

DRIVER'S Handbook



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Licensing and Registration

Who can drive in Newfoundland and Labrador?

To drive a motor vehicle in Newfoundland and Labrador, you must hold a valid licence for the type of vehicle being driven. To obtain a driver's licence in Newfoundland and Labrador, applicants must complete the [Graduated Driver Licensing Program](#).

Licence classifications

Each driver's licence issued in the Province is a [classified licence](#). This means it belongs to a group or category, and allows drivers to operate the types of vehicles listed in that category.

Your licence will be classified on its main category and endorsed for other classes of vehicles you may be entitled to drive. For example, you may have a Class 5 driver's licence, which is also endorsed for Class 6, because you may have a valid motorcycle licence.

Residents

Any resident who is 16 years of age or older, holds valid ID and who has not been refused for a medical reason, may apply for a Newfoundland and Labrador driver's licence. A resident is defined as any person who has been living in the province for a minimum of 90 days.

Visitors

Visitors to the province are not required to hold a provincial driver's licence if they drive the same type or class of motor vehicle for which they hold a licence outside Newfoundland and Labrador.

New residents

From other parts of Canada

If you have recently moved to Newfoundland and Labrador, you may use your valid out-of-province driver's licence for the first 90 days of your residency. You must apply for a Newfoundland and Labrador driver's licence and surrender your old licence to a Motor Registration office within those 90 days. It is illegal to hold more than one driver's licence.

A Class 5 driver's licence from another Canadian jurisdiction is accepted without testing. Applicants for Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 licences must provide a medical report and pass a vision-screening test.

From the United States

Individuals taking up residence from the United States can exchange their existing licence for a Newfoundland and Labrador driver's licence, without taking a written, vision or road test, provided:

- you are 17 years of age;
- you present the required identification documents;
- your existing licence is valid (not suspended, cancelled or revoked); and
- your licence, if expired, is not expired more than five years.

If you are exchanging a [commercial driver's licence](#) (Class 1 - 4), you will also be required to complete a medical report and pass a vision screening test.

From other countries

A valid licence from a country that has a reciprocal or unilateral licensing agreement with Newfoundland and Labrador can be exchanged for a provincial driver's licence if you present a valid licence of the equivalent class.

Newfoundland and Labrador has reciprocal/unilateral agreements with the following jurisdictions:

- Class 5 only: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Republic of Korea and Ukraine.
- Class 5 and 6: France, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Japan and Taiwan.

NOTE: All licence exchanges must be completed at a Motor Registration office. Parental consent for applicants under 19 years of age is required. All other licence classes require testing, medical and vision screening. Applicants must disclose all medical conditions and/or physical disabilities that may affect their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. All applicants must produce immigration and residency documentation, along with acceptable identification.

Countries without reciprocal agreements

If you hold a valid driver's licence from outside Canada, you must apply for a Newfoundland and Labrador driver's licence when you move to the province. A successful applicant may be granted partial exemption from the [Graduated Driver Licensing Program](#), and allow for immediate written, vision and road testing for a Class 5 driver's licence (without holding a learner's permit for one year).

Further information for new residents and visitors is available [online](#).

Applying for your driver's licence

Identification documents

In order to receive a learner's permit, photo ID card or a Newfoundland and Labrador driver's licence, you must be a resident of the province and provide the appropriate identification documentation.

If you are a **Canadian resident**, you will need two pieces of identification; one must be an original primary document, and the second, an original secondary document in the following categories:

Primary: Government-issued birth certificate; valid Canadian passport; Canadian Armed Forces identification card; municipal, provincial or federal police identification; federal firearms identification card; photo ID card issued by Motor Registration Division.

Secondary: Baptismal certificate (with church seal); marriage certificate; Social Insurance card; credit card; school identification card with photograph (Newfoundland and Labrador schools only); Government of Newfoundland and Labrador employee identification; photo driver's licence from another Canadian jurisdiction; MCP card; Health Authority card (Newfoundland and Labrador only); other documentation satisfactory to the Registrar.

If you are moving to Newfoundland and Labrador from another country, and are applying for a learner's permit, driver's licence or ID card, you **MUST** provide proof of your legal presence in Canada. You must show one primary proof of legal presence document, plus one secondary document, or; two primary documents; one of which must be an acceptable document for proof of legal presence as listed within each category below.

Proof of legal presence: Valid foreign passport with appropriate immigration documents; permanent resident card or immigration papers; record of landing; study or work permit; Canadian citizenship card; temporary resident permit; Secure Certificate of Indian Status Card (with photograph); valid Canadian passport.

Primary: Government-issued birth certificate; valid Canadian passport; Canadian Armed Forces identification card; municipal, provincial or federal police identification; federal firearms identification card; photo identification card issued by Motor Registration.

Secondary: Baptismal certificate (with church seal); marriage certificate Social Insurance card; credit card; school identification card with photograph (Newfoundland and Labrador schools only); government identification card (Newfoundland and Labrador only); photo driver's licence from another Canadian jurisdiction; MCP card; Health Authority card (Newfoundland and Labrador only); other documentation satisfactory to the Registrar.

Note: You may produce two pieces of identification from the primary list. We **cannot** accept two pieces of identification from the secondary list.

Photo requirements

- New applicants seeking a learner's permit or driver's licence must be photographed before the permit or licence is issued.
- If you need to update your photo, you will be notified on your driver's licence renewal application.

Fitness to drive

The safety of other people depends on your fitness to drive. Safe driving is a complex activity that requires skills and knowledge, including adequate cognitive, sensory and motor skills. In order to receive a Newfoundland and Labrador driver's licence, you must pass a vision test and declare your medical fitness to drive. Any illness, disease or disability that could affect your ability to safely operate a motor vehicle must be truthfully disclosed on application or renewal for a driver's licence or learner's permit.

Medical professionals in the province are legally required to report patients with medical conditions that may affect driving to the Registrar. Your driving privileges will be reviewed and you may be asked to submit additional information if you have a condition, such as:

- diabetes
- epilepsy
- arthritis
- hypertension
- limb disability
- sleep disorder
- blackouts
- vertigo
- frequent fainting or dizziness
- psychiatric disorder
- severe coronary or cardiovascular disease,
- vision or hearing loss
- alcohol, and/or drug additions or various other conditions

It may be necessary to have a medical report completed by a doctor, or an evaluation completed by a specialist.

As we get older, the risk of developing a medical condition that may affect the ability to drive increases, and we may notice deterioration in both physical and mental abilities. You are required to submit a driver medical form upon turning 75 years of age, if you have a Class 5, 6 or 8 driver's licence. A second medical is required upon turning 80, and then every two years, for as long as you continue to have a driver's licence.

For commercial driver classes (1, 2, 3, 4), you will be required to submit a medical upon initial application and then every five years up to age 45, every three years from age 45-65, and every year after age 65.

Graduated Driver Licensing Program

Graduated licensing is a gradual step-by-step process designed to help novice drivers, regardless of age, acquire the knowledge and skills needed to operate a motor vehicle.

This is accomplished by gradually increasing driving privileges during a new driver's first two years on the road. There are two levels during the novice driver period.

Level I: Learner

Level II: Novice

Once you become a Level I driver, it is recommended that you enroll in an approved driver education program. The successful completion of a driver education program reduces the wait time for a Class 5II (Novice) road test from 12 months to eight. This will also help you better understand the rules of the road and safe driving practices.

In addition to fewer driving privileges, during your time as a novice driver you are required to follow the rules of the road. If you commit offences or are disqualified, obtaining your full licence can be delayed. Breaking these rules may result in a suspension of your learner's permit or novice licence.

Parental consent requirement

If you are under age 19 and applying for a driver's licence for the first time, your parent or legal guardian (who must show proof of guardianship) must accompany you to a Motor Registration office to sign consent on your licence application. Parents or legal guardians have the right to withdraw their consent in writing at any time until the person reaches age 19. If they withdraw consent, driver's licence privileges will be suspended. The signature of your parent or legal guardian is not required if you can provide documentation that you are married or self-supporting.

Novice driver

A 'novice driver' sign must be prominently displayed in the rear window of the vehicle you are driving. The lettering must be a minimum of five centimeters in height, in black lettering, on a white background. If the sign is placed in the rear window, it is highly recommended that it be placed in the lower corner rear window, directly behind the driver. This location provides the least amount of vision obstruction for the driver. The sign can be placed on the trunk or rear bumper as well.

The 'novice driver' sign should only be displayed on the vehicle when the vehicle is being driven by a driver with a learner's permit.

1. Learner (Class 05I)

Requirements:

- 16 years or older*
- Pass a written test
- Pass a vision test

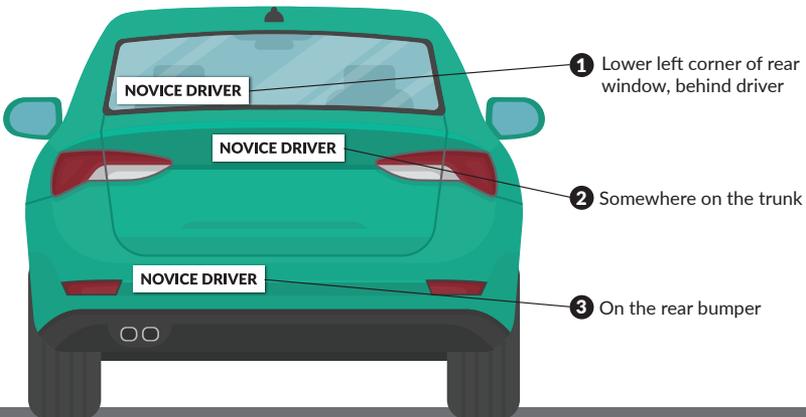
Conditions:

- Must be accompanied by a licensed driver with at least four years' experience as a full Class 5 driver.
- Driver and accompanying driver must have zero per cent Blood Alcohol Content.
- Not permitted to drive between Midnight and 5:00 a.m.
- No passengers permitted.**
- Must display a 'novice driver' sign.***

Any one of these locations are acceptable for a novice driver sign.

NOVICE DRIVER

The lettering must be a minimum of five centimetres in height, in black lettering, on a white background.



2. Novice

Requirements:

- Must have spent 12 months at Level 1 or eight months with successful completion of an approved driver education program.
- Pass a road test.

Conditions:

- Must be accompanied by a licensed driver with four years of experience as a full Class 5 driver when driving between Midnight and 5:00 a.m.[^].
- Driver and accompanying driver must have zero per cent Blood Alcohol Content.
- Novice driver must have zero per cent Blood Alcohol Content.
- Number of passengers in vehicle are restricted to number of seat belts in vehicle.

3. Full

Requirements:

- Must have spent 12 months at Level II.

* Parent/guardian consent required if you are under 19 years of age.

**Parent/guardian may be present if learner is enrolled in a driver education program and accompanied by a licensed instructor.

*** Sign must be displayed in a prominent position in the rear window of the vehicle you are driving. Lettering must be a minimum of five centimeters in height, in black lettering, on a white background.

[^]Exemptions are available for employment. You must have confirmation of your work schedule, signed by your employer, in the vehicle with you. You are required to show this to a police officer when asked.

Written test

You are required to pass a written test to obtain a learner's permit. The questions consist of multiple choice questions about rules of the road, safe driving practices, road sign recognition and more. A mark of 85 per cent is required to pass. The questions on the test are based on information in this guide and the [Highway Traffic Act](#) and [Regulations](#).

Class 5 written tests may be completed online through the [MyGovNL](#) portal. If you successfully complete your test online, you will need to visit a [Motor Registration office](#) or [Government Service Centre](#) to have your identity and test results verified, undergo a vision test and pay the fee for the learner's permit. Your learner's permit will not be valid until you have completed this step. Passed written test results are valid for six months.

When you pass the test, you will receive a driver application form. You must take this document to the Motor Registration office to have your photo taken and to receive your learner's permit card.

Your Class 5I (Learner) permit is valid for two years. It may be renewed by visiting a Motor Registration office. If you allow your learner's permit to expire for more than 12 months, you will be required to take the written test again before the permit can be re-issued.

Written tests can be conducted in languages other than English. The Registrar must approve interpreters. If you require an interpreter, you are responsible for any costs.

Road test

After 12 months as a learner or eight months with the completion of approved driver training, you may take your road test. This test determines whether you have developed the driving skills necessary to become a Class 5II (Novice) driver. Passing the road test allows you to move from a Class 5I (Learner) to a Class 5II (Novice) driver.

The road test takes approximately 30 minutes. This will include the driver examiner's pre-test instructions, inspection of your vehicle, the parking and road components of your test and a summary of your results. You will be required to demonstrate the ability to operate your vehicle safely without supervision, while interacting with other road users.

The test will include identifying and operating your vehicle's controls. In addition, you will be required to demonstrate your knowledge and skill in:

- handling the vehicle (steering, braking and speed control)
- selecting the proper lane for turns
- observing and obeying speed zones
- determining right of way at intersections and while changing lanes
- demonstrating knowledge and skill at intersections, with and without sign and signal controls
- parking

On the day of your road test, your vehicle will be checked for mechanical fitness, and you must present the following:

- a receipt for payment of your road test.
- valid Class 5I learner's permit.
- valid insurance policy.
- valid vehicle registration permit for the vehicle in which you are being tested.
- proof of completion of an approved driver training course (where applicable).

Delays in processing your road test receipt may result in the cancellation of your appointment. It is recommended that you pay for your road test at least 24 hours before your scheduled test time. Payment for your test can be completed online at [MyGovNL](#) or by visiting your nearest [Motor Registration office](#) or [Government Service Centre](#).

Once you pass your road test, a clerk must process you. During this process, you provide your passed road test receipt and pay the [fee](#) for your driver's licence. One will not be issued until this step is complete. Passed road test results are valid for 12 months.

Common reasons for not passing the road test

- Exceeding the maximum number of points for errors.
- Exceeding the speed limit or driving too fast for the conditions.
- Failing to stop completely before proceeding through an intersection controlled by a stop sign, or before turning right on a red light.
- Failing to yield the right of way at an intersection or during a lane change.
- Obstructing traffic by driving too slowly or stopping unnecessarily.
- Any unsafe driving behaviour that requires the Examiner to stop the test.

Obtaining a motorcycle licence

Motorcycle licences (Class 6) fall under the [Graduated Driver Licensing Program](#). To qualify, you must be 16 years of age or older, pass a motorcycle balance test, written test, sign test, vision test and a road test in traffic. Gaining the skills for motorcycling requires a lot of practice. Before you go out on the road with other traffic, there are certain basic skills needed for your safety.

Motorcycle balance test and written test

When you report for the balance test, you should wear clothing that covers your entire body (reflective if possible), an approved helmet and eye protection. You should also carry proof of insurance and motorcycle registration. Your motorcycle must have no defects and pass an inspection.

The test will consist of the following maneuvers:

- operating the controls (being able to designate any of the major-minor operating controls)
- controlling the engine (starting and shutting down the engine during the test)
- up-shifting/down-shifting (changing gears while riding)
- weaving (riding in a weaving pattern through a pylon course)
- straight line balance (riding as slowly as you can through a pylon course)
- stopping quickly (stopping the motorcycle as quickly as possible without skidding the wheels)

The balance test requirement will be waived upon successful completion of a motorcycle training course. Proof of completion must be submitted.

The written test consists of questions about safe driving practices for motorcycle riders, rules of the road, traffic control signs and signals, as well as licensing information. The motorcycle (Class 6) knowledge test questions are based on information in this guide and the [Highway Traffic Act](#). Upon successfully completing the balance, written and vision tests, you will be issued a Class 6I (Learner).

The above three tests can be completed in any order. A Class 6I (Learner) will not be issued until all tests have been completed successfully.

The written test may be taken at any [driver examination centre](#).

Learning to ride

It is recommended that all new riders take a course to learn how to ride a motorcycle safely. Balance and control skills will be taught, as well as motorcycle riding theory. Some specific skills taught may include:

- weaving left and right through markers
- making a circle or figure eight pattern while riding
- riding at a slow speed in a straight line
- shifting up and down, then turning left and right
- changing gears to prepare for curves
- starting and moving on a hill
- stopping quickly in an emergency
- steering and braking methods to avoid obstacles or a collision

As a Class 6I (Learner) driver, you will have the following restrictions:

- must be accompanied by a licensed driver with four years driving experience as a full Class 6 driver on another motorcycle or in a motor vehicle
- not permitted to have passengers
- not permitted to drive after dark (half-hour before sunset to half-hour after sunrise)
- not permitted on highways where the speed limit exceeds 80 km/hour

Both you and your accompanying driver must have zero percent Blood Alcohol Content, and you must spend 12 months at Level I, or eight months with successful completion of an approved driver education program.

Road test

The road test takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. This provides time for the examiner to assess the rider's skills and abilities in a variety of road and traffic conditions. The road test will include:

- an equipment and motorcycle fitness check
- an evaluation of the rider's ability to follow the rules of the road, signal properly, perform left and right turns and use safe judgment at intersections
- an evaluation of the rider's skills with balance, road position and speed control

After the road test, the examiner will explain the results of the test and areas where you did well or that need more attention. If you are successful, you will be eligible to receive a Class 6II (Novice).

As a Class 6II (Novice) driver, you will have the following restrictions:

- you must spend 12 months at Level II
- driver must have zero per cent Blood Alcohol Content
- driver is not allowed to drive between Midnight and 5:00 a.m.

Following a full year as a Class 6II (Novice) driver, you will then receive a full Class 6 licence.

Renewing, replacing and updating your licence

Renewing

All driver's licences issued in Newfoundland and Labrador are valid for a five-year period and expire on your birthday. The expiry date appears on the front of the card. You must renew your licence before that date, otherwise it will not be valid and you will be ineligible to drive.

Before your licence expires, Motor Registration will email a reminder through your [MyGovNL](#) account. You can renew your driver's licence [online](#), have your photo taken at a Motor Registration office (required every 10 years) and pay the appropriate [fees](#).

If your driver's licence is expired less than five years, you may renew your licence without taking any written, vision or road tests. If your driver's licence is expired more than five years, you will be required to take a written, vision and road test. However, you may be given credit for the time previously spent as a licensed driver and you may be exempted from the Graduated Driver Licensing Program. The Registrar must review your application. If your licence is expired for 10 years or longer, you must complete the [Graduated Driver Licensing Program](#).

