

How To Get Your Driver's License in California as a CA Resident Aged 18+

Study for the Written Permit Test

Before you go to a local DMV office to take your permit test, study! The test can be tricky.

Tips: Complete practice tests! You can find the California Driver Handbook, practice test, and more all for free on www.dmv.ca.gov. There are multiple free apps and other websites that can test your knowledge as well.



Collect all needed paperwork

Make sure you have all the documents you'll need to prove your identity.

Tips: Check the DMV website for all the paperwork you need as it changes. As of 2020, you'll need to provide proof of your Social Security number, proof of your full and true name, 1 document that proves your birth date and legal presence in the US, and 2 documents that prove your California residency (such as utility bills or rental/lease agreement signed by landlord).

Head to the DMV and Take Test

Make an appointment or expect to wait anywhere between 2-8 hours

Tips: You'll need pay the \$35 fee, fill out the application, provide all identity related documents and pass the written permit test. Didn't ace the written test? You get two more tries without paying. Miss too many questions? You get two more attempts for free.



Book Appointment and Practice

Get plenty of practice time in, look into the route the DMV uses and research what you will be tested on

Tips: Once you pass your written permit test you will receive your California permit number. Book a behind-the-wheel test as soon as possible and practice as the appointment could be months away



Pass the Behind the Wheel Test

Bring all you need, take deep breaths, and focus

Tips: Bring your permit, liability insurance policy (proof of financial responsibility), proof that the vehicle is properly insured, and a vehicle that is safe to drive and has valid registration. Didn't pass the driving test on your first try? That's okay! The retest is only \$7 and you learned a lot!

