



Dangerous DRIVING HABITS *It's time to drop*

Avoid these six behaviors that the NHTSA has deemed the riskiest:

- 1. Drunk driving:** There were 11,654 fatalities in vehicle accidents where at least one driver was impaired by alcohol in 2020, according to NHTSA.
- 2. Drug-impaired driving:** Driving under the influence of any kind of intoxicant can come with deadly consequences.
- 3. Distracted driving:** The NHTSA's 2020 distracted driving report shows 324,652 people were injured and 3,142 died in crashes involving distracted drivers. Cell phones and texting are the first things that come to mind. However, other things like eating, talking to passengers or fiddling with climate controls and the radio are things that can take your attention off of the road long enough to cause a crash.
- 4. Not wearing seat belts:** An est. 90.4% of front-seat occupants wore their seatbelts in 2021, according to the National Occupant Protection Use Survey (NOPUS). They also found 51% of passenger vehicle occupants killed in 2020 were unrestrained and 58% of those killed in nighttime crashes weren't wearing their seatbelts. The NHTSA claims buckling up in the front of a car can reduce your chance of fatal injury by 45%, and risk of moderate to critical injury by 50%.
- 5. Speeding:** Speed was involved in 28% of fatal crashes and 13% of injury crashes in 2020 – 11,258 deaths and an est. 308,013 injuries in total – according to NHTSA. These statistics show a 17% increase in speed-involved fatalities from 2019 (9,592 deaths) to 2020. Over the course of the last 20 yrs, speed has been involved in around 1/3 of all motor vehicle fatalities.
- 6. Drowsy driving:** The NHTSA reports 633 people died in drowsy-driving-related crashes in 2020. These crashes tend to happen most often between midnight and 6 a.m., and usually involve just vehicles carrying only a driver that run off the road with no sign there was an attempt to brake.

Heavy Rain? Be on the Lookout for Heavy Damage

Where is all that rain going?

Your roof and gutters form a key line of defense for your home – and in a storm, they're **vulnerable**, because so many things can damage them. Trees, hail, and other objects can create weaknesses that might lead to leaks in your roof, so check for missing shingles and other issues. And keep your gutters clear so all that water drains properly.

Are you checking everywhere?

Water in your crawl space can easily go undetected because hardly anyone ever checks there. Don't forget to look down there after a storm (or have a professional do it) to make sure everything is nice and dry. If you do see moisture, you'll want to get it out with a sump pump as soon as possible. And don't just look up – another place to check is your home's exterior. Of course, you'll want to make sure your doors and windows are properly sealed to keep the elements out, too.

What about around your property?

Storm water has to go somewhere, and if your property doesn't drain well, or if runoff goes toward your foundation, you could have problems. So watch for patterns, and grade property so it drains away from your home if possible. Be wary of hillsides and tilting trees after heavy storms, because the land might not be stable. And don't forget to keep storm drains clear.

What should you do during the storm?

During powerful storms, stay inside. This is not the time to check your roof, your exterior, or your property unless there's an emergency and you know it's safe to go out. Monitor your interior, making sure no water is getting in. If it is, do what you can even if it means just placing something under a leak to collect the water. For more serious problems, remember that safety is the most important thing.



Get started early to get YOUR BOAT READY FOR SUMMER

Tune it up. Make sure to get a full tune-up before summer.

Charge it. Make sure your battery is fully charged.

Clear it out. If there's a chance any bit of gas from last season is still in your tank, fill it up with fresh gas as well as a stabilizer; this will prevent buildup in the gas lines and injection system.

Give it a test. Ensure the motor will turn over before you get the boat all the way into the water.

Plug it up. Ensure drain plug is in & the bilge pump is functioning properly.

Double & triple check. Double check your documents are updated.

*My favorite
weather
is BIRD
CHIRPING
weather.*



Daylight Saving Time