Replacing

If your driver's licence is lost, stolen, destroyed or is unreadable, you must apply for a replacement immediately at a [Motor Registration office](#). If your driver's licence is stolen, you must report it to the police, and provide the police report number to the Motor Registration office when you apply for your replacement. Requests for replacement can be done in person or by [email](#). If you know your driver's licence number, please provide it with your request. If you do not know your driver's licence number, you must provide your name, address and date of birth. There is a \$25 fee (\$10 for seniors) to replace your driver's licence.

Updating your information

If you change your name, you must inform [Motor Registration](#) within 10 days. You are required to provide documentation supporting the change. Accepted documents include an original of marriage certificate, an original birth certificate or an official name change document (issued by Vital Statistics). This request must be completed in-person at your nearest Motor Registration office.

If you move, you must inform Motor Registration within 10 days. Change of address notification can be completed online at [MyGovNL](#). You will be required to upload proof of your new address.

To change the sex designation that appears on your driver's licence, you must provide an official document issued by Vital Statistics. Acceptable documents include an original birth certificate or a [Change of Sex Designation Certificate](#).

Please note: your information will be changed on the Motor Registration system and a new driver's licence, photo ID (if applicable) and vehicle registration (if applicable) will be sent to you by mail.

Department of National Defence (DND) 404 driver's licence equivalencies

If you hold a [Department of National Defence \(DND\) 404](#) licence, or have held a DND 404 licence that is expired less than two years, you may be eligible to obtain an equivalent class of driver's licence without written or road testing.

Newfoundland and Labrador's existing identification requirements, medical requirements and applicable fees still apply; however, you will not be required to surrender your DND 404 licence and testing and training may be waived.

Motor Registration will waive Class 1, 2, 3, 4 and full Class 5 knowledge and road test requirements for applicants who have been issued a DND-404. This allows for the operation of commercial and private passenger vehicles (must hold DND 404 for a minimum of two years) and issuance of an equivalent Class 1, 2, 3, 4 or full Class 5 driver's licence, provided the following conditions are met:

You must complete and submit an upgraded driver application qualification form, along with a DND driver proficiency record, indicating your name and date of birth, DND-404 permit number, licence class(es) and, if applicable, air brake endorsement, restrictions, licence effective and expiry dates and licence status.

You will also need to submit confirmation that you are the holder of a current DND 404 Class 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 equivalent that is not expired, revoked or suspended, and a letter to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles, signed by the base or station transportation authority.

All documents submitted must be originals only. For Class 1, 2, 3 and 4 licences, you must provide a current driver medical examination (PDF file format) for Motor Registration dated within six months of upgrade application.

Restriction codes

A restriction code may be added to a driver's licence to identify added requirements when operating a motor vehicle. For example, all drivers must meet specific vision standards to operate a vehicle. If you require glasses or contact lenses, which must be worn while driving, you will have a restriction placed on your driver's licence indicating this requirement. A person may also be required to have a health examination by a doctor periodically to be allowed to drive. This will also be indicated on the driver's licence.

Restriction codes:

- 1 - Corrective lenses
- 2 - Side mirrors
- 3 - Automatic transmission
- 4 - Power steering/brake
- 5 - W-Class<5 (Canada only)
- 6 - Daylight only
- 7 - Hand controls
- 8 - Bus/ambulance not valid
- 9 - Defined restriction

Endorsement codes

An endorsement code on a driver's licence shows that the driver has had specific education or training. An endorsement may indicate that the person is permitted to drive a vehicle that has a specific feature, like a vehicle with air brakes. Each condition or endorsement has a code attached to it and may be shown on the driver's licence.

Endorsement codes:

- 01 Semi and tractor-trailer
- 02 Bus over 24 passenger
- 03 Trucks with three or more axles
- 04 Bus up to 24 passenger, taxi and ambulance
- 05 Two axles, does not exceed 4,500kg
- 05I Learner Class 5 Level I
- 05II Novice Class 5 Level II
- 06I Learner Class 6 Motorcycle Level I
- 06II Novice Class 6 Motorcycle Level II
- 08 Traction engine only
- 09 (A) Air brakes or air brakes with adjustment
- 14 Photo ID only

Re-classing your licence

When re-classing your driver's licence (excluding Class 5I to Class 5II), you must present proof that you have completed a knowledge test and vision test through a Motor Registration office. Additional requirements may also apply for [commercial drivers](#). Re-classing your driver's licence from your current Class to a Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 licence will also require a [medical report](#). If you are not medically fit to hold a higher class of licence, you will not be permitted to proceed with the testing.

You must successfully complete a road test in traffic in the class of vehicle requested. A [fee](#) is charged for each road test.

Driving with the wrong licence class is against the law. It is an offence for vehicle owners to allow their vehicle to be used by someone who does not have the proper class of licence for that vehicle.

Losing your licence (suspension)

Irresponsible, unsafe or impaired driving may result in your licence being suspended. Suspension means you are disqualified from operating a vehicle or from holding or obtaining a licence or permit for a period of time.

To reinstate your licence after a suspension, you may be required to pay fines and [reinstatement fees](#), complete designated courses, submit medical information or install an ignition interlock device. Testing or other requirements are at the discretion of the Registrar.

Read this guide carefully so you are aware of the significant consequences of breaking the law while driving. Losing your licence can have considerable impact, and it is best to avoid any situation that could cause you to have your licence suspended.

Classes of driver's licences

Class	Permitted to operate	Expiry	Vehicle types	Minimum requirement	Not permitted to operate	Medical	Vision and knowledge test	Road test
1	<p>(a) Semi-trailer and tractor trailer combinations</p> <p>(b) All vehicles in Class 3</p> <p>(c) All vehicles in Class 5</p>	<p>Valid five years</p> <p>Expires on birthdate</p>		<p>Must have held a valid licence of at least full Class 5 for a minimum of one year</p>	<p>(a) Vehicles with traction engine or air brakes, buses of any size while carrying passengers or motorcycles, without appropriate endorsements</p>	<p>Required on initial issue: every five years to age 45, every three years to age 65, every year after 65</p>	<p>Vision, rules and sign test for Class 1</p> <p>Written test for air brakes</p>	<p>Road test in type 1 vehicle</p>
2	<p>(a) Buses with a seating capacity of more than 24 passengers</p> <p>(b) All vehicles in Class 4</p> <p>(c) All vehicles in Class 5</p>	<p>Valid five years</p> <p>Expires on birthdate</p>		<p>Must have held a valid licence of at least full Class 5 for a minimum of one year</p>	<p>(a) Trucks with three or more axles, motorcycles, or vehicles with air brakes or traction engine without proper endorsement</p> <p>(b) Type 1 vehicles except as learner</p>	<p>Required on initial issue: every five years to age 45, every three years to age 65, every year after 65</p>	<p>Vision, rules and sign test for Class 2</p> <p>Written test for air brakes, if vehicle is so equipped</p>	<p>Road test in type 2 vehicle</p>

Class	Permitted to operate	Expiry	Vehicle types	Minimum requirement	Not permitted to operate	Medical	Vision and knowledge test	Road test
3	<p>(a) Trucks with three or more axles, including any combination of vehicles</p> <p>(b) All vehicles in Class 5</p>	<p>Valid five years</p> <p>Expires on birthdate</p>	 	<p>Must have held a valid licence of at least Class 5 for a minimum of one year</p>	<p>(a) Vehicles with air brakes or traction engine without proper endorsement</p> <p>(b) Taxi, emergency vehicles, buses carrying less than 24 passengers or motorcycle without proper endorsement</p> <p>(c) Buses carrying more than 24 passengers, or type 1 or 2 except as learner</p>	<p>Required on initial issue: every five years to age 45, every three years to age 65, every year after 65</p>	<p>Vision, rules and sign test for Class 3</p> <p>Written test for air brakes</p>	<p>Road test in type 3 vehicle</p>
4	<p>(a) Taxis, ride-sharing vehicles, ambulances and any emergency vehicles</p> <p>(b) Buses with a seating capacity of up to 24 passengers</p> <p>(c) All vehicles in Class 5</p>	<p>Valid five years</p> <p>Expires on birthdate</p>	  	<p>Must have held a valid licence of at least Class 5 for a minimum of one year</p>	<p>(a) Vehicles with air brakes, traction engines or motorcycle without proper endorsement</p> <p>(b) Type 1, 2 and 3 vehicles except as learner</p>	<p>Required on initial issue: every five years to age 45, every three years to age 65, every year after 65</p>	<p>Vision, rules and sign test for Class 4</p> <p>No written test required for Taxi and Ride-Sharing Only</p>	<p>Road test in type 4 vehicle, ambulance, bus seating up to 24 passengers</p> <p>No road test required for Taxi and Ride-Sharing, restrictions will apply for taxi and ride-sharing only</p>

Class	Permitted to operate	Expiry	Vehicle types	Minimum requirement	Not permitted to operate	Medical	Vision and knowledge test	Road test
5 5I, 5II	<p>(a) All motor vehicles with not more than 2 axles and combinations of vehicles where the towed vehicle is not more than 4500 kilograms in weight other than</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buses while carrying passengers • taxis while carrying passengers • motor vehicles used for a ride-sharing service while carrying passengers for compensation • ambulances while carrying passengers <p>(b) self propelled motor homes with 2 or more axles</p> <p>(c) farm tractors</p> <p>(d) fork lifts</p> <p>(e) trucks designed for off highway use</p> <p>(f) backhoes</p>	<p>Level I: valid two years from date of issue</p> <p>Level II: valid five years</p> <p>Expires on birthdate</p>		<p>Level I: 16 years of age with parental approval</p> <p>Level II: 16 years, eight months with approved driver education training, otherwise 17 years of age</p>	<p>(a) Vehicles with air brakes, traction engines or motorcycles without proper endorsement</p> <p>(b) Type 1, 2, 3 or 4 vehicles except as learner</p> <p>(c) Taxi not permitted</p>	<p>Required at age 75</p> <p>Second medical required at age 80</p> <p>Every two years thereafter</p>	<p>Vision, rules and sign test for Class 5</p>	<p>Road test in Class 5 vehicle, private passenger vehicle</p>

Class	Permitted to operate	Expiry	Vehicle types	Minimum requirement	Not permitted to operate	Medical	Vision and knowledge test	Road test
6 6I, 6II	(a) Motorcycles and mopeds only	See Class 5		See Class 5	Type 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 vehicles except as learner	See Class 5	Balance test; vision, rules and sign test for Class 6	Road test in type 6 vehicle
8	(a) Traction engines only	Valid five years. Expires on birthdate		Age 17 years with parental approval	(a) Any other vehicle except as learner	See Class 5	Written test	Letter required from employer stating driver operates traction engine or Certificate for Heavy Operators course
9	(a) Air brake-equipped vehicles in classes shown on licence						Written test only	
9A	(a) Air brake-equipped vehicles in classes shown on licence with brake adjustment certification						Practical test	

Registration and insurance

Vehicles driven in Newfoundland and Labrador must be registered and insured. A valid licence plate must be attached to the vehicle for identification. The plate(s) must be visible and may not be altered in any way.

Commercial vehicles, including pick-up trucks, require two licence plates – one on the front and one on the back. The vehicle registration and insurance forms must be kept in the vehicle at all times and produced whenever requested by a police officer.

Applying

To [register your vehicle](#), a registration application must be completed and signed. You must provide the name of your insurance company and the insurance policy number. Once you have produced the necessary documents, you will receive a registration form (vehicle permit) and a licence plate.

New vehicle from a Newfoundland and Labrador dealership

If you purchase a vehicle from any of the automobile dealerships in the province, they will complete the registration application for you. The dealership issues a temporary registration (valid for 120 days), collects the applicable registration fees and submits the application and fees to Motor Registration for processing. You will receive your official registration document by mail. Until it arrives you should keep the temporary registration, and proof of insurance in the vehicle. You must provide them to a police officer if requested.

Leased vehicle

If you have leased a vehicle from a company other than an automobile dealership, you will need to [make an appointment](#) with Motor Registration to register the vehicle.

Moving to the Province from another Canadian jurisdiction

You are required to register your vehicle within 90 days of entry into the province; however, you may be exempt from paying the Retail Sales Tax. For more information, contact the [Tax Administration Division](#).

Vehicle previously registered outside Canada

For further information on eligibility and rules/costs on importing vehicles, Motor Registration encourages clients to contact the following agencies before importing a vehicle into Canada:

Canada Border Services – 1-800-461-9999
Registrar of Imported Vehicles – 1-888-848-8240
Transport Canada – 1-800-333-0371

For more information about registering any vehicle visit: [Vehicle Ownership - Digital Government and Service NL](#).

Transfer of ownership

If you sell a vehicle through a private sale, you must notify Motor Registration within 10 days. Both the buyer and seller must complete the section on the back of the vehicle registration and forward it to the nearest [Motor Registration office](#). The vehicle seller is responsible for completing the notice of sale portion on the reverse side of the vehicle permit. The seller should also complete a bill of sale with the following information:

1. Date of sale
2. Purchaser's name and address
3. Make, model and year of vehicle
4. Serial number
5. Licence plate number
6. Purchase price

The purchaser is required to complete the declaration on the back of the permit including the insurance company, policy number, date of birth and signature.

A motor vehicle inspection certificate is also required.

An in-transit permit may be issued for unregistered vehicles for the purpose of transport to a location where the vehicle will become registered or inspected prior to registration. You must pay a [fee](#) and provide proof of insurance before such an in-transit permit will be issued.

The registered owner is responsible for their motor vehicle. Any penalties or fines incurred by a person driving your vehicle could become your responsibility if the vehicle is being operated with your consent.

Back view of Notification of Sale – Transfer of Ownership

BILL OF SALE/GIFT STATEMENT

Complete and return with applicable sales tax. Affidavits are required if the purchase price is less than the Red Book Value. A valid Certificate of Inspection is required for all cars and light trucks equal or less than 4500kgs. A transfer fee is required. Outstanding fines must be paid at time of transfer. Bonafide gifts are exempt from inspection and sales tax.

Price _____ HST Paid (if collected by seller) _____ HST# (if HST was paid to seller) _____ Date of Sale _____

Sold or Gifted to _____ Relationship (Gift Only) _____ Driver's Licence/Date of Birth of Purchaser _____

PO BOX/Street Address _____ Town/City _____ Postal Code _____ Seller Signature _____

PAYMENT

Cheque/Money Order payable to NEWFOUNDLAND EXCHEQUER ACCOUNT Credit card payment _____ VISA _____ MASTERCARD

Credit Card Number _____ Expiry _____ Signature _____

DECLARATION: (to be completed by purchaser)

I certify that the information given on this application is true and there is valid liability insurance policy in my name as registered owner of the vehicle, or in the name of the company for which I am an authorized signing officer.

Insurance Company _____ Policy Number _____ Purchaser/Applicant Signature _____

Please provide your email address so we can send you email reminders for your driver's licence and vehicle registration renewals. Your email address will only be used for the administration of Motor Registration Division programs and services. I would like to receive reminders by email. (Please print clearly).

Email address: _____

PRIVACY STATEMENT Under the authority of the Highway Traffic Act (HTA), personal information will be collected for the purpose of issuing a Newfoundland and Labrador Vehicle Registration. Section 6 of the HTA allows Motor registration Division to disclose an applicant's personal information to law enforcement, vehicle manufacturers in relation of vehicle safety recall campaigns and select federal, provincial and municipal officials. Any questions can be directed to the Motor Registration Division at 1-877-636-6867.

NOTIFICATION OF SALE *(To be completed in full by seller)*

Vehicle Information:

Purchase Price _____ Date of Sale _____ Plate No. _____ VIN (Last 3 digits) _____

Purchaser Information:

Surname _____ Given Name & Initials _____ Driver's Licence/Date of Birth _____

Street Address/PO Box _____

City _____ Province _____ Postal Code _____

Seller Information:

Surname _____ Given Name & Initials _____ Driver's Licence/Date of Birth _____

Signature of Seller(s) _____

Surname _____ Given Name & Initials _____ Driver's Licence/Date of Birth _____

Signature of Seller(s) _____

Affidavits are required if the purchase price is less than the Red Book Value.

Registration renewal

Vehicles in this province are registered for a 12-month period. Motor Registration will notify you annually through your [MyGovNL](#) account that your vehicle registration will soon expire, and renewal can be completed online. Registrations paid online are valid for 30 days from date of payment. Print a copy of your online confirmation. Keep your printed confirmation with your previous vehicle permit until your permanent registration is received.

Your new registration will be issued by mail.

If you have changed your address and have not notified Motor Registration, please use your [MyGovNL](#) account to change your address before renewing.

Outstanding fines or others monies owed

All fines or any other monies owing must be paid prior to processing the renewal application. These additional fees will be included in your registration renewal.

Replacement plates

Replacement plates are issued when they have been lost, stolen or are defective.

To [replace a plate](#), you must complete a vehicle application form and a lost plate affidavit. If the plate is defective, the applicant must return the plate to a [Motor Registration office](#). Defective plates are replaced at no charge. If you are replacing plates on a two-plate vehicle and only one plate is missing, you must return the remaining plate with the application.

Veteran licence plates

Motor Registration and the Provincial Command of the Royal Canadian Legion administer [veteran licence plates](#). You may be eligible if you are serving or have honourably served:

- in the Canadian Armed Forces, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies
- as a regular member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- as a peace officer in a special duty area
- on a special duty operation
- in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime

Insurance

Every vehicle operated on the any public roadway must have insurance, as required under the [Automobile Insurance Act](#). Proof of insurance must be kept in the vehicle at all times.

You will require proof of insurance when you renew your vehicle registration or transfer a vehicle into your name. The insurance policy must be in the name of the person(s) applying for registration.

The Registrar may suspend or cancel the registration of a vehicle where there is no valid policy.

An insurance certificate is not required when you are licensing a trailer.

Insurance Validation Program

In Newfoundland and Labrador, [insurance coverage](#) is monitored digitally for all registered vehicles. Through partnership with the [Insurance Bureau of Canada](#), insurance coverage is verified throughout the year using only the vehicle identification number (VIN).

