



Drugs and Driving - The Law

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It's illegal to drive if either:

- You're unfit to do so because you're on legal or illegal drugs
- You have certain levels of illegal drugs in your blood (even if they haven't affected your driving)

Prescription medicines

It's illegal in England and Wales to drive with legal drugs in your body if it impairs your driving. It's an offence to drive if you have over the specified limits of certain drugs in your blood and you haven't been prescribed them.

Talk to your doctor about whether you should drive if you've been prescribed any of the following drugs:

- Amphetamine, eg dexamphetamine or selegiline
- Clonazepam
- Diazepam
- Flunitrazepam
- Lorazepam
- Methadone
- Morphine or opiate and opioid-based drugs, eg codeine, tramadol or fentanyl
- Oxazepam
- Temazepam

You can drive after taking these drugs if:

- You've been prescribed them and followed advice on how to take them by a healthcare professional
- They aren't causing you to be unfit to drive even if you're above the specified limits

Penalties for drug driving

If you're convicted of drug driving you'll get:

- A minimum 1 year driving ban
- An unlimited fine
- Up to 6 months in prison
- A criminal record

Your driving licence will also show you've been convicted for drug driving. This will last for 11 years.

The penalty for causing death by dangerous driving under the influence of drugs is a prison sentence of up to 14 years.

Others problems you could face

A conviction for drug driving also means:

- Your car insurance costs will increase significantly
- If you drive for work, your employer will see your conviction on your licence
- You may have trouble travelling to countries like the USA