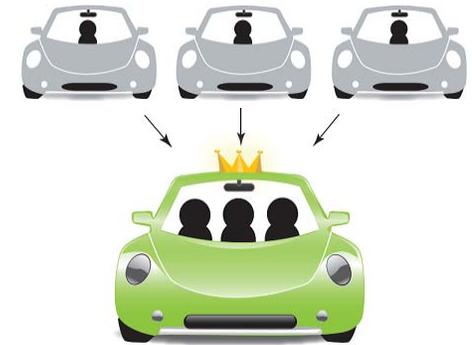


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10 Tips to Successful Carpooling

- 1. Make carpooling a convenient option.**
Find people who live nearby to make logistics easy.
- 2. Get to know your fellow carpoolers.**
Connect by phone, email, or in person to discuss logistics and rules. If you are uncertain, agree to a trial carpool period to test the waters (1-2 months).
- 3. Exchange important information.**
Share emergency contact information of all parties before starting the carpool.
- 4. Determine your route and schedule.**
Determine the carpool days and establish the pickup/drop-off point(s). If you will be alternating driving, decide if you alternate daily, weekly, or monthly.
- 5. Establish ground rules.** Music/news and volume, talking and topics of conversation, cell phone usage, smoking, eating, drinking, perfume/cologne usage, allowance of extra stops.

- 6. Be punctual.** Decide how long the driver is expected to wait (3-5 minutes). If you're running late, call the driver and let them know.
- 7. Establish a chain of communication.**
If you can't carpool on a particular day (due to illness, schedule changes, or vacation) give your carpool partners ample notice.
- 8. Drive in a safe and courteous manner at all times.** All passengers should buckle up and all drivers should have current auto insurance.
- 9. Establish a method of reimbursing driving expenses.** If carpoolers do not share the driving equally, discuss how costs will be shared and agree on payment dates. Use the "*Share the Driving Costs*" worksheet to help determine the costs.
- 10. Keep your vehicle clean and in good condition.** Keep your car clean, comfortable, and well-serviced.



Share the Driving Costs Worksheet

	Factor	Sample Commute	Your Commute
A	Commuting Miles per Day (Round-Trip)	A) 20 miles	A) ___ miles
B	Commuting Days per Week	B) 3 days	B) ___ days
C	Commuting Miles per Week	C) $20 \times 3 =$ 60 miles/wk	C) $A \times B =$ ___ miles/wk
D	Vehicle Operating Cost per Week*	D) $60 \times \$0.50 =$ \$30 /wk	D) $C \times \$0.50 =$ \$___ /wk
E	Number of Carpoolers Including Yourself	E) 3 carpoolers	E) ___ carpoolers
F	Shared Driving Cost per Week for Each Carpooler	F) $\$30 \div 3 =$ \$10 /wk/ carpooler	F) $D \div E =$ \$___ /wk/ carpooler

* Based on 2010 IRS Mileage Rate for vehicle operating costs of \$.50 per mile.