

TERRA VISTA TIPS

DRIVING & DEMENTIA

When a loved one is diagnosed with dementia and is still driving, it can raise a number of questions, from when is it time for them to stop driving and how will I know when driving isn't safe anymore to how will I bring this up and what if they don't react well? While there's no one certain answer, it is beneficial to be aware of all the issues.

DEMENTIA & DRIVING: NAVIGATING THE ISSUES

When your loved one is diagnosed with dementia, you need to keep a closer eye on their driving abilities. Consider some of the following:

If your loved one comes back from familiar places much later than normal, gets lost or begins confusing road signs and traffic rules, it's time to consider no longer driving. Be sure to take a good look at the car, as well, because damage to the car can signal increasing accidents.

Talk to your loved one about concerns. This is often a very tricky discussion, so it's important to keep an open mind when considering mentioning the topic to your loved one. Bring up driving slowly and remain calm. Try to make them understand your concerns from a safety standpoint.

Understand that this isn't easy for your loved one either. They may feel as though they are losing their independence, can no longer come and go as they please and will not be able to see their friends. Listen to them and do not interrupt. Their thoughts and feelings need to be heard so you can come up with a solution together.

It's important to plan for resistance when you talk about no longer driving. It may take professionals to help your loved one see they shouldn't be, whether that means taking them to an eye doctor and getting their sight checked or visiting their doctor for a physical. They may be more likely to listen to a medical professional.

For more information, contact us today.



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MAKING TOUGH DISCUSSIONS EASIER

Discussing the issue of driving may be one of the toughest things you have to face as a caregiver. Your loved one may be reluctant to give up their keys, believe they don't have a problem or become irate. Fortunately, you are not alone. Let the experts at Terra Vista help. Join us for an upcoming support group or meet with our team to discover the support you deserve.

An Alzheimer's Assisted Living Community

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All Inclusive Memory Care Assisted Living