Penalties

Penalties for not complying with registration and insurance laws are severe. A registered owner convicted of driving without insurance will be suspended from driving for three months (90 days) from the date of conviction, must pay a \$200 re-instatement fee and must pay all outstanding fines. The vehicle may also be seized by the police and impounded for at least 24 hours. You are also responsible for all [fees](#) for the impoundment.

Road Safety

Responsible driving – minimizing the risks

Driving a vehicle requires time, patience and practice to develop the skills to become a safe driver. It also requires the full attention of the driver. Every year there are road crashes in Newfoundland and Labrador, some of which result in death or serious injury. Safe drivers aim to reduce and manage their risk by making smart decisions and taking responsibility for their behaviour behind the wheel.

Certain high-risk behaviours are major contributors to road crashes, such as:

- speeding
- negligent or aggressive driving
- distracted driving (including eating or using electronic devices)
- not adjusting driving for road or weather conditions
- impaired or fatigued driving
- using unsafe equipment (such as bald tires; headlights or wipers that don't work)

Strict penalties apply to drivers who commit road traffic offences including fines, demerit points, licence suspension or even imprisonment. These penalties are designed to send a clear message about the dangers risky behaviours pose to the safety of drivers and other road users.

Driving behaviours, which may pose a risk to drivers, passengers and the public, are discussed in more detail on the following pages, including information about using good judgement to avoid high-risk driving behaviours.

Read these pages carefully. The information will be important for your learner's permit and the knowledge will help shape the driver you will become.

Driver education and training

Driver education is essential. Graduated Driver Licensing programs provide a gradual, step-by-step licensing process designed to help novice drivers' gain the knowledge and skill needed to safely operate a motor vehicle. This happens by gradually increasing driving privileges during the new driver's first two years on the road. Studying this book, taking a driver education course, understanding the rules of the road and practicing on-road skills will help reduce the risks associated with driving.

Aggressive driving

There are many reasons why you may become frustrated while driving. Slow moving traffic, a motorist who does not signal or a seemingly endless stream of pedestrians can frustrate the average driver. Inexperienced drivers may be more emotional when driving. To stay safe, it is recommended you:

- do not take traffic problems personally
- avoid eye contact with an aggressive driver
- do not make obscene gestures
- do not tailgate
- use your horn sparingly
- do not block lanes
- allow other aggressive drivers to pass you when safe to do so

Becoming a safe driver

Understanding the rules of the road is important, but applying them takes skill and practice. You will need to know how to scan for hazards and react in real time. This attentiveness will help keep you and others safe on the road.

The best way to learn these skills is accompanied by an experienced driver. It is also important to understand your emotions while driving. Driving when angry, distracted, frustrated or upset should be avoided. While driving can be dangerous, it is important to remain calm and rely on your knowledge and skills to get you where you are going safely.

Remember, you are in control of the vehicle. Taking unnecessary risks is dangerous for any driver. Reduce your risk by making safe choices. Follow the rules, drive smart and be defensive.

Plan the route

- Rest well before your trip. A well-rested driver is a safer driver.
- Begin your journey early in the day and avoid driving at night. Avoid driving after a long flight or long work shift or when you are tired.
- Take a break every two hours. Rest areas are provided throughout the province at most tourist chalets. Service stations also provide a good place to rest, stretch and avail of amenities.
- Know the type and condition of the roads. Are the roads paved or gravel? Is there construction? How many lanes? Knowing this information in advance will help you react appropriately.
- Know the volume of traffic to expect. This may affect your total travel time.
- Research the location of towns, rest areas and other services such as service stations and motels.
- Check the weather. Know its effect on driving conditions and bring appropriate supplies and equipment.
- Plan stops of interest in advance. Do not make these stops a last minute decision.
- Know the speed limits.
- Avoid driving more than eight to 10 hours a day. Plan to stay with friends or at a hotel and rest for the evening.

Minimize risks – prepare the vehicle

Check fuel, oil, water and tires beforehand to avoid having to stop soon after you depart. Ensure your tires, including the spare, have the correct pressure and there is plenty of tread. If you are towing a trailer, make sure it is in good mechanical condition, registered and the contents are properly secured.

Consider carrying the following items:

- First-Aid kit
- flashlight, spare batteries and a fire extinguisher
- reflective triangles
- small tool kit containing pliers, screwdrivers, adjustable wrench, fuses and bulbs
- booster cables, tow rope, tire pump and tire pressure gauge
- non-perishable food, blankets and extra clothing
- jack and inflated spare tire
- heat source, candle and matches
- ice scraper and snow brush, a shovel and sand or road salt

Seatbelt safety – seatbelts save lives

It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that you and your passengers are safe and secure. Wearing a seatbelt is a simple act that is proven to save lives and reduce serious injuries. If you are in a moving vehicle, do not remove your seatbelt. Not wearing a seatbelt is illegal.

While vehicles have other safety features, such as airbags, they are no substitute for seatbelts. In fact, airbags and seatbelts are meant to be used together. Wearing a seatbelt helps the airbag do its job.

Child restraints

If there are children in your vehicle, it is your responsibility to ensure they are using the correct restraints for their age and they are being used properly. Sometimes children are moved into bigger seats and seatbelts too quickly. This puts children at serious risk for injury.

Rear facing safety seats

All children must ride in a rear-facing infant seat or a rear-facing convertible seat until they reach the recommended weight to switch to a forward facing safety seat. Review the manufacturer's instructions.

Infants up to nine kilograms (20 pounds) must be properly restrained in a correctly installed infant carrier that faces the rear of the vehicle. All newer vehicles and child safety seats come equipped with a universal anchor system or UAS/LATCH. In older vehicles, the child safety seat must be properly secured in the vehicle using the seat belt. Check the owner's manual for your vehicle and the child safety seat for more information.

Never place a rear-facing child restraint in a seat equipped with an airbag.

Forward facing safety seats

Children between nine and 18 kilograms (20-40 pounds) must be properly restrained in a forward-facing car seat that has been correctly installed according to manufacturer's instructions with the tether strap properly installed. All newer vehicles and child safety seats come equipped with a universal anchor system or UAS/LATCH. In older vehicles, the forward-facing seat must be properly secured in the vehicle using the seatbelt. The child safety seat tether strap and vehicle tether anchor must be in use. You may need to have a tether anchor installed by the manufacturer. Check the owner's manual for your vehicle and the child safety seat for more information.

Booster seats

Children who weigh between 18 and 37 kilograms (40 to 80 pounds) and are 145 cm (4' 9") or less must be secured in an approved booster seat. The seat must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.

A booster seat should always be placed in the back seat of the vehicle. It should be placed in the middle if there is a shoulder strap available. There are two main types of booster seats: backless, and those with a full back. Backless booster seats should only be used if the rear seat of your vehicle has a headrest. To ensure your booster seat is properly installed, read the owner's manual.

Not all booster seats are installed the same way. Once installed, have your child sit in it the booster seat to check the seatbelt fit. The shoulder strap of the seatbelt should fall across the child's shoulder, not their neck. The lap portion of the belt should rest across the hipbones, not the stomach, and you should never allow a child to ride in a vehicle with the shoulder strap under their arm or behind their back.

Important tips

- Car seats and booster seats must never be used after they have been involved in a collision or if age expired.
- Restraints (straps and seatbelts) should be in good condition, not worn or frayed.
- Restraints should fit snugly, not too tight or too loose, and should always lie flat and untwisted.
- Buckle in a booster seat or remove it from the vehicle when not in use. A loose booster seat is unsafe in the event of a collision.

More information is available online at [Child Passenger Safety](#).

Speeding

Speeding is a form of aggressive driving and is the leading cause of some collisions. Speeding occurs when drivers are travelling above the posted limit.

For every kilometre you drive over the speed limit, your risk of a crash increases. Higher speeds require greater stopping distance.

What is stopping distance?

Stopping distance is the total distance you travel before coming to a stop and consists of two components: reaction distance and braking distance.

Reaction distance is the time it takes to react to a potential hazard and begin braking. For example, if you see a moose on the road, it will take a few parts of a second before you react and begin braking.

Braking distance is the distance a vehicle will travel from the point when brakes are fully applied to when the vehicle comes to a complete stop.

For an alert driver traveling 60 km/h in good conditions, reaction time will take about three quarters of a second (or 12m) and another 20m to come to a full stop. If you double your speed, your reaction distance also doubles and can increase even more if you are distracted, fatigued, intoxicated or even ill.

If you double your speed, the braking distance quadruples and if speed triples, your braking distance will increase by nine times. This can be even greater with poor weather conditions, poor brakes, mechanical issues or a shorter following distance. The total stopping distance can have an impact on the severity of a crash.

Minimum stopping distances



What can I do to prevent the risks associated with speeding?

Always drive within the speed limit. In Newfoundland and Labrador, the speed limit applies at a specific time or place on a road. It is the maximum legal limit under ideal driving conditions on a particular section of road. Speed limits typically vary between 30 km/h and 100 km/h. Always watch for posted speed limit signs and never assume the speed limit.

In the event there is no visibly posted sign, the speed limit is 100 km/h on paved portions of the Trans-Canada Highway, 80 km/h on other paved highways, 60 km/h on gravel roads, 50 km/h through communities and 50 km/h in unmarked school zones, unless otherwise stated.

Speeds in **school zones** are clearly marked with speed limit signs. Speed limits in these areas will vary between 30 km/h to 50 km/h depending on the location, unless otherwise stated. In many cases, speeds apply between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on days when school is open.

Digital speed signs have been installed in many school zones in the province. These signs warn motorists to slow down when travelling at dangerous speeds in these areas. When travelling above the posted speed limit, a message is displayed to slow down along with the motorist's real time speed. A second flashing message displaying the posted speed and a warning message is displayed for motorists travelling in excess of 10 km/h above the posted speed limit.

Drive at appropriate speeds for weather and road conditions. While you may travel within the speed limit in ideal driving conditions, certain circumstances will require you to reduce your speed.

For example, poor weather conditions, icy pavement, heavy traffic or pedestrian-heavy areas require slower speed for everyone's safety. It is important to use good judgement based on the knowledge you gain from your training to choose the appropriate travel speed. Speeding is a high-risk and unsafe behaviour.

Impaired driving

Driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs is illegal and impairs your ability to drive safely. Even over-the-counter and prescription medications may impair your ability to drive. Drivers must often make split second decisions. Alert drivers can safely operate the vehicle and will be able to react to situations around them.

Driving impaired has severe consequences, including charges under the Highway Traffic Act and/or the Criminal Code of Canada, resulting in licence suspension and vehicle impoundment.

It is illegal to drive when an enforcement officer, court or judge has ordered you not to, or when your licence has been suspended. It is also illegal to leave the scene of collision. Penalties include fines, up to two years in prison and a prohibition from driving of up to three years.

If impaired driving results in injury or death, the maximum penalties under the Criminal Code of Canada include:

- Impaired driving causing bodily harm – up to 10 years in prison and up to a 10-year prohibition from driving.
- Impaired driving causing death – up to 14 years in prison and up to a 10-year prohibition from driving.
- Criminal negligence causing bodily harm – up to 10 years in prison and up to a 10-year prohibition from driving.
- Manslaughter and criminal negligence causing death – up to life in prison and up to a lifetime prohibition from driving.

What is Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC)?

Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) is a measure of the amount of alcohol in your blood and is measured by the number of grams of alcohol in 100 ml of blood. For example, a BAC of 0.05 means 0.05 gm of alcohol in every 100 ml of blood.

If you are a learner or inexperienced driver under 22 years of age or an accompanying driver, you must maintain a zero BAC. While 0.00 BAC is recommended for all drivers, it is illegal for fully licensed drivers (Class 5) to operate a vehicle with a BAC of 0.05 or more. Drivers can reach that limit by having only one drink.

Alcohol is broken down in your system differently for each person.

Size: A smaller person who drinks the same amount of alcohol as a larger person will have a higher BAC.

Gender: Females usually have a higher BAC than a male of similar size, who drinks the same amount.

Fatigue: Studies show that tiredness can affect your BAC. Your BAC will become higher quickly the more fatigued you are.

Food: Eating slows down the absorption of alcohol. If you drink on an empty stomach, you will have a higher BAC than if you had eaten before you drank.

Health: If you are sick, your body may not deal with alcohol the same as when you are in good health.

Type of alcohol consumed: You will reach a higher BAC quicker while consuming drinks with higher alcohol content.

Rate of drinking: The faster you drink, the faster you will reach a higher BAC.

You do not need to drink a lot to be impaired. Even if you do not feel drunk, alcohol can have serious effects, including:

- a lower ability to multitask, causing you to more easily miss obstacles while you drive;
- a slower brain function, causing you to react slowly;
- a reduced ability to judge your driving speed;
- impaired muscle control, which can affect the muscles in your eyes and reduce your vision; and
- a false confidence that may lead you to take more risks while you drive.

Drugs and medications

Using drugs, including prescription and over-the-counter medications, may also impair your ability to drive and increase your risk of a collision. Driving impaired by drugs is as serious as driving impaired by alcohol. Sleeping tablets, sedatives, muscle relaxants, antihistamines, some cold and flu medications and painkillers are just some of the medications that can impair driving.

Drugs can affect your co-ordination, vision, muscles and reaction time and have other dangerous side effects. Read all labels clearly and speak with your doctor or pharmacist about possible side effects. If you are taking a new medication, avoid driving until you understand the effects it has on you.

Cannabis

It is a common misconception that cannabis is a safer substitute to drinking and driving. Cannabis can cause you to become drowsy, lose your concentration, decrease reaction times, cause paranoia and distort your perception; all of which could cause you to lose control at the wheel. Using cannabis while driving is impaired driving. It is dangerous to yourself and others and is a serious offence.

Saliva testing

Saliva testing is a non-invasive method for detecting the presence of THC (cannabis), Methyl amphetamine (speed) and MDMA (ecstasy). You may be required to provide a saliva sample by placing a test strip on your tongue. If you test positive, you may be asked to participate in further testing including physical evaluation, divided attention tests, blood or urine analysis.

Alcohol and drugs combined

The combination of alcohol and drugs or medication has an even greater effect on your ability to drive.

Avoid impaired driving

- Arrange for a sober ride home.
- Designate a sober driver.
- Call a taxi.
- Use public transportation.
- Arrange to stay somewhere for the night (e.g. hotel or with friends/family).

Alcohol rehabilitation

Alcohol rehabilitation programs may be completed through addiction services or approved private counselors. As part of reinstatement requirements, you must undergo an assessment. Contact addiction services or a counselor as soon as you receive notification, as there may be a wait list. Assessments vary in length on a case-by-case basis. For more information, contact your nearest Motor Registration office.

Failure or refusal to provide a sample

A test for blood alcohol is compulsory under the Highway Traffic Act and the Criminal Code of Canada. If you refuse to provide a sample to an officer, you can be convicted under both federal and provincial laws.

Drugs and alcohol

Alcohol or drugs that alter your perception will also affect the way you drive. The same penalties apply to drivers convicted of impaired driving, whether impaired by drugs, alcohol or both.

Impaired driving charges

Charges for impaired driving can occur under both the Highway Traffic Act and the Criminal Code of Canada. While it is possible to have a conviction overturned under the Criminal Code of Canada, charges under the Highway Traffic Act cannot be appealed and will remain. These convictions will result in driver's licence suspension and vehicle impoundment. The Highway Traffic Act also has a specific set of requirements for licence reinstatement depending on the driver's eligibility. If convicted of impaired driving, use of an ignition interlock device is mandatory for one year. Reinstatement fees and fines must be paid and an approved alcohol education course must be completed.

Penalties

Under provincial regulations for impaired driving, suspension periods are established. A driver charged under the Highway Traffic Act can be suspended for 24 hours up to 90 days. A driver convicted of impaired driving can be suspended from driving for periods of 12 months for a first offence, and up to 60 months for a subsequent offence. For novice drivers there are also specific penalties for periods of suspension if the driver exceeds zero blood alcohol concentration.

Seven-day suspension under the **Highway Traffic Act:**

#	Type	Suspension period	Reinstatement requirements
1 st	Seven day suspension	Seven days	Reinstatement fee
2 nd	Seven day suspension	14 days	Reinstatement fee/alcohol education course
3 rd	Seven day suspension	Two months	Reinstatement fee/alcohol assessment - rehabilitation

Offences occur within a 24 month period.

Ninety-day suspension under the **Highway Traffic Act**:

If a driver's blood alcohol concentration is 80 mg or more, the vehicle will be impounded and the driver's licence suspended for seven days immediately. The driver's licence will be suspended for another 90 days. This three month long suspension will begin 14 days after expiry of the seven-day suspension.

#	Type	Suspension period	Reinstatement requirements
1 st	90 day suspension	90 days	Reinstatement fee/alcohol education course
2 nd	90 day suspension	90 days	Reinstatement Fee/alcohol assessment - rehabilitation

Following the 90-day suspension, if convicted under the Criminal Code of Canada, there are additional suspension periods as follows:

First offence: suspended from driving for 12 months

Second offence: suspended from driving for 36 months

Third offence: suspended from driving for 60 months

Fourth and subsequent offence: suspended from driving for life

Penalties for convictions under the Criminal Code of Canada

Penalties for Criminal Code of Canada offences related to driving a motor vehicle vary according to charge. Penalties range from fines starting at \$1,000 to imprisonment. Novice drivers who exceed the zero tolerance blood alcohol concentration will have their driving privileges suspended.

Novice driver suspension periods under the Highway Traffic Act:

Reinstatement requirements

#	Type	Suspension period	Reinstatements requirements
1 st	Criminal Code of Canada	One year	Reinstatement fee/alcohol education
2 nd	Criminal Code of Canada	Three years	Reinstatement fee/alcohol assessment - rehabilitation
3 rd	Criminal Code of Canada	Five years	Reinstatement fee/alcohol assessment - rehabilitation

Ignition interlock

#	Suspension period	Reinstatements requirements
1 st	Two months	Reinstatement fee
2 nd	Four months	Reinstatement fee/alcohol education course
3 rd	Six months	Reinstatement fee/alcohol assessment - rehabilitation

An ignition interlock device is an in-car alcohol breath-screening device that prevents a vehicle from starting if it detects a blood alcohol concentration over a pre-set limit. The device is located inside the vehicle near the driver's seat and is connected to the engine's ignition system. The information from this device is stored and reviewed accordingly.

