

# Talk to Your Teen About Driving Smart



## Set an example.

Teens pick up the habits from the person they drive with the most. Be sure you're doing your part to be a smart driver.

## Have an honest conversation.

Psychologists suggest that teen drivers are less likely to text or use the phone if their parents discuss the risks of distracted driving with them. Make it open and honest, rather than seeming like you are chastising them before they even start.

## Show them the facts.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 53% of those killed in teen distraction-affect crashes were teens 15 to 19 years of age. There are more facts listed on the other side of this brochure that you can use.

## Talk to them about insurance.

Despite knowing the risks of texting and driving, some teens grasp consequences better when it comes to something more tangible—like money. They can expect their car insurance to increase by 51% if they are at fault in an accident and someone is injured, (ValuePenguin.com). A good rule is—they pay if they get caught texting and driving.

## Reduce distractions.

Silence cell phones and put them out of reach before starting to drive. Set GPS, music, and climate controls before taking the car out of park. If they need to use their phone, wait until the car is safely stopped to do so. Ask your passengers to be respectful and helpful in the car.



**If you're distracted, no one's driving.**

## The Problem

- One out of two teens will be involved in a car crash before they graduate from high school.
- Teens are the most likely drivers to be distracted at the time of a fatal crash.
- One out of two people killed in crashes involving distracted teen drivers were teens.
- Distracted driving kills more than **eight** people and injures another 1,095 people daily in the U.S. (NHTSA)
- South Carolina ranks #1 out of all states in fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles driven. (IIHS)
- South Carolina averages two crashes every hour involving a distracted driver. (18,936 collisions in '19 per SCDPS)
- 70% of teens admit to using apps while driving. (Liberty Mutual and SADD)

## The Dangers

- You are 90% more likely to have an accident when driving distracted. (NHTSA)
- You will travel the length of a football field in the time it takes you to read one text message when going 55 mph. (NHTSA)
- Texting and driving is 6X more dangerous than driving drunk. (NHTSA)

*For more information visit: [doi.sc.gov/distracteddriving](https://doi.sc.gov/distracteddriving)*

