

Carpooling Frequently Asked Questions



How can carpooling benefit me?

There are many benefits to carpooling. If you are currently driving every day, you're going to save money on your commute costs by carpooling. Depending on the length of your commute, these savings can be quite significant! You'll also see less wear and tear on your vehicle because you'll be driving less. On the days that you don't drive, you can use the time in the car to read a book, catch up on some sleep, or participate in conversation. Finally, by driving less, you'll be doing your part in keeping our air in Central Oklahoma clean.

How do I know if carpooling is right for me?

You really won't know if carpooling is a good commuting solution for you until you try it. However, you should go into a carpool with two things in mind. First, you need to be willing to work out a schedule that is convenient for you and the others in the carpool. Second, you should recognize that compromise might be required. For example, if everyone likes to listen to different radio stations, the car radio might not be tuned to your favorite station every day.

How do I find other carpoolers?

GetAroundOK.com makes it easy to find other carpoolers. Simply create a free account using GetAroundOK's online matching service. This service allows you to search for other people in your area who are interested in carpooling.

Carpool members can include your co-workers or schoolmates that you already know, or people who live near you and work at a nearby employer. GetAroundOK can even help you meet your neighbors or people who work at your company that you've never even met yet!

I've just found some matches using GetAroundOK.com. What do I do now?

You can send an instant e-mail to any of your matches using GetAroundOK.com. You don't even have to write the message if you don't want to, just send the pre-written one if you prefer.

Once you've made the initial contact and the match has responded, you should set up a time and place to meet in person to talk about possible carpool arrangements. Some good things to discuss at the first meeting include:

- How often would you like to carpool?
- Who wants to drive and how often?
- What will the meetup/pickup time and place for both ends of the commute?

If it looks like everyone wants to give carpooling a try, you should:

- Choose a start date.
- Exchange cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses.
- Make sure drivers have valid driver's licenses and car insurance.

Is carpooling safe?

Statistics show carpooling is very safe. However, you must keep your own personal safety in mind. If you are considering carpooling with people you don't know, you should meet up with them beforehand. This allows you to discuss your ideas on setting up a carpool without obligating yourself to do it. You'll also be able to assess your comfort level with the other people in a public setting. Always ask questions and trust your instincts. If you don't feel comfortable about someone, don't carpool with them. Simply say that you've decided that carpooling won't work for you.

Are carpoolers supposed to take turns driving?

They can, but it's not a requirement. A carpool may include people who do not drive at all. In these cases, the "riders" should plan to pay the driver an agreed-upon amount to help out with driving costs.

If a carpool does switch drivers, they can do so on a daily, weekly basis, or longer. This may change over time as new people join the carpool.

How much should a non-driver in a carpool pay?

This varies depending on the carpool. However, here are some guidelines to consider including how much the driver spends on gas and vehicle maintenance.

	Small Sedan	Medium Sedan	Large Sedan	4WD SUV	Average
Gas	8.0 cents	9.8 cents	10.7 cents	14.4 cents	10.7 cents
Maintenance	4.5 cents	4.9 cents	5.4 cents	5.0 cents	5.0 cents
Tires	0.5 cents	0.8 cents	0.7 cents	1.0 cents	0.8 cents
Cost per mile	13.0 cents	15.5 cents	16.8 cents	20.4 cents	16.4 cents

SOURCE: AAA's 2008 Cost of Driving

If you prefer to calculate the cost for your specific vehicle, use AAA's driving cost worksheet at: <http://www.fuelcostcalculator.com/>

Do I have to carpool every day?

Carpooling is something you can do all the time or just once a week. Carpooling is flexible enough so you can choose how many days you'd like to share a ride. If you have occasional before or after work commitments, be sure to let your fellow carpoolers know that you won't be available on those days.

Are there any insurance or liability issues that I need to be aware of?

Insurance policies vary, and it is a good idea to check your policy – primarily the Exceptions/Exclusions portions. General liability insurance covers passengers, and most policies would not exclude carpool members, but it is worth checking. You may also want to give your agent a call to see if you qualify for a carpooling discount!