Before starting the vehicle, the driver must blow into the device. If the recorded blood alcohol concentration is above the pre-set limit, the vehicle will not start. Once the vehicle starts, the interlock device requires random breath sample at pre-set times. If the breath sample is not provided or if it exceeds the limit, the device will issue a warning, record the vent and activate a specific alarm system (e.g. lights flashing, horn honking) until the ignition is turned off.

Mandatory ignition interlock

Newfoundland and Labrador has a mandatory ignition interlock program for drivers convicted of impaired driving (drug, alcohol or a combination). Once your suspension period expires you will be required to participate in the ignition interlock program for a minimum of 12 months as a condition of reinstatement. Once installed, you will be issued a restricted driver's licence indicating you can only operate a vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock device. You must keep the ignition interlock device in your vehicle for the remainder of the suspension period. This period may be extended upon review of your driving record and your ignition interlock results.

After an impaired driving conviction, drivers may be eligible to apply for voluntary ignition interlock to regain driving privileges sooner. The suspension remains on the driver's licence however; you can only operate a vehicle equipped with an ignition interlock device. This restriction will appear on your driver's licence. If an application for voluntary ignition interlock is approved the mandatory 12-month (minimum) period will still apply at the end of the voluntary period.

The ignition interlock period is as follows:

First offence: 12 months

Second offence: 36 months

Third or subsequent offence: 60 months

Program participants must apply to the Registrar to have the restriction removed from their licence. If the restriction period is completed without any program violations, the restriction may be removed.

The applicant is required to cover the cost of installation, maintenance and removal of the device.

Although the installation of an interlock device is mandatory for reinstatement of your driver's licence, certain eligibility requirements must be met:

- conviction of impaired driving or failure/refusal to comply with alcohol/drug screening
- authorization by the court to use ignition interlock device
- a court ordered minimum mandatory prohibition must be served
- no outstanding suspension in place and all outstanding fines paid
- completion of all other reinstatement requirements and conditions
- valid registration and insurance on the vehicle in which the interlock device is to be installed

Once an interlock device is installed in a vehicle, the device must be used by anyone who drives the vehicle.

Distracted driving

Safe driving requires physical, visual, auditory and cognitive skill. You will need to correctly steer, brake, accelerate, listen and watch for possible hazards, all at the same time. Adding activities such as grooming, eating, interacting with passengers, adjusting the radio controls or using a cell phone distracts from your ability to safely operate a vehicle, putting you and others at risk.

Using a cell phone to talk or text while driving has similar effects as driving while impaired. You will have a reduced reaction time, make riskier decisions, you may have difficulty maintaining speed or your position on the road and your awareness of your surroundings will decrease. Using your cell phone while driving is a serious offence and comes with hefty fines and an accumulation of demerit points. Always avoid technology or other activities that will take attention away from your driving. Never drive distracted.

Humans are not the only passengers that can be a distraction. Safely secure pets in your vehicle to help keep you and your pet safe. For information on pet restraints talk to your veterinarian.

Emotional distractions

Emotional and physical stress can affect your concentration and ability to drive. If you know you are stressed do not drive. Arrange for a ride from someone who is not involved in the emotional situation and is physically well.

Tips to avoid distracted driving

- Plan breaks in your trip for phone calls.
- Pull over and park safely to receive or make a call.
- Let your family and friends know not to call you while you are driving.
- Put your cell phone out of reach, turn it off or to airplane mode.

Driver fatigue

Fatigue is a common contributor to serious collisions. It is particularly dangerous because the more tired you are, the less able you are to judge your level of fatigue. Long trips and driving outside of normal waking hours will increase your risk; however, fatigue can affect you any time of the day or night.

Fatigue is caused by:

- lack of quality sleep
- stress or boredom
- performing a task for an extended period of time
- certain sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea
- being active during hours of the day when you would normally be sleeping

Signs of fatigue include:

- yawning and difficulty keeping your head upright
- drifting over lanes
- sore red eyes
- delayed reactions
- difficulty remembering driving the last few kilometers
- unsteady driving speed

Lack of sleep will affect your ability to complete normal daily activities. Driving under these circumstances is extremely dangerous and has similar affects as impaired driving. If you feel tired, pull over and have a power nap. Until you are fully rested, there is an increased risk of a motor vehicle collision.

Avoid fatigue

- Be well rested before you start your trip. Get enough quality sleep before you drive. Seven to eight hours of uninterrupted sleep before your trip is recommended.
- The worst time to begin your trip is after work. You will already be tired even though you may not realize it.
- Aim not to travel more than eight to 10 hours each day.
- Take regular 15-minute breaks at least every two hours. Get out of the vehicle, get some fresh air and some exercise.
- If possible, share the driving. Get passengers to tell you if you look tired or if you are showing signs of fatigue.
- Eat well-balanced meals at your usual meal times. Avoid fatty foods, which can make you feel drowsy. Keep your vehicle at a comfortable temperature.
- Keep your eyes moving by scanning the road ahead.
- Stay alert to your surroundings and check your vehicles gauges.
- Use sunglasses on bright days.
- If you are feeling tired, stop for a rest.

Fitness to drive

Driving is a complex task and it is important that drivers of all ages are physically and mentally healthy enough to safely operate a vehicle. It is your responsibility to report a medical condition that may affect your driving. It is also important to note that in Newfoundland and Labrador, medical professionals have a mandatory requirement to report any concerns about a patient's ability to drive to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

If you have a Newfoundland and Labrador driver's licence (Class 5, 6 or 8), you are required to submit a medical report at 75 years of age, at the age of 80 years and every two years thereafter. If you are a commercial driver (Class 1, 2, 3 or 4), you are required to submit a medical report upon initial application and every five years up to age 45, every three years from age 45-65 and every year after age 65.

Routine medical reports help keep you and the public safe and are required for as long as you have a driver's licence.

If you have concerns about your ability to drive, consult your physician. This may result in a medical review of your driving abilities. You will receive a notice from Motor Registration medical standards in the mail. This letter will outline the current status of your licence and any steps you must take before continuing to drive.

Motor Registration may request an update on your general medical health, an occupational therapy assessment, an update from a specialist or medical practitioner on a particular condition or you may be required to do an on-road assessment with a driver examiner. It is also important to listen to your own body. Many people realize they should not be driving and for the safety of themselves and others, choose not to.

Many types of medical conditions can affect your ability to drive such as substance use disorders, arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, cardiovascular conditions, diabetes, epilepsy, injuries and disabilities, neurological disorders, sleep disorders and vision loss, among others.

Aging

As you age, your ability to operate a vehicle may be affected. It is important to understand the ways aging will affect your driving so you can prepare for these changes. Several common abilities tend to deteriorate as you age.

Vision: You may have difficulty seeing moving objects and judging distance. You may be more sensitive to glare from rain and light on the windshield and see less clearly, especially at night, dusk or dawn. You may also develop medical conditions such as cataracts.

Hearing: Medical problems such as tinnitus, or ringing in the ears, and infections can impair hearing. Regular hearing exams can detect these problems. Hearing loss affects your ability to hear horns, sirens and brakes. You may also have to rely on your vision more to compensate for hearing loss. There are no driver medical restrictions for non-commercial drivers, as the loss of hearing does not increase the risk.

Flexibility and strength: As we age, we often have more stiffness and less range of motion in our neck, shoulders, arms, legs and trunk. Strength also tends to decrease with age, especially if people are not physically active. If you lack flexibility, movement and strength in your limbs or joints, it could affect your ability to drive including the ability to check your blind spot, look for traffic and pedestrians at intersections, merge with oncoming traffic, yield the right of way, back up and park.

Remember that you need to turn your head or body to check your blind spots and to scan what is around you. Exercise and stretching can improve flexibility, muscle strength and range of motion. Talk to your doctor about remaining active. Many people develop some arthritis with age, which can restrict movement. Other conditions such as Osteoporosis, Fibromyalgia, Lupus and gout can also limit flexibility, movement and strength.

Muscle weakness or muscle stiffness can make it difficult to drive. For example, arm strength is important for the safe control of your steering wheel, particularly when you have to make quick or sudden movements and leg strength is important for pressing acceleration and brake pedals.

Reaction time and concentration: With age, we may also experience slower reaction or response time, less concentration and poorer coordination. Medical conditions such as Parkinson's disease, stroke, Lou Gehrig's disease, tremors and muscle spasms can limit coordination making it difficult to respond to sudden events on the road.

Cognitive impairments: Senior drivers are at an increased risk of suffering from late-life cognitive impairment and dementia. Dementia affects the brain and the ability to think, remember and speak. It impairs a person's logical reasoning, memory and language skills. The disease increases crash risk by almost five times. Drivers with dementia are likely to perform unsafe driving maneuvers such as improper turning or following too close. Mild cognitive impairments can be difficult to detect. Drivers may experience memory problems that will deteriorate, sometimes within a short period.

Alternatives to driving

If medication or a medical condition means you can no longer drive safely, retiring from driving may be a responsible option. You should begin by discussing this with your doctor, as well as family and friends. It is important to consider other means of transportation. There are also many organizations and individuals you can talk to including:

- advocacy and support groups specific to your medical condition
- seniors groups and resource centres
- community centres
- local bus and taxi companies
- local town council and community bus operators
- social clubs and networks that may exist within your community

Some warning signs of inability to operate a vehicle are:

- No longer strong enough to drive the vehicle.
- Collisions (whether major or minor).
- Losing your way.
- Less confidence.
- Noticing other drivers honk at you.
- Missing stop signs and traffic lights.
- Mixing up the gas and the brake pedals.
- Problems with lane changing or merging.
- Family or friends concerned about your driving.
- Difficulty turning to back up.
- Easily distracted.
- Signaling incorrectly.
- Driving at inappropriate speeds.
- Difficulty managing turns.
- Experiencing increased frustration when driving.

Vehicle safety and maintenance

Vehicles are designed with safety as a top consideration. This should be an important factor when choosing the vehicle you will drive.

Roadworthiness

Roadworthiness refers to vehicles that comply with a set of standards that make them safe for roadways. This includes a vehicle's wheels, engine, brakes, steering, seatbelts, lights, airbags, seatbelts, exhaust, body, windshields, wipers and more. It is important your safety and the safety of other road users that your vehicle is roadworthy.

A new vehicle should meet the latest Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. An inspection is required upon the purchase of a used vehicle. It is up to you to maintain the condition of the vehicle. Parts wear out over time and weather conditions, like those we experience in Newfoundland and Labrador, can contribute to wear and tear of the vehicle.

There are several steps you can take to maintain your vehicle:

- Clean inside to prevent build-up in seatbelts and clean the outside of the vehicle to prevent body deterioration.
- Check your tire pressure. Tires with incorrect pressure levels can be a serious safety hazard.
- Check your tires for wear or damage. Tires can become punctured by debris and treads will wear over time.
- Check that all lights are clean and functional.
- Check that the windshield wipers are working properly
- Keep an eye on all the fluid levels including engine oil, anti-freeze, windshield wash and brake fluid.
- You should also have your vehicle regularly serviced by a professional including:
 - o oil and filter changes
 - o transmission fluid changes
 - o axle differential oil changes
 - o inspection of various parts such as: drive and axle shafts, steering, brake and clutch reservoirs, cooling system levels, brake system, front suspension, alignment, shock and springs, headlight aim, engine adjustments, air filter, among others.

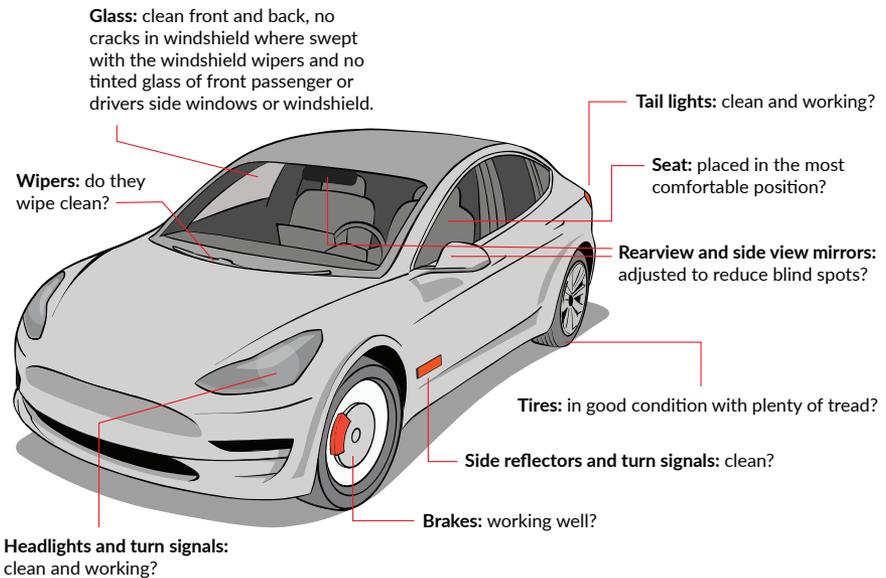
Vehicle equipment and standards

The vehicle you use to take your driving test will be checked at the beginning of the test for licence plate, lights, horn, rear-view mirror, windshield wipers, muffler, brakes, tires, windshield, window glass and steering. A driving test will not be conducted in a vehicle that is unsafe or does not meet equipment requirements.

It is wise to check your vehicle regularly to ensure that the following standards are met:

Lights

- (a) The **headlights** of a motor vehicle (other than a motorcycle) must give off an upper beam of white light that will reveal a person or another vehicle at a distance of 100 m. A dash beam indicator light (showing high beam) must be part of the lighting system. A motorcycle must have at least one headlamp. See Rules of the Road section for use of high and low beam.
- (b) **Parking lights** are used to make your vehicle visible when parking only. If you drive when lights are needed, turn your headlights on.
- (c) **Tail lights** are red lights at the rear of a vehicle or trailer that must be visible from a distance of 150 m. A white light must shine on the licence plate so that it is visible from a distance of 15 m.
- (d) **Fog lights** may be used in addition to low beam headlights when fog is so thick that regular headlights have no advantage.
- (e) All vehicles must have a set of **signal lights** that emit a white or amber light at the front and a red or amber light at the rear, to indicate turning direction. These must be visible for a distance of 90 m to the front and 250 m to the rear.



Brakes

All vehicles must have brakes that can be applied by two separate and independent means (front and rear). Brakes must be kept in good working order. A motorcycle must have a brake on each wheel of the cycle.

Exhaust

All vehicles must be equipped with a working muffler that prevents excessive or unusual noise. Modifying a muffler (muffler cut-out) to increase noise is illegal.

Horn

All vehicles must have a working horn to be sounded whenever it is reasonably necessary. Bells, gongs or sirens are for use on emergency vehicles only.

Tires

All vehicles must be fitted with tires of the standard prescribed by the Highway Traffic Act. At least 1.5 mm of tread depth must remain. No tires with metal studs may be used between May 1 and October 31, or as otherwise prescribed by the Minister.

Windshields and other windows

It is an offence to have a sign or object in the window that may block or impair a driver's vision. Certificates and stickers required or allowed by the Highway Traffic Act or regulations may be put in the proper positions (e.g. inspection certificates, parking permits). Window tinting is not permitted on the windshield and the front windows unless installed by the manufacturer.

Windshield wipers and washers

All vehicles (except motorcycles) must be equipped with a wiper device for cleaning rain, snow and moisture from the windshield. Motor vehicles have also been equipped with a windshield washer tank that must be kept filled with washer fluid. It is important that you be able to wash away sudden splashes from other vehicles that could obscure your vision.

Defrosters

All vehicles (except motorcycles) must have a defrosting device that will keep both front and rear windows free of moisture and ice to ensure that the driver has a clear view of the road.

Mirrors

All vehicles must have at least one mirror to give the driver a clearly reflected view to the rear. These must not be cracked or discoloured. The inside rearview mirror and outside side mirrors must be adjusted to the driver's view. For all types of mirrors, there exists a 'blind spot' where other vehicles may be driving and not reflected in either mirror. You must look over your shoulder (shoulder check) and use your mirror before changing your position on the road. If your view to the rear is obstructed, you must have two outside mirrors.

Speedometer

All vehicles must have a working speedometer that accurately shows the speed at which the vehicle is travelling.

Odometer

The odometer indicates the total distance that the vehicle has travelled. It is illegal to tamper with or change the mileage shown on the odometer.

Flares

A commercial vehicle exceeding 2,500 kg must be equipped with flares, which must be placed 30 m in front of and to the rear of a disabled vehicle.

Vehicle modifications with aftermarket parts

Window tinting, adjusting the height of vehicle, modifying wheels, tires, exhaust and other modifications void warranty and may be illegal.

Seatbelts

The driver and all passengers must wear seatbelts when travelling. The lap belt is to be worn low down on the hips (not across the stomach) ensuring that the belt is tight. The shoulder belt must be worn across the shoulder and never under the arm. An improperly worn seatbelt could cause additional injury rather than protection during a collision. All passengers 16 years of age and over are responsible for wearing their seatbelts properly. It is the driver's responsibility to ensure that passengers under age 16 are properly restrained.

Recalls

Any vehicle that is unsafe or may cause injury will be recalled by the manufacturer. If you receive a recall notification, bring your vehicle to the dealer or a garage as soon as possible to address the issue.

Fuel efficiency

Fuel efficiency is an important consideration when purchasing a vehicle. In general, vehicles with smaller engines will use less fuel. When you are shopping for a vehicle, do your research. There are many resources that will rate the fuel efficiency of a vehicle. It is also important for all drivers to understand that they can significantly reduce the amount of fuel used by following some basic driving practices such as:

- Keep your speed down. Higher speeds increase fuel use. Rapid acceleration and changes in speed can increase fuel consumption by as much as 40 per cent.
- Avoid quick acceleration. It is safer and more fuel-efficient to increase your speed gradually. As much as possible, maintain a steady speed.
- Avoid idling. Ten seconds of idling can consume more fuel than turning off your engine and restarting.
- If you are parking for more than 10 seconds, turn off your engine.
- Use a block heater in the winter to warm the engine oil and make cold starts easier on your engine.
- Maintain your vehicle. A properly maintained vehicle will be more fuel efficient and safe.
- For a manual transmission, shift through the lower gears smoothly and quickly. An automatic transmission shifts to a higher gear earlier if you reduce pressure on the gas pedal as you increase speed.
- During summer, minimize your use of air conditioning. Air conditioners used in stop and go traffic can increase fuel consumption by as much as 10 to 25 per cent. At highway speeds, air conditioning increases fuel consumption by three to four per cent.
- Minimize the load you are carrying. Extra weight means using extra fuel.
- Plan your trip and avoid traffic-congested routes.
- Drive at the posted speed limit. Lowering your highway cruising speed from 120 km/h to 100 km/h will reduce fuel consumption by up to 20 per cent.
- There are also hybrid and electric vehicles available on the market.

