
SPEEDING TICKET CHEAT SHEET

Rocky Mountain™
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“I was driving through Salt Lake City in the center lane at exactly the posted speed limit looking for my exit. This lady comes screaming past me on the right going at least 20 over! Suddenly she hits the brakes and dramatically slows down, letting me pass her and there’s a cop on the side of the road with his radar gun, To this day I don’t know if the lady had a radar detector or just saw the officer; I do know that the officer looked up and saw me passing her and assumed I was the guilty party. Yep, I got a ticket. What bites is that I was not speeding, for once!”

Has this ever happened to you? You’re within the limit and get burned anyway? Well, hopefully this little booklet can give you some useful tips and tools to avoid those inconvenient stops.



“When cities in the US remove traffic ticket revenue from their budgets and law enforcement actively enforces the rules of the road for safety rather than revenue generation, we will gladly stop manufacturing and selling radar scrambling products.”

MICHAEL CHURCHMAN
PRESIDENT ROCKY MOUNTAIN RADAR



Speeding tickets are a costly fact of life and one of the financial hazards of driving. There are no guarantees that you will never get a speeding ticket, even if you never speed.

The police officers are human as well, and as such, suffer from the same weaknesses as we all do. Some are over-achievers trying to enforce zero tolerance; others are lazy and just want the day to end. Some had an awful day and take it out on those that they have power over and others are wonderful and courteous. Which one you encounter is a crap shoot!

Most people that do get a ticket simply pay and go on with their lives. Some will fight. Those that fight and win have empowered themselves with knowledge and gained the confidence to do battle in our legal system.

Here are 13 tips and tricks to help avoid ever getting a ticket in the first place. I hope they work as well for you as they have for me.

MB Churchman



WAYS TO AVOID GETTING A SPEEDING TICKET

OK. You know we're not going to say what your mama would tell you: "Just drive the speed limit; don't speed." That sounds good, but does not always work in real life.

- 1 DRIVE WITHIN 5-10 MPH OF SURROUNDING TRAFFIC.** Cops are watching for drivers who are going noticeably faster than the other cars on the road. If you're within a pack of cars all going 5 to 10 mph over the limit, you've automatically improved your odds of not being the one that gets pulled over for a speeding ticket. The officer is forced to pick only one car; if you go with the flow of traffic you do not stand out for increased attention. This is not a guarantee. I have seen a car selected from the middle of the pack with no reasonable explanation. It does, however, dramatically decrease the likelihood of being pulled over.
- 2 TRY TO STAY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACK.** If you're the lead car, logic says you'll be the first car to run past any cop's radar trap, and possibly get a speeding ticket. If you're going less than 7 MPH over the limit, there is a very good chance the officer will not pay attention and let you by. If you're the last car in the pack you'll be the one the police officer rolls up behind.
- 3 FIND A SOLITARY DRIVER.** If you can't find a pack of cars going the speed you'd like to maintain, the next best thing is to find a solitary driver traveling the speed you'd like to drive. You can follow discretely, several hundred yards back. Try to keep your pace car in sight but well ahead of you. That way, if there is a radar trap ahead, the pace driver will trip the trap. The officer will have time to react to the first driver, while you correct your speed, and your pace driver will be the one that gets the speeding ticket. Or, the pace driver will suddenly hit his brakes when he sees the trap, warning you in time to take defensive action.
- 4 DO NOT CHANGE LANES FREQUENTLY, TAILGATE OR OTHERWISE DRIVE AGGRESSIVELY.** These actions attract attention. An officer diligently watching traffic develops a form of 'traffic blindness'; he still sees the traffic, but goes into a quiet state that only detects anomalies (unusual activity that disrupts the orderly flow of traffic.). Aggressive drivers, sudden lane changes and excessive speed all disturb flow and can attract his attention. Use your turn signals and be courteous to fellow drivers. It's safer, and it will help you fade into the background.

5 AVOID THE FAST LANE. Use the far left lane to pass when necessary, but try to stay in the middle lanes when possible. If an officer is concealed in a cutout along the median strip (or coming at you from the opposite direction on a divided highway), the driver in the far left lane is always assumed to be the speeder. That driver is most likely to become the target.

6 WATCH FOR CROSSOVERS AND MODULATE YOUR SPEED ACCORDINGLY. On many highways, there are crossovers in the median strip every couple of miles. Usually, you can see these in plenty of time to slow down if needed in case there's a cop hiding behind the bushes.

