

Carpooling is when two or more people share a ride to a common or nearby destination such as work. You can carpool every day or only when it is convenient.



Carpooling can save you a great deal of money on vehicle operating costs as well as parking. Studies have shown that carpooling can reduce stress, improve employee punctuality, and increase social interaction. You can also help the environment and the community through reduced congestion, lower accident rates, and less pollution.

The opportunity to register for carpooling may be offered to you at your workplace. This brochure will assist you with any frequently asked questions you may have. Some tips on carpooling are also included.

Carpooling – frequently asked questions

How much can I save by carpooling?

On average, a person can save approximately \$6.00 per day by carpooling. Extended to a working year of 48 weeks, that can deliver savings of up to \$1,440 per year, or \$2,880 per carpool pair. These savings are based on RACV's 2004 vehicle-operating costs for a medium-sized vehicle and don't include parking costs, which can also be shared with your carpooling group.

I don't have a car. Can I still carpool?

Yes, you can be a passenger and contribute to the driving expenses. When you register on the carpooling system, simply specify your carpooling preference as 'passenger'.

What details do I need to provide in the registration process?

You will need to provide the following details in the registration process:

- first and last name
- home suburb and postcode
- contact phone number
- carpooling preference (driver, passenger, or either)
- smoking preference (smoker, non-smoker, or either)
- home/pickup Melway reference
- other comments (that is, work hours, days you don't work if applicable, etc.)

How am I matched up with other people in a carpool?

You are matched up with people who live a certain distance from your home. All you need to do is register on the carpooling database and a representative will then provide you with a list of people you can carpool with. Your name, phone number, home suburb and other comments are provided to the potential matches within your organisation. It is up to you to arrange to carpool with the people provided on this list.

If I register, does this mean I have to carpool every day?

Not at all. Registering simply gives you the opportunity to carpool if you wish. Some people choose to carpool just once or twice a week, or even only on an occasional basis, while others choose to carpool every day. It's worth registering even if you don't want to carpool now, but may do so in the future.

What happens if I have to leave work early or stay back late?

Your employer may offer a Guaranteed Ride Home program. Alternatively, take public transport, or a taxi – you'll still make financial savings in the long term.

Does it cost anything to register for carpooling?

No, registering for carpooling is free. However, you should agree on how you will share the vehicle-operating costs and any parking costs among your carpooling group. If the driver is rotated equally, no money needs to change hands.

Who is liable if there is an accident?

The Transport Accident Commission (TAC) is a no-fault scheme that covers you whether you are a passenger or driver. This means that as long you are abiding by the law, no one is at fault.

Will carpooling have any affect on my insurance?

As long as your cost-sharing does not produce a profit for the vehicle owner or driver, your insurance won't be affected. However, it must be kept in mind that some insurance companies have a 'Named Driver Policy' that may not cover other people driving your vehicle.

Carpooling tips

In order to get the most out of carpooling, here are some helpful tips.

Determine who will drive, and when.

If all members of your carpool want to drive, decide among yourselves if you want to drive on a daily, weekly or monthly basis.

Avoid side trips on the way home.

Save other trips, such as shopping, for the weekend. Otherwise simply choose not to carpool on the days you need to run an errand.

Establish a cost-sharing arrangement.

If the members of your carpool do not share the driving equally, come to an understanding of how the costs will be shared and agree on payment dates.

Give your carpool some time to work.

It usually takes a few weeks to arrange everyone's routine into a harmonious pattern. Most carpoolers discover they really enjoy the company of their fellow carpoolers and find it a benefit they had not anticipated.

Ensure everyone has a copy of home, work or mobile phone numbers.

If a driver is ill, or will not be going to work one day, an alternate driver should be notified to ensure that other members of the carpool will have a ride. If a rider is ill or will not be working, the driver must be contacted as soon as possible. Don't forget to give notice of holiday, personal or overtime plans.

Establish some ground rules.

Smoking, music, food, drinks, etc. Some may also like quiet time in the morning.

Determine a schedule and be punctual.

Establish pick-up times and designate a place to meet for the trip home. Decide together how long to wait for a passenger. The usual waiting time is 2-3 minutes.

Be flexible in carpooling arrangements.

You can arrange to carpool one day a week or fortnight – you don't have to do it five days a week.

Encourage others to carpool.

Letting others know of the benefits of carpooling can encourage this form of transport to be commonplace in your organisation.

Drive safely.

Carpools are no place for road rage or aggressive driving.



Carpooling to work

Tips and FAQs

Further information

If you have any further questions, contact the TravelSmart representative at your workplace or visit www.travelsmart.vic.gov.au.

