

Following Too Closely - Keep a Space between Vehicles

There always seems to be something hindering our pace while driving. "Come on, let's get going," while we crowd a slower vehicle. Crowding the vehicle in front of you, or following too closely (tailgating) is an attempt to intimidate motorists to increase their pace. Driving too closely to the vehicle ahead does not provide adequate distance needed to react to an unexpected event. The space between vehicles provides the needed time to perceive a hazard and to react. What is too close? Vehicles should be separated by at least 3 seconds to see a problem and apply the brakes.



While driving, maintain a safe following distance of three seconds. Select a fixed object along the road ahead such as a sign, tree or overpass. When the vehicle ahead of you passes the object, slowly count "one thousand one, one thousand two, one thousand three." If you reach the object before completing "one thousand three," slow down to increase the distance between vehicles. It's easy - one thousand one...one thousand two...one thousand three. It's the law - and the right thing to do for you, your passengers, and others on the highway.



Keeping a three second space ensures your being able to stop safely.