7 DON'T SPEED (EXCESSIVELY) WHEN YOU ARE THE ONLY CAR ON THE ROAD. Even if you're only doing five mph over the posted limit, if there's a cop using radar, he has nothing else to look at but you. Lonesome speeding is even more dangerous in small towns, where radar traps and aggressive enforcement can be commonplace. Never speed late at night. Drunk-driving patrols are heavy and cops are more inclined to pull you over for any offense. I find that driving 3-5 over the limit late at night attracts less attention than exactly the limit or slightly below as someone who has had too much to drink is likely to do to avoid being stopped. Drunks tend to drive recklessly over the limit or just under.

8 NEVER ADMIT THAT YOU WERE SPEEDING. If you do get pulled over never acknowledge that you were speeding. You don't want to give the police any ammunition to use against you, should you contest your ticket in traffic court. When the officer tells you that you are speeding, give a brief, noncommittal response like, "I thought I was doing the speed limit" or "I was? I thought the speed was 70 (know the posted speed limit and tell him that speed limit). Asking sarcastic questions like, "What's the problem, Officer?" won't help your case; it will only alienate him. If the officer asks if you know why he pulled you over, always play dumb. Answer with "Do I have a burned-out tail light?" or "Is my tire low?" If he honestly believes you have no idea why he stopped you, you may escape with just a warning.

9 WAVE AT THE HIDDEN POLICE CRUISER. You were driving down the road a little faster than you should have been, and you spot a police cruiser lurking behind some shrubbery. One former police officer says that the smartest thing that you can do right then is to wave at the officer. Why? He will think that you know each other and wave back, or that you're acknowledging that you were driving too fast, and are letting him know that you're slowing down. Either way, you drastically reduce your chance of getting a ticket. At that point, you really have nothing to lose.

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IF POSSIBLE, DRIVE A NONDESCRIPT VEHICLE. It may not be fair, but it's human nature to notice things that stand out from the crowd. Bright-colored cars, those with loud exhaust or other performance enhancements are more likely to draw a cop's initial attention than ordinary-looking, family-type cars. The cop has to single out one car, which car do you suppose is the likely candidate for a speeding ticket? If you do get pulled over while driving a fancy, high-profile car, the odds of you getting a speeding ticket versus a warning have probably gone up. If you're driving a fast-looking hot rod, the cop is going to assume you use it and deserve a ticket more than the guy in a family ride whose plea that he "didn't realize he was speeding officer" comes off as more believable.

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CALIBRATE YOUR SPEEDOMETER. Go to: www.app.rockymountainradar.com and download our FREE speedometer app. This app uses the GPS in your smart phone to display a highly accurate speedometer and digital speed reading. Take a little time to check the accuracy of your speedometer by going three different speeds (30, 50, 70 MPH) and comparing your indicated speed to the true speed shown on the app. This is a totally free service we provide our customers. Knowing the accuracy of your car's speedometer is useful in setting your cruise control, travelling at your intended cruise speed or as a defense if you do get a speeding ticket (especially if you were not speeding!).

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USE A GOOD RADAR DETECTOR (NOT LEGAL IN VIRGINIA OR DC). There are many brands of radar detectors on the market, ranging in price from \$29.00 to more than \$700.00. Stay away from the detectors retailing below \$100 as they are rarely of good quality. Getting a good sales price is OK as long as it was originally priced above \$100. Unless you drive for a living, or you just like expensive toys, you do not need a detector costing more than \$400. Regardless of the detector you choose, be sure you pick one with decent range (1.5-3 miles or more) and low false alarm rates. These are the most important requirements. You want a detector that only alerts you to radar and in time for you to react. If the detector goes off at everything, you will eventually ignore it, and then you may as well not even have it.

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MOST OFFICERS DECIDE WHETHER YOU'RE GETTING A TICKET OR A WARNING BEFORE THEY EVEN APPROACH YOUR VEHICLE. A good rule of thumb is to keep your car maintained in such a way that you wouldn't be embarrassed to have your boss or family drive with you. Keep it clean, not cluttered, and free of bumper stickers. Forgo aftermarket add-ons like spoilers, tinted windows, and neon undercarriage lights. You want to say "I'm responsible and law-abiding," not "I hate the police, I speed all the time, and I'm trying to hide something from you."

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