Driving within the law

Everyone, not just drivers, uses roads. This is why strict laws exist for road users – to keep drivers, riders, cyclists and pedestrians safe. Certain behaviours such as impaired driving, street racing and distracted driving are particularly dangerous. These risky behaviours can have a range of serious consequences including heavy fines, a criminal record, jail time, licence suspension, increased vehicle insurance premiums, vehicle impoundment, employment impacts (particularly if driving is required as part of the job) and even serious injury or death.

High-risk driving behaviours – suspensions

Excessive speed: Drivers ticketed for exceeding the posted speed limit by 51 km or more will have their licence suspended for seven days. To reinstate, drivers will need to pay a reinstatement fee, complete any training required by the Registrar and pay any outstanding fines.

Racing or stunting: Drivers charged with racing or stunting will have their licence suspended for seven days. To reinstate, drivers will need to pay a reinstatement fee, complete training required by the Registrar and pay any outstanding fines.

Demerit point system

In Newfoundland and Labrador, there is a demerit point system. These points are recorded against your driving record when you are convicted of an offence. Convictions and times when your driver's licence privileges have been suspended remain on your driving record for 10 years and will appear on your driver's abstract.

The demerit point system deals primarily with moving violations, not those regarding faulty equipment, illegal parking or the more serious offences, like impaired driving, covered under the Criminal Code of Canada.

If you are convicted of an offence while driving on highways in this province or any other Canadian jurisdiction, the appropriate number of points will automatically be added to your record. If you accumulate 12 points within a two-year period, your driver's licence will be suspended. If you are a novice driver, you can only accumulate six points within a one-year period before your licence is suspended.

Emergency situations and challenging conditions

Understanding how to handle emergencies is crucial and may save your life or somebody else's. This starts with being prepared with some basic supplies, understanding basic first aid, knowing the types of situations where accidents typically occur and gaining the skills to deal with these situations.

Emergency supplies

To ensure you are prepared for an emergency always carry supplies. These should include:

- First-Aid kit
- approved warning devices like reflective triangles
- booster cables
- non-perishable food items
- jack and inflated spare tire
- flashlight with extra batteries
- tow rope
- headlight replacement blubs
- blankets and extra clothing
- sand or road salt
- shovel
- heat source, candle or matches and a deep can to hold the candle
- ice scraper and snow brush
- tire chains
- fire extinguisher

Emergency braking

There are times when something unexpected occurs that requires you to brake suddenly. The key to emergency braking is to stop the vehicle as quickly as possible without losing control of the vehicle.

If your vehicle has ABS brakes

Most vehicles are equipped with an anti-lock braking system (ABS). The ABS allows you to steer while the brakes are being applied. The ABS applies brake pressure at each wheel, cycling from locked to slightly rolling. You will feel this as a vibration through the brake pedal. With ABS, you can brake as hard as you need without losing your ability to steer.

To brake in an emergency, follow these steps:

- Apply steady firm pressure to the brake pedal.
- Do not pump or release the brake pedal.
- Look and steer in the direction you want to go.
- Be sure to check your owner's manual for more information on emergency braking techniques.

If your vehicle does not have ABS brakes

Braking hard can cause the wheels to lock and stop rolling. This can cause you to lose steering control.

Loss of control

The road surface, the speed of your vehicle turning and the condition of your tires can contribute to a skid. Skidding means you have lost control of the vehicle.

Most skids are the result of a driver error. A skid can occur when you:

- drive too quickly on poor road conditions like ice, snow, rain, mud, sand or gravel
- turn the steering wheel too sharply
- turn the steering wheel too much for the speed you are travelling
- brake too firmly
- accelerate too quickly

Recovery

Drive in a manner that reduces the possibility of having your vehicle skid. Plan ahead so you will not have to suddenly brake or steer. Driving in a smooth and controlled manner will reduce the chance of a skid. If the road is not familiar to you or the conditions are not ideal, reduce your speed.

It is very important that you keep your foot off the brake pedal if you start to skid. How you steer depends on the direction of the skid. Look and steer in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go. Do not make large steering adjustments. Point the tire along the centre of your lane.

Braking skid (non-ABS)

If your vehicle does not have ABS, a braking skid could occur when you apply the brakes too firmly, causing the wheels to lock and steering control lost. If you experience this type of skid, do the following:

- Take your foot off the brake pedal. When the vehicle's wheels start to roll, steering control will return.
- Lock and steer in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go.
- If you need to apply the brakes again, use firm pressure but not hard enough to lock the wheels.

Power (acceleration) skid

A power skid occurs when you accelerate too quickly, causing the wheels to spin. If you experience a power skid, do the following:

- Take your foot off the gas pedal to allow the wheels to stop spinning.
- Make any needed steering corrections. Look and steer in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go.
- Be careful not to over correct your steering or you may skid in the opposite direction.
- Use gentle acceleration to continue moving forward.

Cornering skid

A cornering skid occurs when you are travelling too quickly when turning, causing the vehicle to slide sideways. Speed, tire condition, road surface and the slope of the road can all play a part in this type of skid. If you experience a cornering skid, do the following:

- Take your foot off the gas pedal. Do not use the brakes.
- Look and steer in the direction you want the front of the vehicle to go.

Off-road recovery

If you drive off the paved portion of the roadway, do the following:

- Keep a firm grip on the steering wheel.
- Do not try to steer the vehicle back onto the road immediately.
- Take your foot off the gas pedal to reduce your speed.
- Try to avoid braking. If you need to brake, use gradual pressure on the brake pedal to keep control.
- Check for traffic before attempting to steer the vehicle back onto the road.
- With controlled speed, return to the road gradually and straighten your vehicle in the proper travel lane.

Collisions

If you are the first person at the scene of a collision, stop your vehicle away from the collision in a safe location. Offer assistance if possible and protect the scene with flashing hazard lights and warning triangles so that other vehicles do not become involved. If it is necessary to notify the police or emergency medical services, be as accurate as you can, especially about the condition of any injured people and the location of the collision.

- Exchange names, contact information and insurance details with the other driver(s) involved.
- Record the names and contact information of all witnesses.
- Do not discuss who was at fault.
- Record the time, location, weather and any other details that may be important.
- Notify your insurance company as soon as possible.
- You are required to report all collisions to the police or local law enforcement if:
 - anyone has been injured
 - anyone has been killed
 - overall damage exceeds \$2,000
- If law enforcement are called to the scene all drivers must remain. If you damage any traffic control device, a parking meter or any public property, you must report this to the police immediately.

Types of collisions and how to avoid them

Rear-end collisions

Rear-end collisions occur when a vehicle hits the rear of the vehicle in front. It is the most common type of crash for drivers of all ages.

The main cause of a rear-end collision is when the driver behind is following too close to the vehicle in front. Another cause of rear-end collisions is distraction. Driving distracted takes your attention away from the road. Paying attention to the road and maintaining a safe following distance will greatly reduce your risk of rear-ending another vehicle.

You can reduce the risk of another vehicle rear-ending you by checking your mirrors regularly and beginning to brake early and gradually. By displaying your brake lights for a longer period, the drivers behind you are more likely to notice this visual cue and begin braking themselves.

Single vehicle collisions

Single vehicle collisions can happen in a variety of ways, including hitting a stationary object, running off the road or rolling the vehicle over. This type of crash is more likely to happen to inexperienced or distracted drivers travelling at high speeds.

When you are inexperienced or distracted it is easy to lose control of your vehicle. As you gain experience, you will learn to match the speed of your vehicle to road conditions, which means reducing your speed to less than the posted speed limit. Until you gain sufficient driving experience make those judgments, you should be extra cautious when driving at higher speeds.

Vehicle plunging into water

Your vehicle will float for two-to-five minutes if the windows and doors are closed. Wearing a seatbelt can prevent you from being knocked unconscious during those few moments needed to escape.

Doors will initially be difficult to open due to water pressure as the vehicle begins to sink or because of vehicle damage. As the vehicle fills with water, pressure outside and inside equalizes. The best escape route is through windows. If your vehicle has power windows, roll them down immediately because water will cause a short circuit in the electrical system. If you cannot open the windows do not panic.

Vehicles with a front engine will sink front first so air trapped inside will be pushed to the rear near the roof. You may need to breathe this air while waiting for the pressure inside and outside to become equal; then it will be easier to open the door. As you surface be sure to release air gradually so that your body will not be damaged by the change in pressure.

Collisions when changing lanes or merging

Inexperienced or distracted drivers are frequently involved in vehicle collisions when changing lanes or merging. Always check your side mirrors and blind spots by looking over your right or left shoulder before changing lanes or merging.

Vehicle rollover

Vehicle rollovers occur when a vehicle flips over onto its side or roof. Many times these accidents result in ejection of passengers not wearing a seatbelt and lead to serious injuries.

Rollovers are often caused by a sharp turn at high speed. All vehicles are subject to a rollover accident, but Sport Utility Vehicles (SUVs) are usually at a greater risk because they are typically taller than other vehicles, and have a higher centre of gravity. This combined with speeding, increases the risk of a vehicle rollover. This type of accident can be avoided by choosing to drive vehicles with a lower centre of gravity, keeping your tires in balance, driving with plenty of space between yourself and other drivers and lowering your speed.

Head-on collisions

Head-on collisions can have devastating results. These types of collisions can be particularly dangerous on two-lane highways, particularly by misjudging gaps in traffic. It is better to choose larger gaps in the on-coming traffic, wait until a passing lane becomes available or not pass at all. If a vehicle suddenly approaches from the opposite direction in your lane, a collision may seem likely. The defence in this situation involves four steps:

1. Brake hard. The more your speed is reduced, the less the impact will be.
2. Head for the shoulder on the right hand side of the road and blow your horn. The other driver might realize their error and steer back into their own lane. Never swerve to the left to avoid a collision. You may be in the path of oncoming traffic or the driver may pull back into his own lane and hit you head-on.
3. If necessary, take to the ditch or any open ground that is free of obstructions. Any alternative is better than a head-on collision.
4. To reduce the force of impact head for something capable of absorbing energy: a bush, shrub or snowbank. A general rule of thumb is to hit an object with a glancing blow rather than head-on. Sideswiping an object has avoided collisions that are more serious.

By being alert at all times when you are behind the wheel, a fraction of a second may be all you have to escape the collision.

Hazardous driving situations

Hazardous driving situations can happen at any time. It is important to always be prepared, plan your trip and be aware of your surroundings. Use your rear-view mirror and your side mirrors at frequent intervals, especially before signaling, braking and turning, to check what other road users are doing. If you come across an unexpected situation, remember to reduce your speed and proceed cautiously.

Mechanical problems

It is important to keep your vehicle in proper working condition. If your vehicle breaks down while you are driving, it can be dangerous and inconvenient. Remember to slow down and be cautious if you see flashing amber hazard lights on the side of the road. These lights are used to draw your attention to a hazard. When you pass a car with flashing yellow lights, slow down and pass with care.

If your vehicle is having mechanical problems that require you to stop, remember the following for your safety:

- Assess the area for hazards.
- Change lanes safely and park in a safe location, if possible.
- Make sure you can be seen. Turn on your emergency lights.
- Do not stop on a bridge or in a tunnel. This can be very dangerous.
- Raise your hood.
- Carry reflective triangles. On the highway or in a location that is potentially dangerous, when it is safe, place them to the rear of your vehicle, about 10 to 20 meters (33ft to 66ft) apart.
- If you have to stay in your vehicle, keep your seatbelt on. Move to the passenger seat if possible.
- If it is safe to leave the vehicle, beware of traffic before you exit the vehicle.
- Do not try to do roadside repairs on crowded or fast-moving highways. Call for roadside assistance.
- If it is a potentially dangerous situation, have all the occupants leave the vehicle and wait at a safe location to the rear and away from the vehicle.

Brake failure

Most vehicles come with a brake system that will protect you against a total failure of your brakes. A warning light on your instrument panel will illuminate if there is a problem. It should light before your brakes stop working. When you see the brake warning light come on and you have checked that the park brake has been released, move to the side of the road as soon as it is safe.

If your vehicle has power brakes, the power system could fail. This may occur if your engine stops while you are still moving. If the vehicle does not slow with normal pressure on the brake, push the brake pedal harder and apply steady pressure.

If your brakes fail, carefully use your park brake to slow your vehicle. You may be able to shift to a lower gear to bring your vehicle to a safe controlled stop. Consult your vehicle owner's manual for more information. Park your vehicle in a safe location and do not drive until the brakes have been checked and repaired.

Power steering failure

If power steering fails, you can still steer the vehicle. You will have to use extra effort to turn the steering wheel. If this happens, remember not to panic and maneuver your vehicle to the shoulder of the road and brake gradually. Slamming the brakes could cause the vehicle to skid. Without proper steering, you will have no way to straighten it out and could easily lose control.

Once you get the vehicle stopped, turn the engine off and then turn it on again. If the wheel seems like it can turn without any extra effort you can try driving to a mechanic. If you cannot steer call a tow truck and do not drive the vehicle.

Tire failure

If a tire has an air leak, you may feel the vehicle begin to pull and a vibration as you hold the steering wheel. If not corrected the tire will become flat. When a front tire is flat, the vehicle will pull strongly to the side that has a flat tire. A flat rear tire may make your vehicle weave. You may find it difficult to steer.

If a tire goes flat while you are driving:

- Resist the urge to apply brakes immediately.
- Take your foot off the gas pedal and allow the engine to slow you down.
- Hold the steering wheel with a firm grip. Keep the vehicle on a straight course by looking and steering in the direction you want to go.
- When you have the vehicle under control and speed reduced, apply the brake with gentle and steady pressure.
- Do not turn off onto the shoulder of the road until you have complete control. If the blowout causes your vehicle to go off onto the shoulder, do not try to get back on the pavement. Let the car slow to a stop.
- Safely move to the emergency stopping lane or edge of the road and park in a safe place.
- Turn on your hazard warning lights.

Note: Under inflation (not enough air) is a common cause of blowouts. Check tire pressure at least once a month.

Acceleration pedal sticks

If your accelerator pedal sticks, shift to neutral in automatic transmission vehicles and de-clutch in standard transmission vehicles. Bring your vehicle to a stop as soon as it is safe and practical to do so. Turn off the ignition and call for assistance.

Hood flies up

If your hood suddenly opens while driving and blocks your vision, you should brake smoothly, signal your turn and pull safely off onto the shoulder of the road. You can judge where you are on the road by looking out the left window or through the gap under the hinge of the hood. Once you have stopped, make sure the hood is secured before proceeding.

Vehicle on fire

Vehicle fires are usually due to an electrical short circuit. Disconnect the battery cables immediately to remove the power source. Do not use a metal object or your bare hands to remove wires. Instead, use insulated tools or a jack handle wrapped with a piece of cloth or other material that does not conduct electricity. Smother any flames with dirt, sand or a large article of clothing. It is a good idea to keep a fire extinguisher with an ABC rating in the passenger compartment of your vehicle for easy access. Ensure all passengers get out of and away from the vehicle.

Headlight failure

If both headlights fail, turn on your hazard lights and turn the headlight control off and on. If the headlights are still not working, reduce your speed. Safely move to the emergency stopping lane or edge of the road and park in a safe place. Remember to replace a headlight or headlight bulb as soon as it burns out. Driving with only one headlight greatly reduces visibility and increases risk of a collision.

Broken windshield

Most modern vehicles are fitted with laminated glass so a windshield will only crack under impact. If the glass shatters and you cannot see, slow down and use another way to navigate such as opening the side window. Gently put your foot on the brake to warn following traffic that you are about to stop. Come to a stop slowly and carefully. Pull off the road or as close to the left side of the road as you can.

Challenging conditions

Gravel and other loose surfaces

Driving on gravel roads or other roads with loose or shifting surfaces requires caution. Braking will be more difficult so slow down to control your vehicle.

Slow moving vehicles

During construction and snow clearing seasons, it is common to see slow moving vehicles. Take extra care on approach. Since you are travelling at much different speeds, you will have less distance to judge if passing is safe. Slow down and give yourself as much time as possible to make the safest choice.

Animals on the road

Animals can be hypnotized by the glare of vehicle headlights. If an animal is on the road in front of you, brake slowly, sound your horn and flash your headlights. Do not swerve. Try to pass smoothly behind the animal. Many animals are especially active at night and at dawn.

Think moose!

Estimates show that Newfoundland and Labrador is home to some 110,000 moose. Moose are attracted to our highways for a number of reasons. They like to eat the road salt that collects on the vegetation or in roadside pools. They are attracted to the first green growth that usually grows at the road edge and the wind-swept roadways provide relief from flies.

As these animals roam freely in our wilderness areas, drivers may encounter them on or near roads and highways. Over 50 per cent of moose collisions occur between dusk and dawn during the summer and fall seasons. Moose crossing warning signs are posted in high-risk areas.

These large animals are unpredictable and pose a risk for drivers. A collision with moose could result in serious damage to your vehicle, personal injury or death.

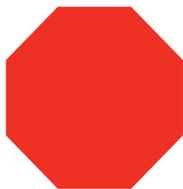
- Keep alert for moose at all times while driving.
- To reduce the risk of collision with a moose, reduce your speed.
- Constantly scan the road and the shoulders.
- Be aware of other drivers' actions.
- Ensure your headlights are working and are clean and properly aimed.
- Use high beam lights when safe to do so and dim them to oncoming traffic.
- Keep your windshield clean.
- Be observant of moose warning signs, radio reports or moose sightings and other drivers flashing their high beam lights.
- If an animal suddenly appears in front of you, brake hard and choose an escape route away from oncoming traffic.



Traffic Signs and Pavement Markings

Traffic signs

Traffic signs are designed to help motorists follow safe driving practices. Although the meanings of the signs do not change, they may appear in several different places such as overhead signs, signs on poles next to roadways or painted on pavement.



