



Fly the right way

Consider others, be responsible

Your drone is an aircraft... that makes you a pilot.

Everyone who flies a drone, a model aircraft or any other remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) must follow New Zealand Civil Aviation rules.



Training

Take some training to help you better understand how to fly within the rules all drone pilots must follow (Civil Aviation Rule Part 101).

Variations from the **Part 101** rules can only be granted to operators holding a certificate issued by the CAA under **Rule Part 102**.

Find more information about certification and a list of approved training organisations at www.caa.govt.nz/drones



For more information about flying your drone

flyyourdrone.nz ➔

There are some exceptions to the rules outlined here.

The full rules are at www.caa.govt.nz/drones

Be aware if you breach New Zealand Civil Aviation Rules while flying your drone you could face disciplinary action including prosecution.

To contact the CAA for advice

✉ email: drones@caa.govt.nz

Consider others, be responsible

Always keep a respectful – and safe – distance from people and property.

- Stay a safe and considerate distance away from people and buildings.
- Don't fly directly over people, unless they say it's OK.
- Don't fly over private land, such as farms or houses, unless you have the owner's consent.
- Check with the local council or the Department of Conservation before flying in public areas such as parks, beaches and reserves.
- Keep your drone in sight at all times – fly only in daylight and when the visibility is good - stay clear of fog and cloud.
- If you see another aircraft, stay well clear of it and land immediately.

Know the no-fly zones

It's dangerous to fly drones anywhere other aircraft are operating.

- Stay 4 km away from any airport – including helipads at hospitals and those used by sight-seeing aircraft.
- Be aware that controlled airspace around airports extends well beyond the 4km limit – you must have clearance from Air Traffic Control to operate in that area.
- Don't fly in special use airspace, such as Low Flying Zones, Danger, Restricted or Military Operating Areas.
- Fly no higher than 120m (400ft) above the ground - this keeps your drone below the height of other aircraft.

To see a map of these no-fly zones, or to apply for a clearance to fly your drone within controlled airspace, go to www.airshare.co.nz



Pre-flight checklist

Like any pilot, you need to do a pre-flight check.



1. Check the tech

Make sure the battery is fully charged and all drone components are secure and undamaged.



2. Scan the land

Your flying area must be clear of people, animals and anything else that might cause problems, such as powerlines. Get permission if you plan to fly over people or private property, or stay well away.



3. Eyes on the drone

You must always be able to see your drone. Fly it no higher than 120m (400ft) above ground level, and only in daylight, avoiding cloud or fog.



4. Check for no-fly zones

There are many areas you can't fly a drone, such as zones that extend around airports. Know where you're allowed to fly, and where you need to ask for clearance first.



5. Be ready to land

If you see another aircraft, or an emergency situation unfolding, immediately land your drone.

