

The top 10 new year's driving resolutions

Since typical New Year's resolutions can be hard to stick to, why not try our list of driving resolutions that are easy, safe and benefit more people?

1. First and foremost, "I will always wear my seatbelt!" Because your seat belt is the single most important piece of safety equipment in your vehicle, making sure you and each and EVERY passenger in the vehicle has one on should be a number one priority! Seatbelts protect you no matter what the speed, impact or direction is involved.

2. "I won't drive too fast regardless of what or who is stressing me out." It's easy to let your frustrations get you pressing that pedal down, but don't do it! It's a simple fact of physics. The faster you go, the less time you have to react to emergencies, the harder you crash, and the greater your chances of death or serious injury. A few extra minutes isn't worth the risk! Turn on your favorite tunes and slow down.

3. "I won't tailgate other vehicles." Following too closely is a dangerous habit that can result in serious accidents, especially during bad weather. Give yourself plenty of space between you and the car in front of you. Try the two second rule at moderate speeds and four seconds at high speeds. Count 1, 1,000, 2, 2,000, etc. between the car in front of you and yourself, using some marker on the side of the road.

4. "I won't make bad or quick passes and I will use good lane discipline." Pass in a smooth, progressive manner and move back over as soon as you can clearly see the vehicle in your rearview mirror. Always pass on the left and never use the shoulder.

5. "I will always use my turn signal." Your chances of preventing an accident are greater (even if you make a mistake) if you alert others what you are anticipating doing well in advance.

6. "I will allow other drivers to merge, even if they make that decision last minute." This has got to be one of the leading causes of road rage. Think again, though. Is it really worth it? Go ahead and let them in and let it go!

7. "I will obey all lights and stop signs." Stopping for red lights or a stop sign means to stop completely, too, not to just slow down. You risk an accident and a ticket if you roll through the stop.

8. "I will maintain good driving manners on the road at all times, no matter what other drivers do." This could definitely be the hardest resolution to follow! Bad manners on the road can include a multitude of driving sins – cursing, obscene gestures, excessive honking, loud music, refusing to merge, littering and just about every other action of rudeness or selfishness. Keep your cool and again, "let it go!"

9. "I will not let myself get distracted and affect my driving." Stop talking on the phone, changing music, eating and arguing in the car with others while you're driving. They all have a negative effect on your driving. Surprisingly, hands free telephone use is almost as distracting as touching your phone. Drowsy driving and distracted driving are as dangerous as drunk driving!

10. "I will not get in the car with someone upset, a reckless driver or one who has been drinking or taking drugs." Also, offer to pick up any friends or family that get caught in that situation.

So why not try out these resolutions starting tomorrow and make it a safer year for us all.

— Kim Perrella, Vice President of Auto Shows and Member Relations, ENYCAR

2017 Acura TLX

Continued from page 1

ren't as accommodating (drat), and many people understandably trade front wheel drive's lower entry price and higher mileage for the added security of all-wheel-drive.

Acura's AWD system is a good one: distributing power to the paws that need it in order to maximize grip, and paying dividends on wet or dry pavement. Super Handling All Wheel Drive is a \$2,200 upcharge on V-6 cars with the Technology or Advance packages. However, since it's not offered on any four-cylinder models, it's nearly a \$10,000 bump from the car's base price. Traction issues aside, TLX has a commendable ride quality — comfortable, but not too soft. While TLX handles confidently, the suspension and tire selection of the car have less of a performance tilt than, say the Audi A4 or the BMW 3-series

The main dash cluster is clean and legible. Some HVAC and sound system functions are accessed by conventional controls and others are absorbed into the main, center

stack touchscreen (one of two in the tiered, dual screen array). Generally speaking, I'm not a fan of dual screen center stack setups. Invariably, there's a duplication of controls, and greater potential for driver distraction. Simpler is better when it comes to switchgear, which is admittedly harder as you layer on the features.



That said, I found the TLX setup an improvement over the Accord we drove recently in two respects — despite being an older design. It has an actual knob for volume control, and the touchscreen was more accepting of input without de-gloving (ungloving? Going gloveless?). The electronic shifter interface is laid out in a line on the console, with the buttons at varying heights. The design is a puzzlement, as there's no apparent advantage to this layout.



While TLX shares a common undercarriage with Accord, the Acura's sheet metal is different and its footprint is shorter (2.2 inches). That translates on the inside to less rear seat legroom (4 inches) than cousin Honda, and also slightly less than class comparables like the A4 and 3-series; but a skosh more than Volvo's S60. Six-footers seated behind six footers will find legroom and headroom to be tight.

However, anyone who carries adults in back on a frequent basis would be better served by midsize cars than they would this (or any) compact. Trunk capacity ranges from 13.2-14.3 cubic feet. Rear seat-backs split and fold, revealing a rounded opening to accommodate long items through the trunk.