The octagon always means stop.



The horizontal rectangle states directions and distances.



The vertical rectangle or square states regulations.



The crossbuck marks a railway crossing.



The inverted triangle always means yield right-of-way.



The pentagon warns that school children may be present.



The diamond warns of a hazard ahead.



The stop sign is a red octagon with white lettering. A stop sign means come to a full stop. Be sure the way is clear before continuing. You must stop at a stop line or crosswalk. No other sign has this shape.



The yield sign is a white triangle with a wide red border. A yield sign means slow down and be ready to stop if necessary. Yield right-of-way to oncoming traffic. No other sign has this shape. Lettering may also be yellow/black.



The crossbuck sign warns of a railway crossing ahead. It has a white background with a reflective red border. Be ready to stop if necessary. No other sign has this shape. Stop if there is a mechanical signaling device, or flag person warning of the approach of a train, no less than five meters from the nearest rail.



This sign indicates a school zone or informs the motorist of services ahead.



The school ahead sign is a blue pentagon with white figures of students. It means you are entering a school zone. Slow down, drive with extra caution and watch for children. No other sign has this shape. Some signs may also indicate the maximum speed in a school zone. This sign may also be fluorescent yellow.



This sign indicates where children cross the road to go to school.



This sign informs the motorist that there is a police station ahead.



This sign gives information regarding distance and direction.



Information signs are rectangular green signs with white lettering. They indicate distances and directions of cities, towns or communities and highway routes.



This sign indicates tourist information. Tourist information signs are rectangular and have brown backgrounds and white lettering. They inform motorists where rest areas, historical sites, parks and tourist chalets are located.



Signs with this colour background indicate traffic regulations and gives directions that must be obeyed.

Regulatory signs are rectangular or square and have white backgrounds with black or other colour lettering. They state the laws regarding speed limits, parking regulations, turning and passing.

Some regulatory signs may have a symbol indicating that whatever is shown on the sign is or is not permitted.



A green circle on a regulatory sign means that whatever is shown on the sign is permitted or mandatory (required by law).



A red circle with a diagonal red stroke means that whatever is shown on the regulatory sign is not permitted.

Common regulatory signs



Legal speed limit.



Pedestrians not permitted on highway.



Trucks may use highway.



Parking during certain time periods.



Warning motorists not to enter this street.



Do not make a U-turn.



Parking not permitted in the direction indicated by the arrows.



Keep to the right of the island.



Centre lane is a shared left turn lane.



Change in speed ahead.



Bicycles not permitted on highway.



Motorists advised to keep to the right lane except to pass.



One-way street.



Two-way left turns (both lanes turn left).



Do not make a left turn at this intersection.



Reserved parking space for mobility-impaired drivers with a special permit. Accessible parking spaces (or blue zone parking) are located throughout the province at most public, municipal and provincial parking lots and roadways. These designated parking spaces are only to be used by a permit holder or a person accompanying a permit holder. The parking space is painted blue in whole or part.



Pedestrian crosswalk where drivers must yield right of way.



Passing lane two kilometres ahead, where it is safe to pass.



Drivers do not use the passing lane to pass unless they can do so safely. Vehicles coming toward you have the right to use that passing lane first. If there are several vehicles coming toward you, there is a good chance that one of them may want to use the passing lane. In this case, you must yield right-of-way to them.



General warning to be cautious.

Warning signs

Warning signs are diamond shaped and have yellow backgrounds with black letters or symbols. They warn of dangerous or unusual conditions such as slippery roads, sharp turns, trucks turning or a dip in the road. No other sign has this shape.



Pedestrians may be crossing.



Winding road ahead.



Bump or rough road ahead.



Right lane is ending.



Steep hill ahead. It may be necessary to shift to a lower gear and use motor to assist in braking.



Traffic lights ahead.



Amount of space under a bridge or overpass.



A right turn, followed by a left turn.



Two lanes of traffic merge ahead – traffic is entering from the right.



Pavement ends and there is a gravel road ahead.



Intersection ahead crossing the road at right angles.



Playground area – be alert for children.



Railway crossing ahead.



Falling rocks.



Sudden turn in the road ahead in the direction shown by the arrow. Slow down and proceed with caution.



Moose cross this section of the roadway regularly. Slow down and drive with caution.



Narrow bridge or underpass ahead.



Dead end – exit right or left.



Two-way traffic ahead. Drivers travelling in opposite directions must share the highway.



Sharp curve ahead, to the right.



Road surface is slippery when wet.



Stop sign ahead – be prepared to stop.



Two roads converge and merging movements are not required.



Highway ahead is divided by a median (island). Keep to the right. Driver should signal intention and move to another lane only when safe to do so.



Approaching a T-intersection. Proceed either right or left.



Road ahead is not as wide as the road on which you are driving.



Slight bend or curve in the road ahead.



Highway ahead becomes a single roadway with two-way traffic (traffic travelling in both directions). Keep to the right.



Slow down, the roundabout is ahead. This sign may also give notice of recommended speed in the roundabout.



Sharp turn in the road ahead in the direction of the symbol.



Slow moving vehicle ahead. The sign is required to be mounted on the rear of a vehicle when it is being driven on the highway.

Hazardous conditions signs (weather)

Installed in various locations throughout the province, these signs provide an advisory message or indicate a road closure/detour due to adverse weather conditions.

The design of these signs can vary. They may appear as standard black lettering on yellow background with or without accompanying yellow flashing hazard lighting, or they may be a digital sign with programmable messaging with yellow/orange lettering on a black background.

Motorists are advised to strictly obey and follow the directions provided on the sign.

Examples include wind-warning signs in the Wreckhouse area or closure of the highway from Holyrood to St. John's due to winter weather.



Road construction signs

Road construction signs can be diamond, square or rectangle shaped and have orange backgrounds with black letters or symbols and a black border. They warn of construction and other maintenance.

Road construction zones are areas of a street or highway located between orange construction signs. Speeds in road construction zones are generally reduced to protect workers, allowing them to work safely around heavy equipment.

These zones have reduced speeds to allow drivers enough time to react to any obstacles and to reduce potential damage caused by loose gravel or uneven pavement. [Fines](#) for not obeying posted speed limits in road construction zones are doubled.

Obey road signs and directions by flag persons. Vehicles ahead of you may stop unexpectedly when approaching a construction zone.



Construction ahead.



Crew working on road – maintenance ahead.



Survey crew ahead – drive with caution.



Construction ends – return to posted highway speed.
Warns trucks entering the highway from the right hand side of the road.



Flag person ahead – be prepared to stop for instructions.



This orange and black hazard sign warns of danger. It is usually placed on objects on or near the highway in order to guide motorists away. For example, hazard signs can be found at each end of a concrete bridge or near a washed-out section of the roadway.



'D' sign used on commercial vehicles to warn of over dimensional load.



Zipper merge ahead.



Zipper merge.



Use both lanes.



Begin zipper merge/merge point.

Traffic light signals



A **solid green light** at an intersection means you may go straight ahead or turn right. If you want to make a left turn, you can proceed only after yielding right-of-way to pedestrians and oncoming traffic.



A **solid amber light** means that the red signal is about to appear. You must stop your vehicle if you can safely do so; otherwise, proceed through the intersection with caution.



A **solid red light** means you must stop at the intersection and wait for the signal to turn green before proceeding. You may make a right turn providing you come to a complete stop and yield right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic before proceeding (unless a sign prohibits you from doing so).



A **green signal with a green arrow** means you may proceed in the direction of the arrow, straight ahead or turn right unless a sign prohibits you from making such a turn. When the arrow signal goes off, follow the rule for a solid green light.

A red signal with a green arrow means you may proceed only in the direction of the arrow, after yielding right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic. When the arrow signal goes off, you must wait for the solid green light to appear before proceeding.



A **flashing amber signal** means to slow down and proceed with caution.



A **flashing red signal** means come to a complete stop and proceed only when it is safe.

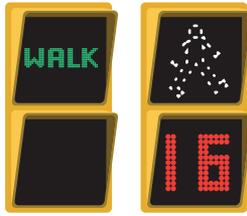
At some intersections, signs may prohibit a right turn.



There may be occasions when due to a collision or traffic congestion, a police officer may motion you to go through a red light. Always obey directions of the police officer.

Pedestrian light signals

A pedestrian facing a green walk signal or a pedestrian signal may proceed across the roadway in the direction of the signal.



If no pedestrian signals have been installed at an intersection with traffic lights, pedestrians may proceed to cross if they face a solid green traffic light.

Drivers should be extra cautious when encountering and observing pedestrians. Some may not be aware of moving traffic; some may have mobility, visual or hearing impairment.

Blind and partially sighted pedestrians may identify themselves by carrying a white cane. The canes are held diagonally in front of the pedestrian. Some people use guide dogs with distinctive rigid harnesses to assist them in walking safely.

Use extra caution when you notice a visually impaired person at a corner. They will usually extend their cane when intending to cross. Take this as your signal to give the right-of-way to the pedestrian.

Drivers operating hybrid vehicles need to be extra vigilant as these vehicles are almost silent, especially when slowing down or coming to a stop.

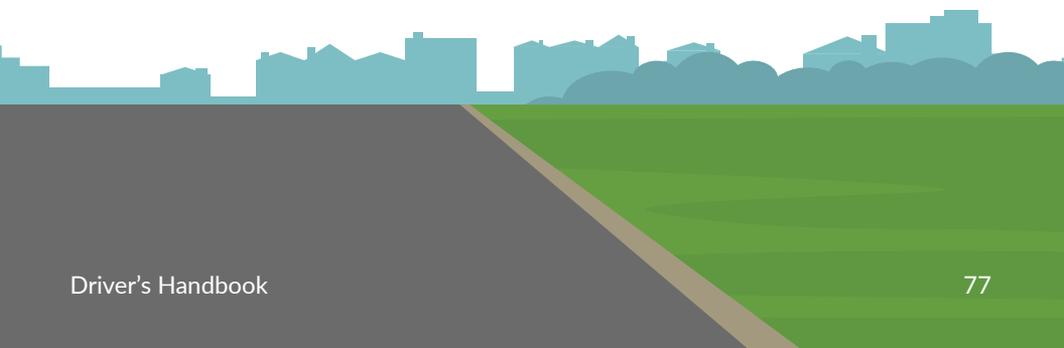
A pedestrian facing a red don't walk signal or an orange hand signal should not proceed across the roadway. To cross the road safely, the pedestrian must wait until the signal changes.



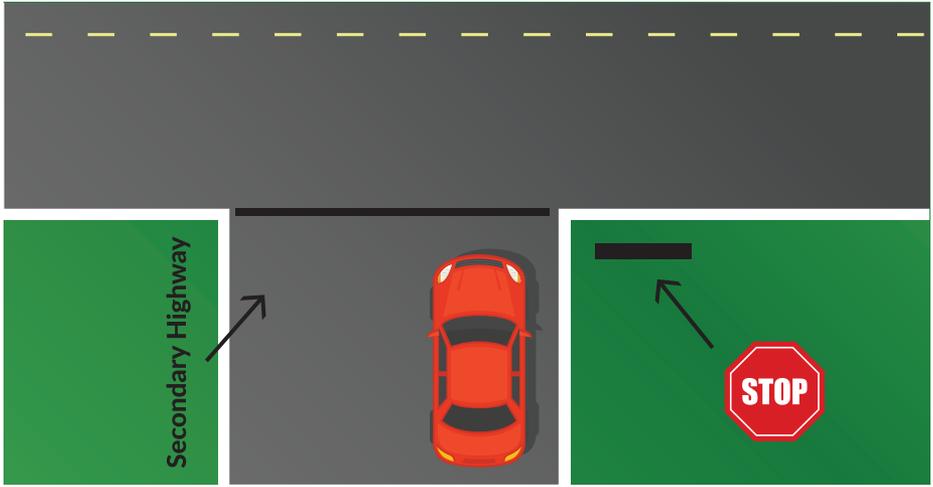
If a pedestrian is already in the intersection before the don't walk or hand signal appears, they must proceed as quickly as possible. While doing so pedestrians still have the right-of-way over vehicles.

Pedestrians should always walk on the left side of the road facing traffic. It is a good idea to wear white or reflective clothing at night so you can easily be seen by motorists.

For your own safety, go directly across when you wish to cross the street. Use an intersection or crosswalk if one is available.



1. Road markings at intersections

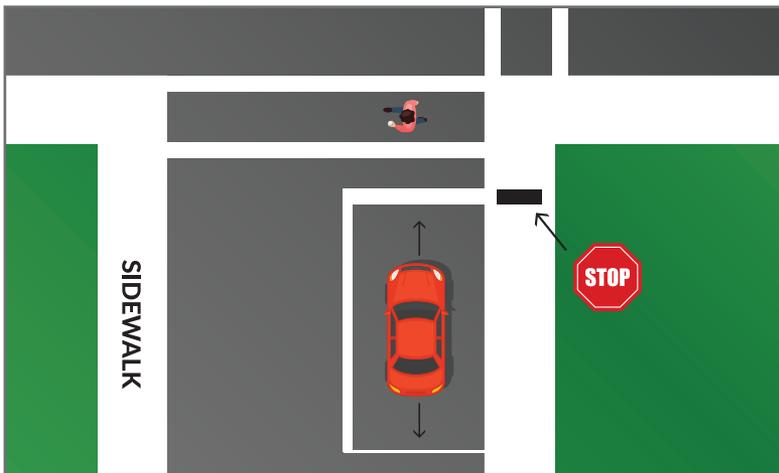


STOP LINE

Motorists must come to a complete stop and proceed only after yielding to pedestrians and other traffic.

CROSSWALK

Road markings indicating a place where pedestrians can safely cross the street. Motorists must stop before entering a crosswalk at an intersection and yield to pedestrians before proceeding.

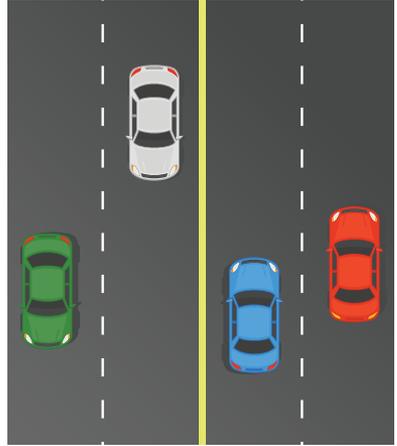


NOTE: If there is no stop line or crosswalk at an intersection, motorists must stop at a point as close to the corner of the intersection and proceed only after yielding right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic.

2. Lane markings

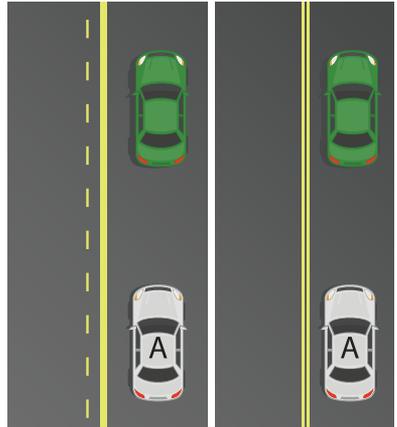
Yellow lines separate lanes of traffic travelling in opposite directions.

White lines separate lanes of traffic travelling in the same direction.



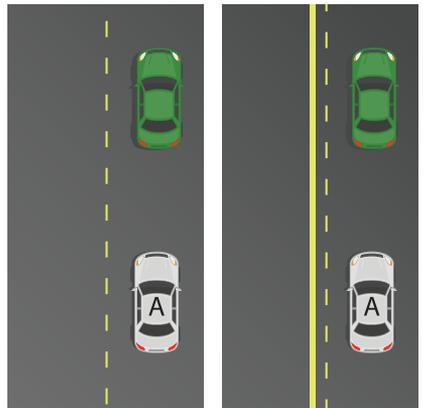
A solid line on your left means it is unsafe to pass.

'A' should not pass.



A broken yellow line on your left means you may pass if the way is clear.

'A' may pass.



3. Arrows

Arrows painted on lanes close to an intersection indicate which direction the traffic in that lane must follow. When the roadway beyond the intersection is blocked with traffic, you should stop before entering the intersection and wait until the traffic ahead moves on.



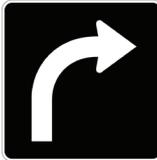
Traffic must turn left



Traffic must turn left or proceed straight ahead



Traffic must proceed straight ahead



Traffic must turn right

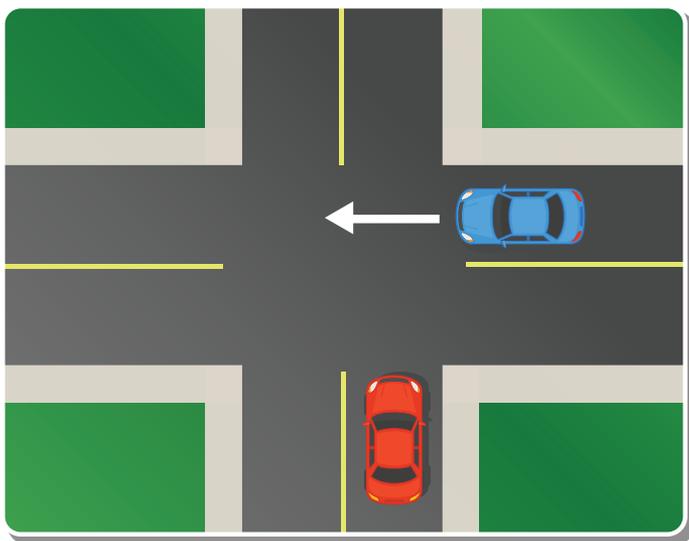
4. Painted islands



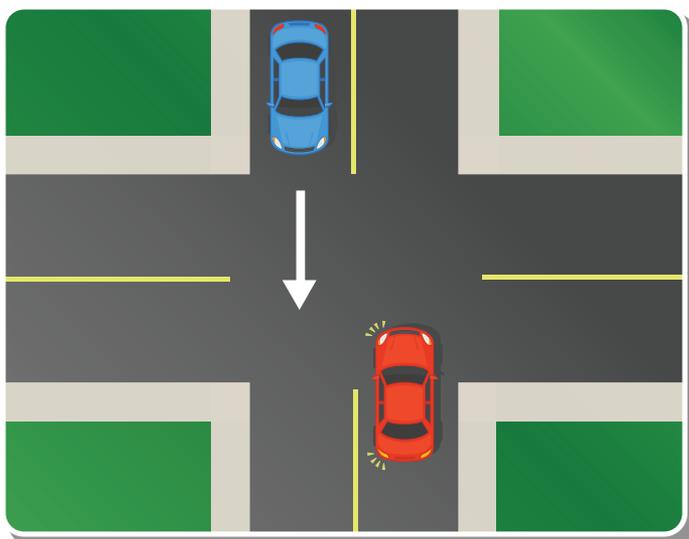
Two solid yellow lines enclosing diagonal yellow lines, as shown here, are painted on the roadway to guide traffic away from fixed objects such as a bridge or an island (median), which are in or near the roadway. You should not travel over them or use them to pass.

