

# 15 Rules for Operating 15-Passenger Vans

Drivers and passengers must take the following precautions to minimize the risks associated with driving 15-passenger vans.



1

## Create a written van safety policy

Drivers & other leaders should read and sign the van safety policy before each trip.



2

## Screen drivers

Require 15-passenger van driving experience and a clean driving record. Consider requiring a commercial driver's license.



3

## Eliminate driver distractions

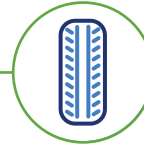
Never use devices or engage in distracting behavior while driving. Designate a co-pilot to help with navigation, communication, sound and order.



4

## Require rest

Limit the hours driven in one stretch to avoid fatigue.



5

## Tend to the tires

Check manual for recommended PSI, which may be different for front and back tires. Check tread and pressure before each use.



6

## Avoid overload

Ensure the van's weight rating (GVWR) is not exceeded. Never allow more than 15 passengers.



7

## Sit strategically

Occupy seats from front to back. If the van is not full, passengers should sit in front of the rear axle.\*



8

## Corral cargo

Load cargo from front to back, minimizing cargo storage behind the rear axle. Never load cargo on top of the van. Do not pull a trailer.\*



9

## Balance weight

Keep weight equally distributed across the right and left side of the van.



10

## Buckle up

The driver and all passengers must wear seatbelts at all times.



11

## Slow down

Drive slower than usual, especially around curves. Never exceed 60 MPH.\*



12

## Beware of blind spots

Educate drivers on inherent blind spots, especially when backing up.



13

## Avoid hazards

Avoid driving vans when road and weather conditions are poor.



14

## Document van inspections and maintenance

Be prepared to prove that you took reasonable care to maintain a safe vehicle.



15

## Safeguard assets

Turn off vehicle, remove keys, and lock all doors when leaving van. Update commercial auto insurance coverage annually.

\*Source: NHTSA.gov

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