

NOTICE OF PROPOSED GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

Tailgating DSP115

Pursuant to Wis. Stat. s. 227.112, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation is hereby seeking comment on Tailgating DSP115, a proposed guidance document.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

Comments may be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for 21 days by:

1. Department's website:

<https://appengine.egov.com/apps/wi/dot/guidance-docs?guidDocId=DSP115>

2. Mailing written comments to:

Division of State Patrol
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
9th Floor South
4822 Madison Yards Way
Madison, WI 53705-9100

WEBSITE LOCATION OF FINAL GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

The final version of this guidance document will be posted at wisconsindot.gov to allow for ongoing comment.

AGENCY CONTACT

DOTDSPGuidanceDocs@DOT.WI.GOV



State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Tailgating

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Following too closely behind another motorist, or tailgating, is an aggressive driving behavior. You could be ticketed for tailgating. Worse, you could cause a crash, and end up hurting yourself and wrecking your car in the process.

Tailgating is a common cause for traffic crashes. So keep these thoughts in mind:

- As lovely as you may think your



Nobody likes a tailgater

vehicle is, the driver in front of you doesn't care to have it fill up his or her entire view in the rear view mirror.

- Tailgating doesn't make the person in front of you drive any faster, and may just get them irritated with you.
- If you must get ahead of the vehicle in front of you, maintain a proper distance and wait for a safe time in which to pass.

Wisconsin law is clear on tailgating: "The operator of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent, having due regard for the speed of such vehicle and the traffic upon and the condition of the highway."

It's all about being able to stop your car in time in case the vehicle in front of you suddenly hits the brakes. Here are some tips:

- Allow no less than 2 seconds between vehicles during the daytime.
- Allow more leeway for different conditions: 3 seconds at night, and 4 seconds during inclement weather such as during rain, snow, or ice.
- Be especially cautious when approaching stop lights, intersections, and when changing lanes.
- Anticipate potentially hazardous situations that could cause the driver in front of you to stop suddenly.

And if you happen to be the one BEING tailgated, you can head off aggressive driving behavior by allowing sufficient space in front of you so that an overtaking vehicle can enter and occupy that space without danger.

For more information:

- [Rules of the road, Chapter 346, Wisconsin Statutes](#)

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