

Mobile phones and distraction

Using or holding a mobile phone while driving takes your eyes and mind off the road **which can have fatal consequences**.

THE FACTS

- Using a mobile phone while driving **multiplies your risk of a serious crash by four**.²
- Using a mobile phone while driving can be as risky as drunk driving.³
- If you glance away from the road when driving for just two seconds at 60km/h, you're effectively driving **blindfolded for 33 metres**. Even worse, at 100km/h, you miss 55 metres of road.

ON AVERAGE **67** People are seriously injured each year on Western Australian roads in crashes where driver inattention played a part.¹

25 People on average are killed on Western Australian roads in crashes where driver inattention played a part.¹

THE RULES

It is illegal to hold your phone in your hand or have it rest on any part of your body, including your lap, while driving—this applies even when you are stopped in traffic or at traffic lights.

Drivers are encouraged to turn their phones off, place them out of sight and out of reach or set up the **Do Not Disturb** function on their phones to help avoid their use.

THE PENALTIES



Penalties for unlawful mobile phone use while driving are up to \$1,000 and four demerit points.

WHAT IS ALLOWED?

You can only touch a mobile phone to accept or make a voice call **if it's secured in a mounting**.

You can use the GPS function on a mobile phone if it's in a mounting, **but you cannot touch it**.

SAFETY CAMERAS

There are now enforcement cameras which can detect mobile phone offences in vehicles.



OFFENCE

Mobile phone in hand



OFFENCE

Mobile phone on body



OFFENCE

Mobile phone on body



OFFENCE

Mobile phone on lap

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

Visit rsc.wa.gov.au/safetycameras

1. Road Safety Commission (2025). Figures are based on the Main Roads WA crash data from 1 January 2019 – 31 December 2023. Data extracted 6 March 2024.
2. McEvoy, S., Stevenson, M., McCatt, A., Woodward, M., Haworth, C., Palamara, P. and Cercarelli, R. (2005). 'Role of mobile phones in motor vehicle crashes resulting in hospital attendance: a case-crossover study'. *BMJ* 331: 428-30.
3. Stayer, D., Drews, F. and Crouch, D. (2006). 'A comparison of the cell phone driver and the drunk driver.' *Human Factors* 48(2): 381-91