

## Frequently Asked Questions about Ridesharing



Never shared a ride before or have some questions? Learn more about ridesharing with answers to frequently asked questions.

### **What is ridesharing?**

Ridesharing is when two or more people commute to work or other destinations together in a private vehicle for all or part of a journey. It is also known as carpooling. Individuals work out their own arrangements such as who drives, how often, schedules, and payment for petrol and maintenance.

### **Why should I rideshare?**

Ridesharing will help you save money on petrol and parking by splitting driving costs among two or more commuters. It's a great way to meet people while saving the environment and your sanity.

### **What are my rideshare options?**

The rideshare scheme is set up so you can share rides with co-workers to and from home, a transit location, day care, or school. Depending on your schedule, you can rideshare once a week or every day and share the ride round-trip or just one way.

### **Who does the driving?**

In some rideshares, each rideshare member takes turns driving their own vehicle, while in others there is only one driver. There is no hard and fast rule - it is totally dependent upon the individual circumstances of those in your rideshare group.

### **What if I don't have a car?**

No problem – you don't have to have a car to participate in a rideshare scheme. When you are registering with rideshare service simply indicate that you want to be a passenger only. You can join a rideshare that doesn't need a driver and pay your share of the petrol and parking (if applicable).

### **How much should rideshare passengers pay?**

In rideshares where driving is equally shared, no money usually changes hands as each member is using their personal vehicle an equal amount of time. When only one person does the driving, or when there is an unequal split of driving responsibilities, the cost-sharing arrangement should be discussed by those in the rideshare. The rideshare members are free to base the costs on whatever they decide.

### **How much will I save by ridesharing?**

If you can share in the cost of commuting to and from work by ridesharing with others, your potential savings are significant. The more ridesharers in your group, the more savings you can expect. Sharing a ride with just one other person cuts your approximate daily commute costs by half.

Example cost savings for a two person rideshare commuting 15kms per day:

Petrol prices = \$1.50

Parking cost = \$10 per day

Total daily cost = \$21

>> Savings per person = \$10.50 per day; \$52.50 per week (rideshare 5 days); \$210.00 per month (rideshare 5 days a week for 4 weeks); \$2,550 per year

Refer to the *Travel Cost Calculator* to figure out the costs savings for your likely rideshare scenario.

### **Do I have to rideshare every day?**

No. You can rideshare every day, a few days a week, or once a week. You and your rideshare members decide the schedule. Some people even belong to two rideshares - you may rideshare with one rideshare on Mondays and Wednesdays and then join a second rideshare for the remainder of the week.

### **What happens if I'm sick?**

Call your rideshare partner or follow the chain of communication that has been decided upon at your initial meeting. If you're the driver, try to give as much advance warning as possible.

### **What happens if I oversleep or am late?**

Being late, or having to wait longer than anticipated, is one of the most common reasons why rideshares fail. Just like a bus, rideshares work best when they are on a defined schedule. Being on-time is just as important in a rideshare as it is with public transport. Each rideshare should have clearly defined guidelines for how long they will wait.

### **What if I have an appointment or errands to run before/ after/ during work?**

Schedule your errands and appointments on the days you don't rideshare. Sharing a ride for just two or three days a week will still save you money, reduce stress, reduce traffic, and improve air quality.

### **What if I have to drive my child to day care or school?**

If the other members of your rideshare don't have similar arrangements, make the day care centre or the school your pick-up and drop-off point. That way you can schedule your pick-up time to correspond to the time when you know your child is settled in for the day.

Note: If you are going to have a pick-up/ drop-off point different than your home address, just make sure to let others know the location of where you would like to be picked up and dropped off. If your organisation has a rideshare matching software in place be sure to enter the origin and destination address as the pick-up/ drop off point.

### **What if I have an emergency or I find out I have to work late?**

Many employers have a Guaranteed Ride Home (GRH) programme set up to provide registered participants (commuters who regularly ride the bus, rideshare, bike, or walk) with a reliable, emergency ride home on the day the person has used an alternative mode of transportation to get to work. Ask your rideshare or travel plan coordinator for programmes specific to your organisation.

### **How do I avoid ridesharing with unsafe drivers and/or people who make me uncomfortable?**

Once you've identified a potential rideshare partner, it's recommended that you e-mail and/or call them to begin the process of getting to know them. Arrange a meeting in a public place before starting to rideshare, and discuss driving safety. If needed, request contact information for personal references, and make sure to exchange emergency contact and any necessary medical information prior to starting the rideshare. Don't travel with someone you don't trust. There are plenty of other possible matches available for you.

### **What if my rideshare isn't working out?**

Give your rideshare sufficient notice that you will be leaving. You can look for new a rideshare partner or group and try again.

If you don't see what you need and have other questions contact your organisation's rideshare coordinator for answers or further help.