

Keeping your car legal and roadworthy

Registration (Rego)

All vehicles that are driven on NSW roads must be registered. This includes cars, trailers, caravans and motorcycles.

If you buy a second hand car that's still registered in NSW (or the rego expired less than 3 months ago), you need to [transfer the registration](#) into your name. You need to do this within 14 days or you'll have to pay more for your registration.

If you buy a second hand car that's not registered in NSW, you need to [re-register the vehicle](#).

If you buy a new car, you need to [get a new registration](#) set up through the dealer.

To have a car registered, you must have compulsory third party (CTP) insurance. This is also known as a Green Slip. You may also need a Safety Inspection Report, also known as a Pink Slip, if your car is more than 5 years old.

Compulsory Third Party (CTP) Insurance

A CTP insurance policy (Green Slip) covers anyone driving your car if they are responsible for injuring or killing someone while driving. If this happens, your CTP insurer should pay compensation to the injured person or their next of kin.

CTP insurance covers all injured people, regardless of fault (unless you are charged with or convicted of a serious driving offence related to the accident). If you get injured in a car accident caused by another car, that driver's insurance should cover your claim.

You can't register your car in NSW without a Green Slip.

If you drive your car without a Green Slip, you could be fined \$1,200.

Green Slips don't cover the cost of damage to your car or the other person's car, they only cover personal injury or death. Insurance for vehicle damage is covered by vehicle insurance.

If you are involved in a car accident that causes an injury, you must call the police to attend and give the police your details.

Vehicle Insurance

There are two types of vehicle/car insurance that cover damages to cars, third party and comprehensive.

Third party insurance only covers the cost of damage to the other car in an accident that's your fault. *Comprehensive insurance* also covers the damage to your own car.

If an accident isn't your fault, the other driver or their insurance should cover your repairs. Sometimes drivers are both at fault and they or their insurer must share the cost of any damage.

If you drive someone else's car, you should check if that person's car insurance also covers you. If you drive someone else's car often, you can be added as an extra driver to their car insurance.

Pink Slip

If your car is more than 5 years old, it will need a safety inspection by a mechanic before you can renew the registration each year. This is known as a Pink Slip.

Your registration renewal notice will tell you whether you need to have a Pink Slip.

Only an Authorised Inspection Scheme (AIS) station can do a safety check. Use this search tool on Transport for NSW website to [find an AIS provider near you](#).

Checking your car

Your car must be suitable for safe use and meet the safety standards required by law to be registered.

You should regularly check that the following on your car is in working order:

- windscreen wipers
- horn
- seatbelts
- brakes & brake lights
- steering
- headlights
- indicators
- tyre tread and wear

If any of your lights are not working, you must not drive at night.

Defect Notices

Police can stop your car and inspect it at any time to check if it is safe. If your car is not safe, police can give you a Defect Notice. The Defect Notice can be for a *minor* or *major* defect.

Minor Defect Notices can be issued if driving your car is a safety risk.

A minor Defect Notice will tell you the date that you must stop driving your car or have the repairs done by.

Major Defect Notices can be issued if driving your car is a *serious* safety risk. A Major Defect Notice means that your car can't be driven until the repairs are done.

A mechanic can also give you a Defect Notice. A Defect Notice is not a fine.

How do I get a Defect Notice removed?

If you get a Defect Notice, you must repair your car by the due date on the notice. If you do not repair your car by the due date, your registration can be suspended.

To remove the Defect Notice, your car and the repairs must be inspected by a mechanic.

Prohibited vehicles

P1 and P2 drivers are banned from driving high performance vehicles. To check if a vehicle is high performance, use the vehicle search here:

<https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/staying-safe/drivers/youngdrivers/vehicle-restrictions.html>

If you need to drive a prohibited vehicle, you can apply for an exemption with Service NSW. An exemption will only be applied if you need the car for genuine work purposes or other exceptional circumstances apply. The exemption application fee is \$34.

Produced by Redfern Legal Centre.

This factsheet is not a substitute for legal advice. If you have a problem, please contact Redfern Legal Centre at www.rlc.org.au/contact or phone 02 9698 7277.