Washington residents’ guide to REAL ID

REAL ID starts on May 7, 2025.
Learn more at REALIDWA.com

You may have heard of REAL ID.
It’s a U.S. law established in 2005, requiring all states to comply with new identification standards for air travel and entrance to some federal facilities like military bases.

Here’s what Washington residents should remember:

ID2025.

That’s right, REAL ID starts on May 7, 2025, and REALIDWA.com provides all the details you’ll need to prepare.
When REAL ID goes into effect in May 2025, you’ll need more than a driver’s license to fly. Options include a foreign passport, military ID, employment authorization card, and many others.

Go to REALIDWA.com to find out if you’re ready for May 2025.

Don’t fly?

You’re covered. A REAL ID–compliant ID is not required to access federal courts, Social Security offices, national parks, and health care facilities—among others.

Other avenues of travel, such as driving across state lines or taking a train, do not require a REAL ID–compliant ID. Standard driver’s licenses and ID cards will work.

Standard Driver’s License and ID

Your standard driver’s license is still valid. Washington will continue to issue standard driver’s licenses and ID cards for driving and/or identification. Using a standard driver’s license or ID card after May 7, 2025 does not indicate citizenship or immigration status.