Rules of the Road

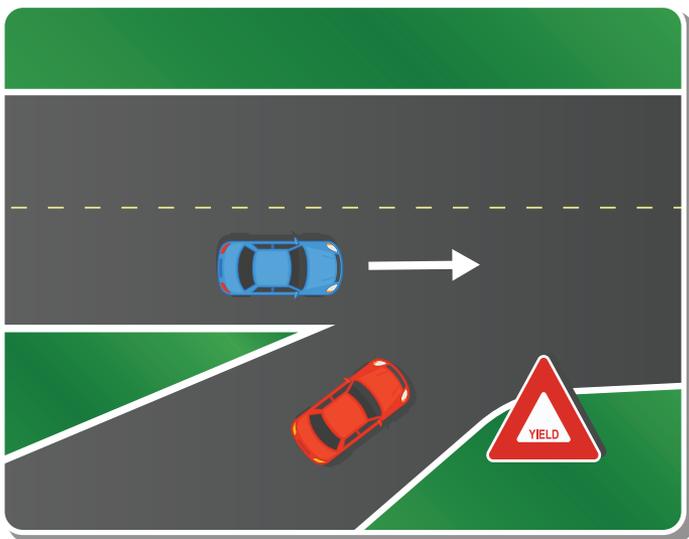
Right-of-way – who can go first?



When approaching an intersection without traffic lights, stop or yield signs or a police officer, you must yield right-of-way to traffic on your right-hand side.



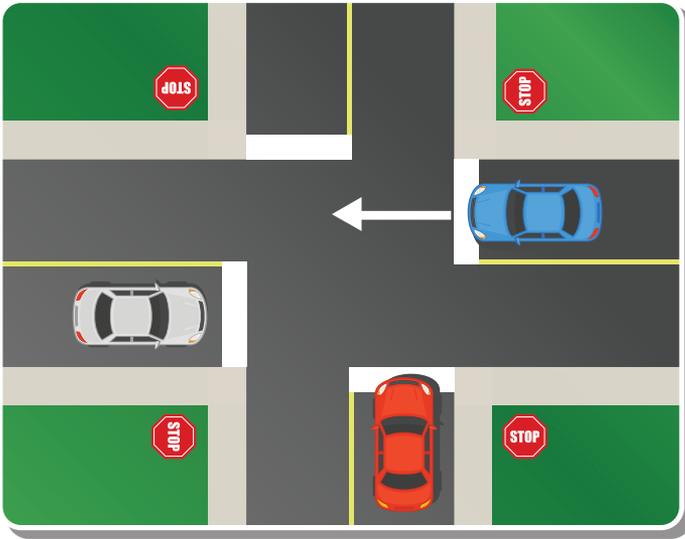
When turning left at an intersection, you must yield right-of-way to vehicles coming toward you before proceeding.



When entering a main highway from any side road or driveway, you must always yield right-of-way to traffic and pedestrians. On a highway where there is a passing lane, traffic in the through lane has the right-of-way when both lanes merge.

Four-way stop

At an intersection where stop signs are located on all four corners, the first vehicle to come to a full stop should proceed first.

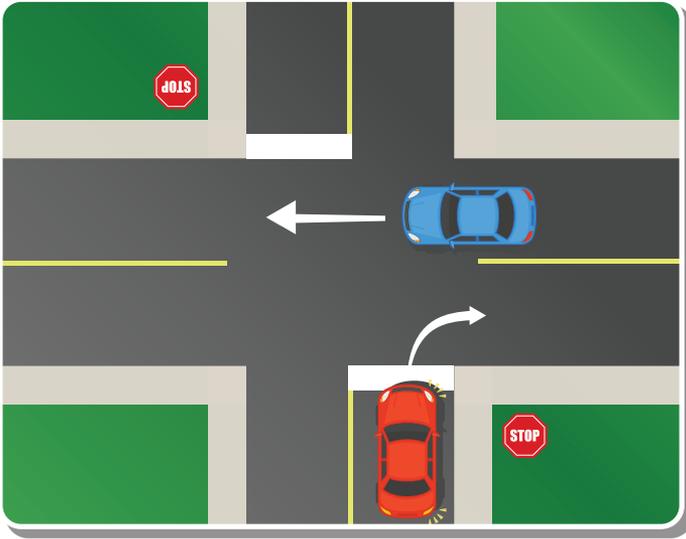


When two vehicles arrive at a four-way stop at the same time, the vehicle on the right has the right-of-way and proceeds through the intersection first. If you are behind a vehicle stopped at the stop sign, you must also come to a complete stop when that vehicle has moved on.

If you are not sure who has the right-of-way, it is safer to yield the right-of-way to the other driver. It is better to avoid a collision than to insist on having the right-of-way. Never pass a vehicle that has stopped at a stop sign, traffic light or crosswalk. **Always** yield right-of-way to emergency vehicles when lights are flashing and sirens are on. Pull to the right as far as possible and stop. Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed.

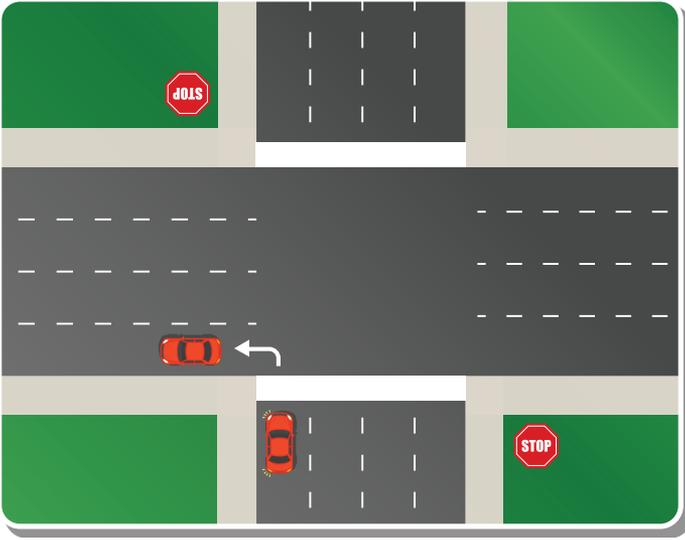
When traffic lights are not working, treat as a four-way stop.

Right turns



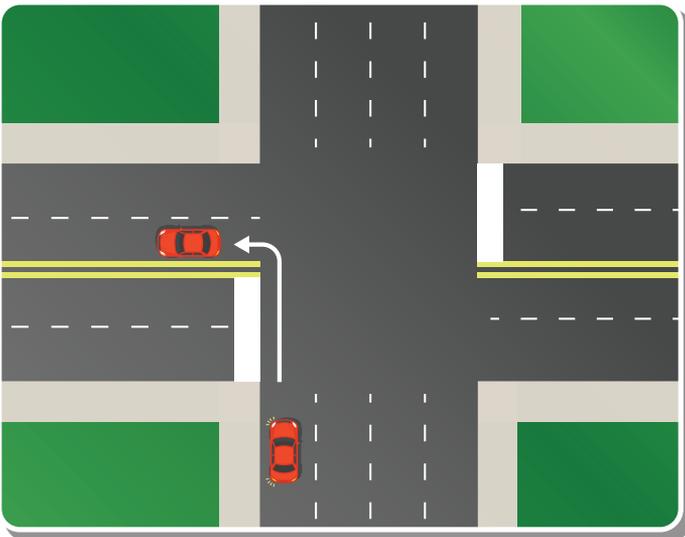
To make a right turn you must signal your intention to do so before approaching the intersection and move into the lane closest to the right side of the road. Come to a complete stop. Yield right-of-way to pedestrians and other traffic, then proceed into the right lane of the highway. Check for pedestrians and bicyclists in your blind spot before turning.

Left turns



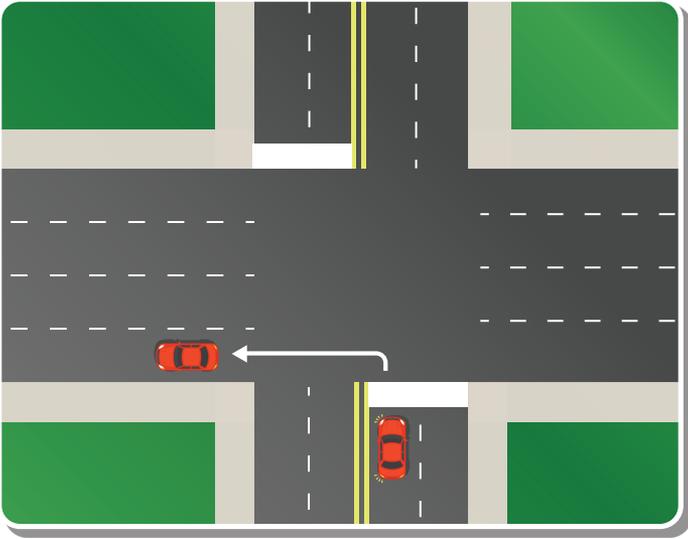
From a one-way street to another one-way street

When approaching an intersection you must signal your intention to make a left turn and move into the left lane of the one-way street. Stop, and move into the left lane of the one-way street on which you wish to travel when it is safe to do so.



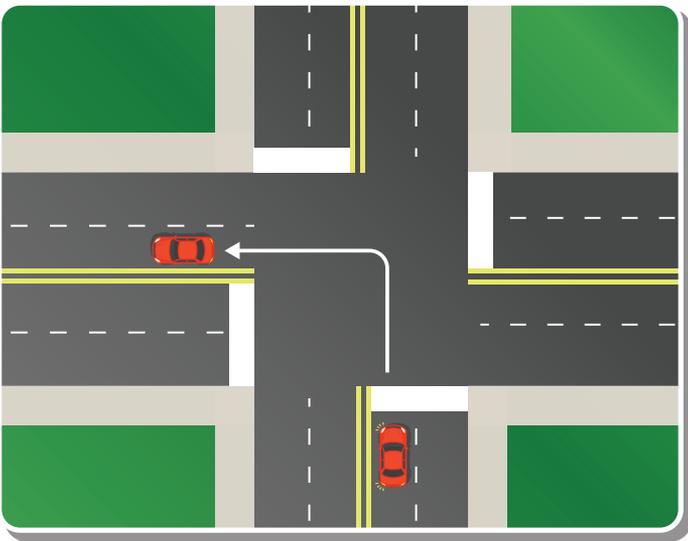
From a one-way street to a two-way street

When approaching an intersection you must signal your intention to turn left, and move into the left lane of the one-way street. You must enter the two-way street to the right of the centre line, in the lane closest to the centre line when it is safe to do so.



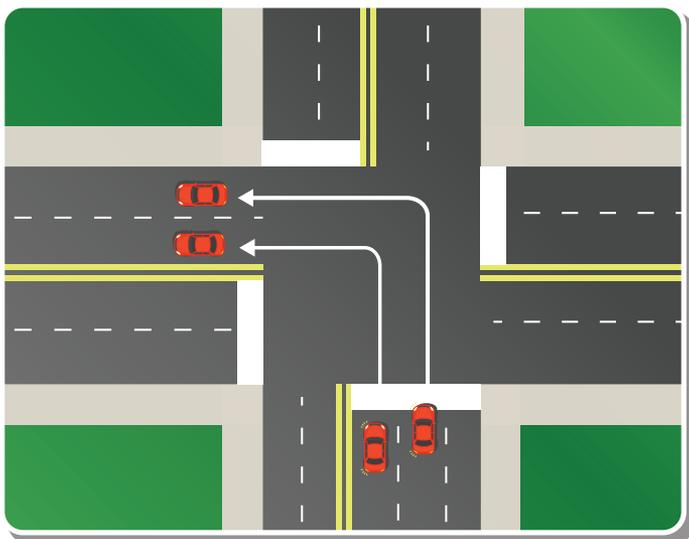
From a two-way street to a one-way street

When approaching an intersection you must signal your intention to turn left and move into the left lane of the two-way street (the lane closest to the centre line). You may proceed into the left lane of the one-way street, when it is safe to do so.



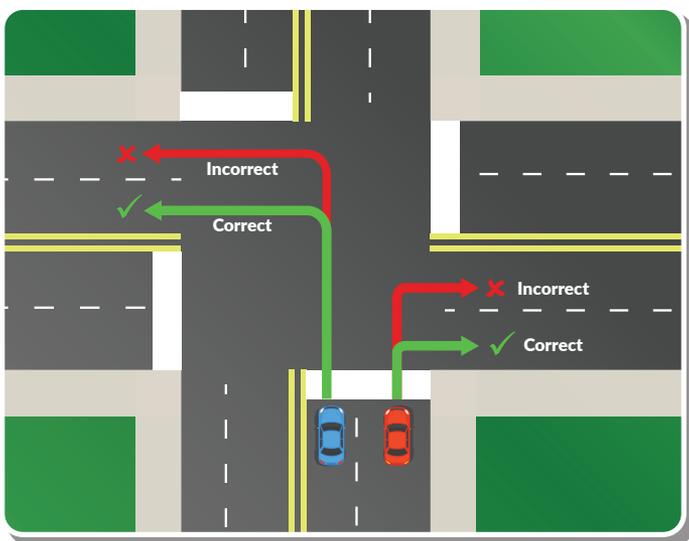
From a two-way street to another two-way street

When approaching an intersection you must signal your intention to turn left, and move into the lane immediately to the right of the centre line. You may proceed through the intersection and must enter the lane immediately to the right of the centre line on that two-way street, when it is safe to do so.



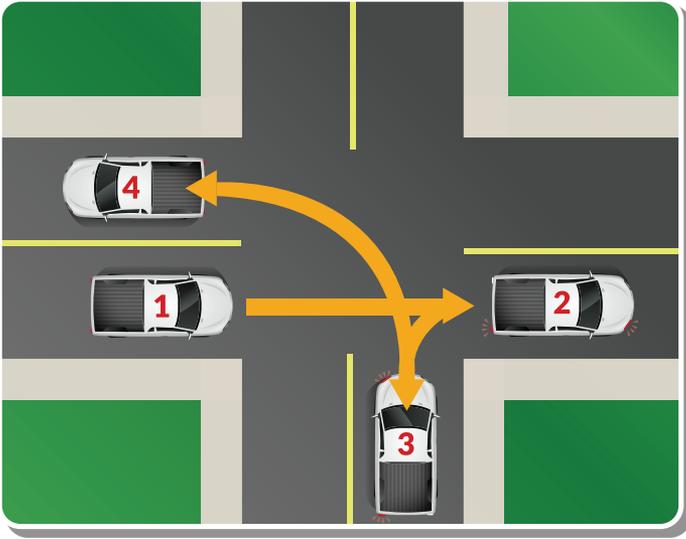
From a two-way street to another two-way street (double left turn lanes)

Where signs or lights indicate that two lanes of traffic may turn left, you must move into one of the lanes, proceed through the intersection and complete the turn in the corresponding lane.



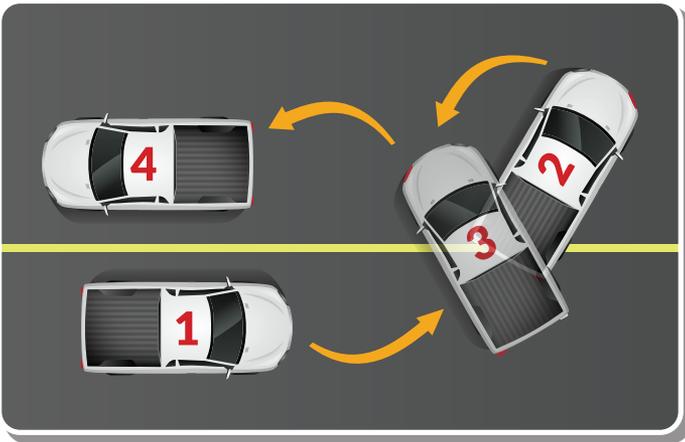
Left and right turns onto multi laned, two-way street

When making a left turn at an intersection you must signal your intention to turn left and move into the left turning lane or the lane closet to the centre line, remain in your lane but move as close as possible to the centre line. You must enter the double-lane, two-way street to the right of the centre line, in the lane closest to the centre line when safe to do so. During a right turn you must signal your intention to turn right and move into the right turning lane or the lane closest to the curb or sidewalk, remain in your lane but move as close as possible to the curb or sidewalk. You must enter the double-lane two-way street into the right lane closest to the curb or sidewalk when safe to do so. Required lane changes should only be attempted after the left or right turn has been fully completed and you have control of your lane.



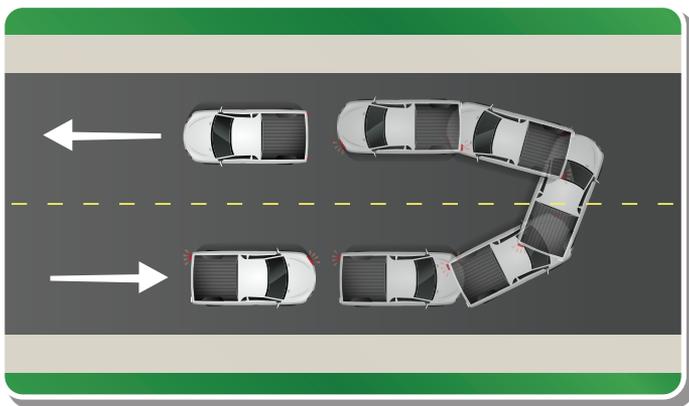
2-point turns

When you need to turn around on a narrow road, it is best to wait until you can make the turn using a side road. Drive past the side road, turn on your right signal and stop your vehicle to the extreme right side of the road. When the way is clear, back up slowly onto the side road. Check again for traffic. Turn on your left signal and proceed as usual to make a left turn onto the same highway you just exited.



