

## Tips for a Successful Rideshare

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Successful ridesharing requires establishing ground rules that are agreed upon by all rideshare members. To make your experience as smooth as possible, follow these tips:

**Get acquainted.** Before making any commitments with a new rideshare partner, set up a quick face to face meeting to get acquainted and to discuss your expectations. You'll be able to determine if you are a good rideshare match and discuss your ridesharing arrangements.

**Payment.** Decide on a method for reimbursing driving expenses. If all members don't share the driving equally, agree how the costs will be shared. If part of a group, does every member pay the same amount or does the payment reflect the commuting distance? Determine the payment dates and what methods of payment are to be used (cash, direct deposit, etc).

**Routes & schedules.** Determine your route and schedule in advance. Establish the morning pick-up point(s). Choose a convenient meeting place; pick up each person at home or meet in a central location (e.g. car park). Designate a place(s) to meet for the trips home and stick to your schedule.

**Exchange contact information.** Distribute a contact list with each person's home and work phone numbers. It's also a good idea to share emergency contact information before starting your rideshare.

**Be punctual.** Make an effort to be on time – no one likes to wait. As a group, decide what a reasonable waiting time is - usually no more than five minutes.

**Set ground rules.** What type of music is acceptable? Is drinking or eating allowed? You may decide to avoid talking about controversial issues by agreeing beforehand on what is permissible or not. Also keep in mind some people may enjoy quiet time to read, work or unwind.

**Driving duties.** Decide who will drive on which days. Some rideshares rotate driving responsibilities, while others have a dedicated driver. If there are members who wish to alternate driving, decide if you want to switch on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

**Drive safely.** Always drive carefully, respect speed limits and make sure everyone buckles up. If you are not the driver, avoid "backseat driving". Also, keep the vehicle clean and in good working order.

**Communication chain.** If a driver or passenger is sick, the car won't start or other issues arise, notify others as soon as possible so other arrangements can be made. Establish a line of communication on who replaces the driver if he/ she cannot drive.

**Stick to ridesharing.** Make it clear that the rideshare is only for commuting to and from work. Unless all members agree, avoid side tracking and stopping for errands. Keep the trip as short as possible and for agreed ridesharing purposes only.

**Insurance.** Make sure your insurance provider covers you in case of an accident. Get acquainted with your policy to ensure that you are properly covered.

## Tips for a Successful Rideshare

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**Give ample notice.** If you are going to leave your rideshare arrangement or will be on leave for an extended period of time, give sufficient notice so a replacement can be found. This way there's no sudden increase in cost for those who remain in the rideshare.

**Give it some time.** Starting a successful rideshare may take some time and a bit of tweaking. Some old habits are hard to break, so be patient. It may take a month or so before you can see how easy ridesharing is and how much you truly are saving. Most people never realise how easy it is until they give it a try. If, despite your best efforts, it isn't working - try again with another rideshare.