

Carpooling Tips

Carpools offer the ultimate in ridesharing flexibility. But flexible does not mean unpredictable. Negotiation, consideration and common sense, along with written understandings, are the keys to a successful carpool. The tips below will help you get started. (Most are applicable to vanpools as well.)

1. **Designate pools for commuting only.** Set the rule that the only purpose for the pool is commuting to and from work—not errands and shopping.
2. **Decide on a driving schedule.** Determine who is going to drive and what the schedule will be.
3. **Define reimbursements.** Agree in advance on reimbursement for driving expenses. In cases where one person drives all the time, or a certain passenger never drives, a cost per mile for operating expenses should be determined. Agree on a regular payment basis.
4. **Encourage communication.** Make certain all members of the pool have shared home, work and mobile phone numbers in case of emergencies.
5. **Establish routes, pick-up/drop-off points and arrival/departure times.** Carpoolers need to know the details on times and routes.
6. **Remember common courtesies.** Make sure to set rules, if necessary, on smoking, talking, radio play, or any other activity that could be disruptive to another carpooler's commute.
7. **Set rules for tardy riders.** Carpools can allow a couple of minutes for a late rider, but rules may be needed to know how long to wait. If riders or driver are going to be late, they should notify the group ahead of time.
8. **Agree on an alternative plan.** Should the driver not be able to carpool, an alternative plan for getting to work and home should be ready.
9. **Check with insurance agents.** Drivers should make sure their passengers are covered and be comfortable with the limits placed on the policy for passenger injury.
10. **Keep the carpool vehicles clean and well maintained.** Maintaining a safe and comfortable vehicle will make riders happy. Also, driving a well-maintained vehicle can cut down on emissions that cause ozone pollution.
11. **Drive safely.** Carpools are no place for road rage or aggressive driving.
12. **Remember that talking is optional.** Snoozing and reading are a rider's privilege (but not the driver's!).