

Stopping Distances



TRAUMA SERVICE
WESTMEAD HOSPITAL



Recent studies show that driving even a few kilometres per hour above the speed limit greatly increases the risk of a crash.

The risk of causing death or injury in a 60km/h zone increases rapidly with only small increases in speed.

The crash risk at 65km/h **is twice the risk** as 60km/h. The crash risk at 70km/h is more than **four times the risk** than at 60km/h.

One reason for this increased risk is reaction time – the time it takes for a driver to realise a danger and reacting to it.

Reaction time is critical and so if a driver is a little distracted then it will take them longer to react – which increases the time it takes them to brake.

Braking distance is the distance a car travels before stopping when the brakes are applied. The braking distance is affected by a variety of

factors – the surface of the road – wet or dry, sealed or dirt, the quality of the tyres of the vehicle.

One of the key factors in speeding related crashes is that most drivers **underestimate the distance needed to stop.**

Typical Stopping Distances

For an alert driver. On a dry road. Driving a vehicle with good brakes.

