

# DFW Newcomer Cheat Sheet (2025)

## Traffic & Roads

- Avoid 635 (LBJ Freeway) during rush hour — seriously.
- Toll roads are common — get a **TollTag** to save money.
- “The Tollway” = Dallas North Tollway
- Waze works better than Google Maps here.
- Loop 12 and 635 define the “inner loop” for locals.

## Essential To-Dos

- Driver’s license + vehicle registration = within 30 days
- Electricity is deregulated — compare plans at **PowerToChoose.org**
- Set up water/trash via your city’s website
- Register to vote at **VoteTexas.gov**

## Daily Life Tips

- H-E-B (Frisco, Plano) is the local grocery hero
- Sunday errands? Go early or skip them altogether
- Download your city’s trash & recycling calendar
- Nextdoor and Facebook groups = neighborhood goldmines
- Check library calendars — they’re packed with free events



## Family Favorites

- Klyde Warren Park, Parr Park, and Celebration Park = top family outings
- Fort Worth Zoo > Dallas Zoo for animal variety
- Crayola Experience and Peppa Pig World = indoor lifesavers
- Free concerts at **Levitt Pavilion** (Arlington)



## Surviving Texas Summer

- Mornings only for parks June–August
- Splash pads > playgrounds after 10 AM
- Keep sunshades and water bottles in the car
- Join a rec center — many have indoor play for kids



## Neighborhood Terms You'll Hear

- “The Bush” = President George Bush Turnpike
- “The High Five” = Complex 635/75 interchange in North Dallas
- “Up in Prosper” = new construction, longer commutes
- “I live near 121” = could mean Frisco, Plano, The Colony, McKinney...

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