

For more information contact Council's Road Safety Officer on 8757 9000

Leaving Enough Distance

When driving or riding you need to see what is up ahead if you expect to avoid having a crash.

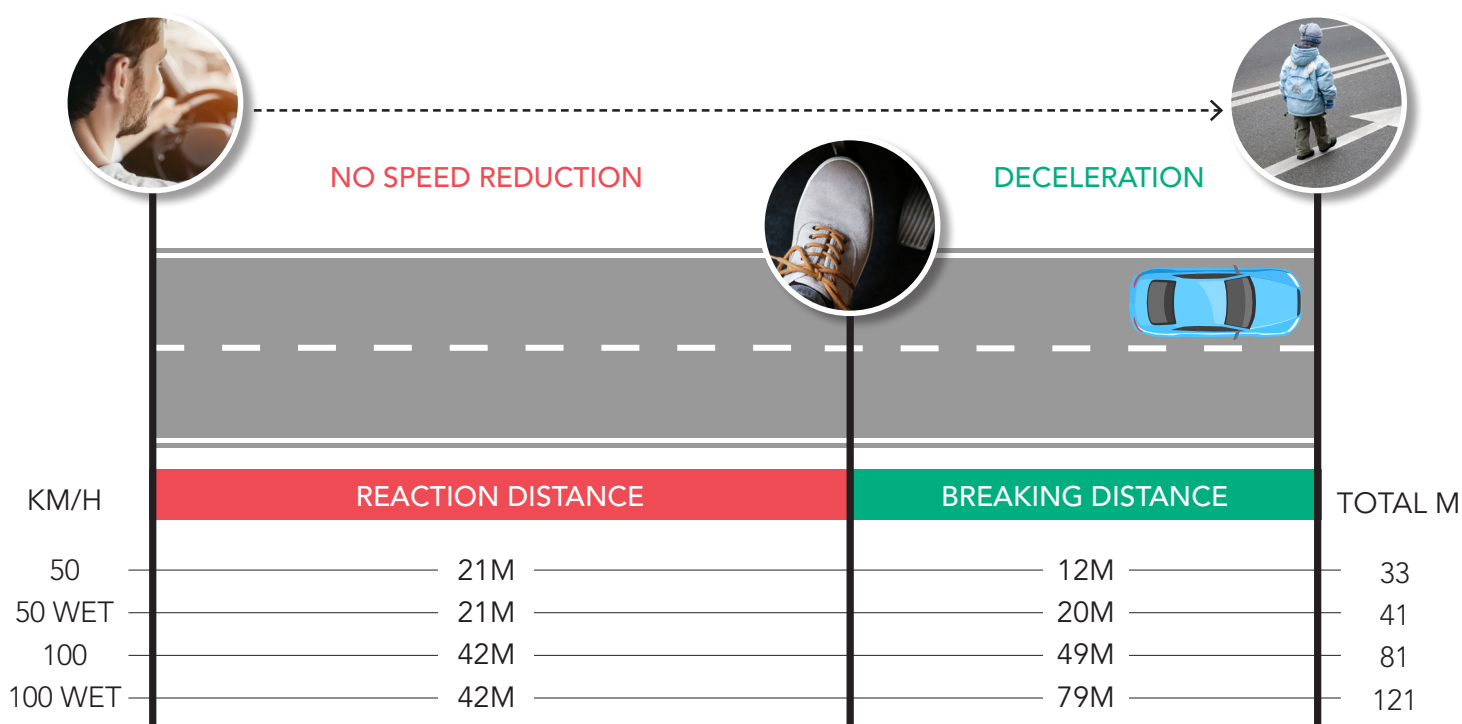
Nearly 1 in 3 crashes is a nose-to-tail crash. Driving with a "3 second gap" following distance is a good way to make sure you can see up ahead and avoid running up the back of another vehicle.

For example, if you see a child chase a ball onto the road it will take you at least 1 full second to realise what is happen and lift your foot off the accelerator. Only then can you hit the brakes and start to slow down.

The chart below shows you how far you will travel at different speeds before you get your foot onto the brake pedal – and then how far it will take you to come to a full stop.

The first calculation below is for the speed of 50km/h, on a dry road, with a driver reaction time of 1.5 sec; a modern vehicle with good brakes and tires. For further comparison 50 & 100 km/h speeds are given on a dry and wet road.

Note: calculations are guide only, in accordance with Australian Transport Safety Bureau.



When driving 50 km/h your vehicle moves 13.9 m every second. With an average driver reaction time of 1.5 seconds, driving 50 km/h you'll have travelled 21m **just reacting on danger** (first example shown above). This is why a 3 second following distance is essential, in case of an emergency stop. If weather conditions change from dry to wet, you will need to leave an even larger following distance.

GENERAL COURT PRACTICE:

The driver at fault in rear-end crashes usually hits the vehicle in front due to their speed not being adjusted appropriately according to the conditions.