3-point turns

To turn your vehicle around on the highway you must first turn on your right signal and pull off to the extreme right side of the road. When the way is clear, turn your wheel sharply to the left, cross to the other side of the road and stop your vehicle at the edge. Put your car in reverse, turn the wheel sharply to the right and back up to the other side of the road. Complete the turn moving forward in the opposite direction from which you came.



U-turns

A U-turn should be made only under certain conditions. The road must be wide enough to allow a turn in just one swing. You must be able to see far enough to the front and rear of your vehicle to ensure no other traffic is near.

If you want to make a U-turn and you are in an area where U-turns are permitted, you must first stop the car on the extreme right side of the road. Signal a left turn, check the front and rear for traffic (including your left blind spot) and turn your wheel sharply to the left. Move the car carefully across the road and complete the turn.

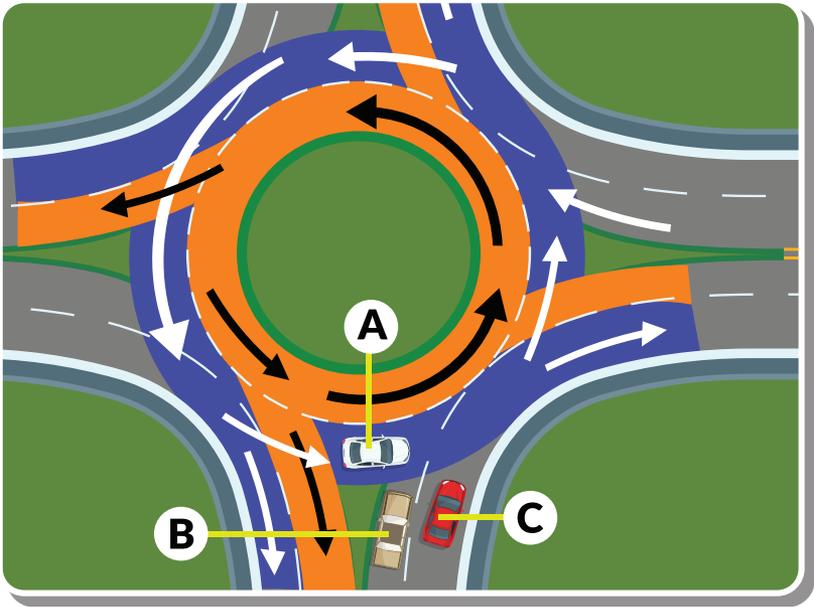
A U-turn is not permitted:

- At an intersection
- Near the top of a hill
- On a curve or bend in the road
- Where you would interfere with other traffic
- Where signage prohibits such a turn

Roundabouts

A roundabout is a circular intersection designed for improved traffic flow travelling at slower speeds. Traffic travels in a counterclockwise direction around a centre island.

In the following diagrams, traffic in outside lanes (blue lanes with white arrows) must yield to traffic in the inside lanes (yellow lanes with black arrows). Traffic entering the roundabout (grey lanes) must yield to traffic in the roundabout, both inside and outside lanes.



Vehicles B and C must yield to vehicle A.

Entering the roundabout

- Reduce your speed when approaching the roundabout.
- To enter the roundabout safely, wait for a space in traffic.
- Use your right turn signal prior to exiting the roundabout.
- Drivers entering the roundabout must yield to vehicles in the roundabout.

Using the left lane to enter and exit

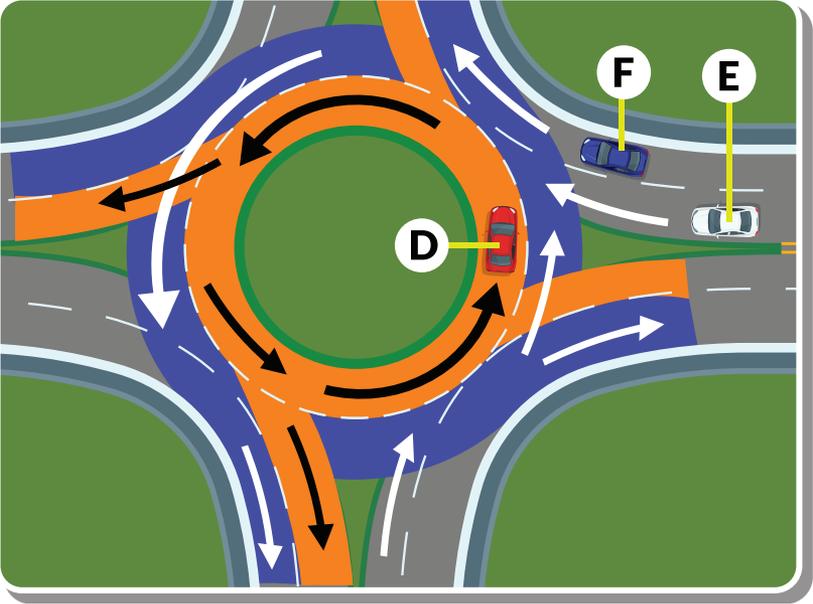
- Drivers planning to travel at least half-way around the roundabout (second exit) should approach the roundabout using the left lane.
- Enter the roundabout using the left lane only when it is safe.
- Exit using the left lane.

Using the right lane to enter and exit

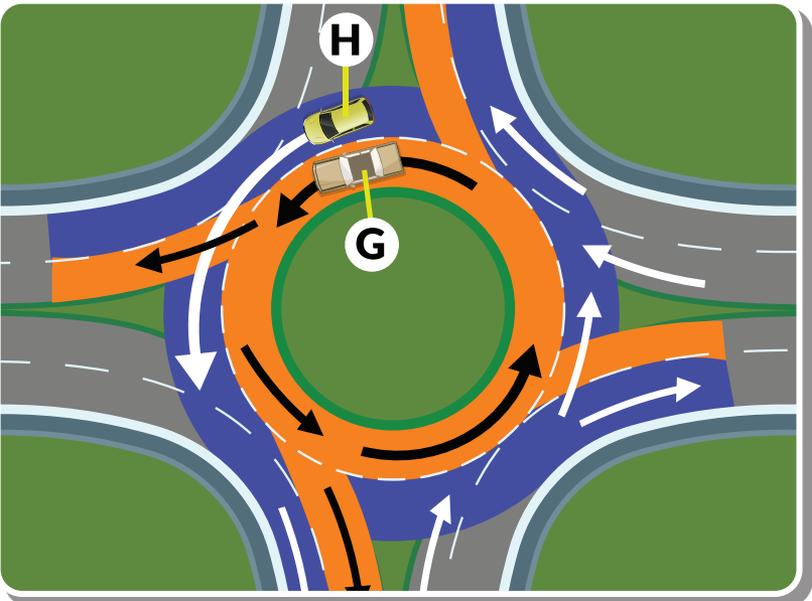
- Drivers entering the roundabout from the right lane must do so when it is safe and stay in the right lane while in the roundabout.
- Drivers must exit using the right lane.

Driving in the roundabout

- The driver on the right must yield to the driver on the left.
- The driver using the left lane must activate the right signal when preparing to exit.
- Use caution when leaving the roundabout and crossing through the right (outside) lane.
- Do not change lanes in the roundabout.



Vehicle E must yield to vehicle D, while vehicles F and D may proceed together.

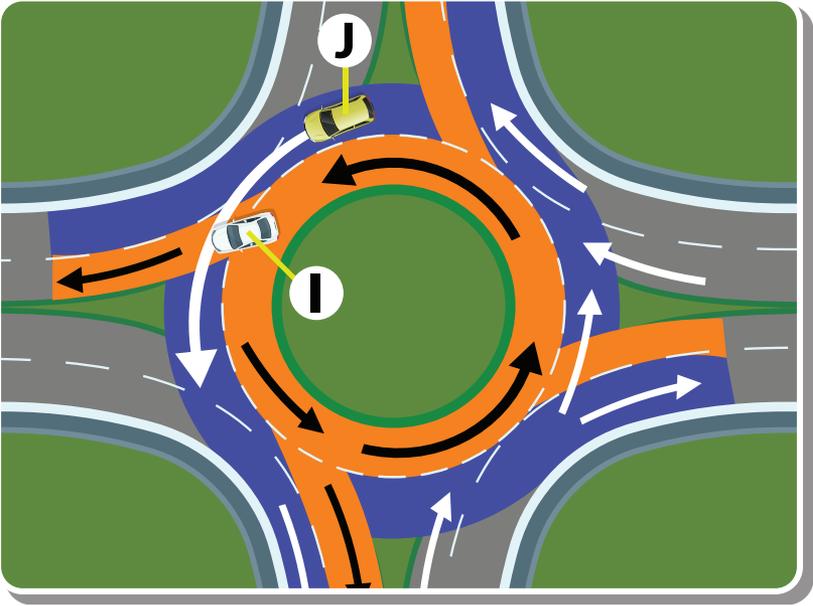


Vehicle H must yield to vehicle G.

Exiting the roundabout

When you intend to exit at the first available exit:

- Approach the roundabout using the right lane.
- Use your right turn signal when in the roundabout until you have exited the roundabout.
- Scan for pedestrians and cyclists at crosswalks and at the entrance and exits of the roundabout.
- Yield to traffic in the roundabout.
- Exit the roundabout using the right lane.



Vehicle J must yield to vehicle I as vehicle I is exiting to the left lane in the roundabout.

When you intend to leave the second exit or farther exits:

- Activate your left turn signal to communicate that you do not plan to use the first exit
- If there are two lanes, approach the roundabout using the left lane
- Scan for pedestrians and cyclists at crosswalks and at the entrance and exits of the roundabout
- Exit the roundabout using the left lane

When you exit from the left lane:

- Use your right turn signal after you pass the exit that is the last one before the exit you will use
- Check for traffic in the right lane that may be continuing around the roundabout
- Look ahead for pedestrians at the crosswalk you will be exiting
- Exit the roundabout using the left lane if two lanes
- If you cannot stop or exit safely, stay in your lane and travel around the roundabout again

Others using the roundabout

Large vehicles

Large vehicles may need to use more than one lane when approaching, within and exiting the roundabout. Give large vehicles plenty of room to navigate within the roundabout.

Pedestrians

Never cross to the central island of the roundabout. The splitter islands will allow you to cross one direction of traffic at a time. Pedestrians should always wait for gaps in traffic and only cross when it is safe to do so.

Cyclists

Experienced cyclists may ride through the roundabout as if they were a vehicle. Before entering the roundabout, carefully move into the centre of the appropriate travel lane. Cyclists should stay in the middle of the lane until they are clear of the roundabout. Less experienced cyclists should walk their bicycles, following the same rules that apply to pedestrians.

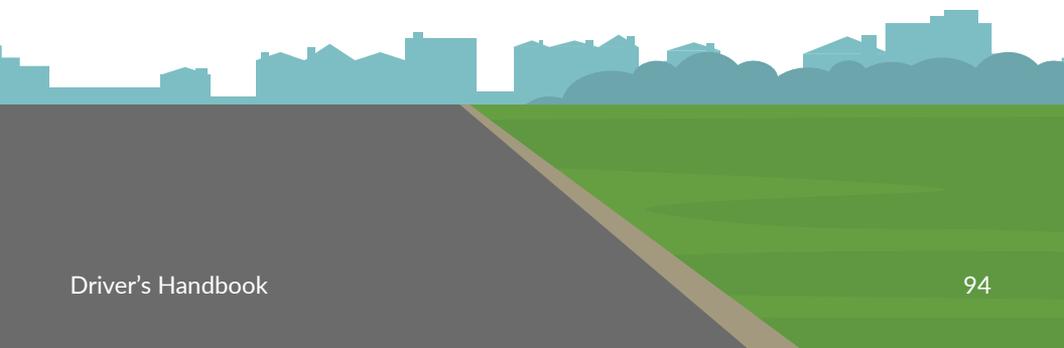
Emergency vehicles

If you have not yet entered the roundabout, pull over to the right (if possible) to allow the emergency vehicle to pass. If you are in the roundabout, take your intended exit and proceed beyond the splitter island before pulling over to the right to allow the emergency vehicle to pass you. **NEVER STOP INSIDE A ROUNDABOUT.**

Safe passing

You always take a risk when passing another vehicle. Even if vehicles are parked, you must be alert for doors opening, cars pulling out and pedestrians walking between parked cars.

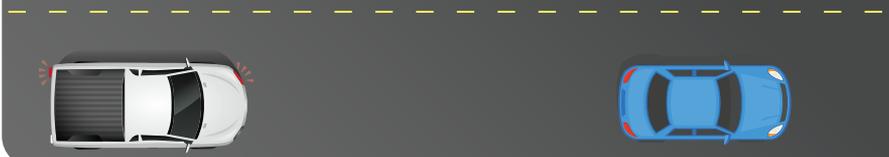
When you pass a moving vehicle, the risk is even greater. You must rely on good judgment to pass another vehicle safely. You not only have to judge the time and distance needed to pass, but also take into account the condition of your own vehicle.



Here are the steps to follow when you want to pass:

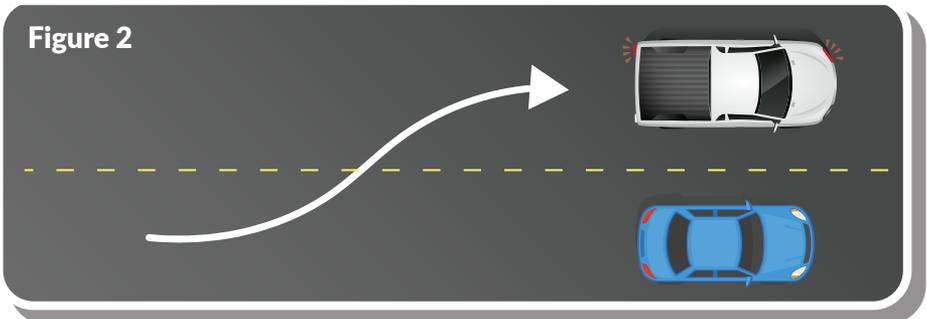
1. You may pass only when the centre line markings permit. There must be a broken yellow centre line on your left-hand side before you may attempt to pass.
2. You must ensure the way ahead and to the rear is clear of traffic. Check your left blind spot.
3. Signal your intention to pass (use your left signal) well behind the vehicle in front of you and move carefully into the passing lane (Figure 1).

Figure 1



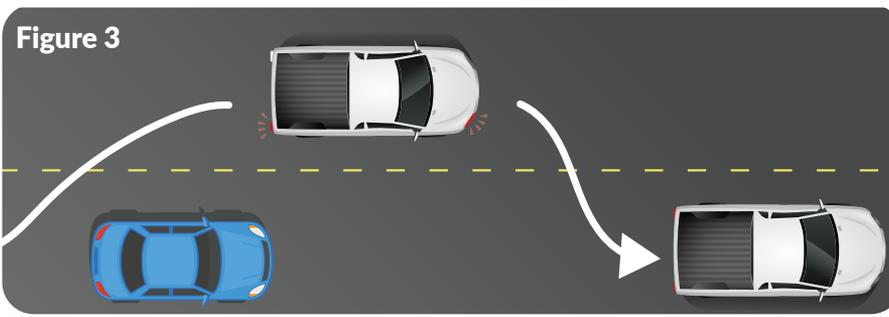
4. Speed up to complete the pass, but be careful NOT to go over the posted speed limit (Figure 2).

Figure 2



5. After you have passed the vehicle, signal your intention to move back into the right lane (use right signal), but wait until you can see both headlights of the vehicle you just passed in your rear-view mirror before doing so (Figure 3).

Figure 3



You are permitted to pass other vehicles on the right side when the driver in front is making a left turn, where there are two or more lanes in each direction and on one-way streets. You are not permitted to make this maneuver by driving off the roadway.

On some of the main highways, a special passing lane is provided for motorists. This makes it safer to pass slower vehicles. You may use this passing lane if you have enough time to complete the pass safely before the passing zone ends. The driver in the vehicle being passed also has a responsibility to cooperate. Never speed up when another vehicle is attempting to pass you. To avoid a collision, you may have to slow down to allow the passing vehicle the opportunity to move back safely into your lane of traffic.

If you are being passed, give way to the overtaking vehicle.

You are NOT permitted to pass under the following conditions when:

- Weather conditions hinder your view
- You are on a curve in the road
- You are at an intersection or railway crossing
- You are within 30 metres of a crosswalk
- You are on a blind hill or near the top of a hill
- You are on a narrow bridge
- Where a solid line marking is to your left
- Where a sign prohibits passing

Signals

The law requires that you signal when you intend to:

- Stop or suddenly decrease the speed of your vehicle
- Turn left or right
- Change from one lane to another
- Pass another vehicle on the highway
- Leave the roadway
- Set your vehicle in motion from a parked position

These signals must be in the form of directional signals (left and right indicators) or brake. If vehicle signal lights are not working, give hand and arm signals as shown in the diagram.

Even though you must use your vehicle's turn signals, hand signals can also be useful. For example, when you are pulling out of a line of parked vehicles and your signal lights are hard to see.

Giving signals properly and with sufficient time lets other motorists know what your intentions are. It also allows them time to react and may reduce the chance of a collision.

When turning left or right, always check over your shoulder in the direction you are turning to ensure there is no vehicle in your blind spot.



LEFT TURN



RIGHT TURN



SLOW DOWN OR STOPPING

Lane changing

Whenever you change lanes follow these steps:

1. Maintain a minimum following distance of two seconds between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead, under good driving conditions. Increase the following distance if conditions are not favorable.
2. Identify a four second planned path of travel. Ensure the lane you intend to move into is clear for four seconds. Two seconds ahead and two seconds to the rear.
3. Check both mirrors, side mirror and rear-view mirror to see that other vehicles are not approaching from the rear. Check to see that any vehicle directly behind you will not attempt to perform a lane change at the same time you do.
4. Signal your intention to change lanes.
5. Look over your shoulder quickly to check for vehicles in your blind spot. Make sure there is an adequate gap.
6. Steer and accelerate slightly to enter the lane. Turn off your directional signal if it does not cancel.

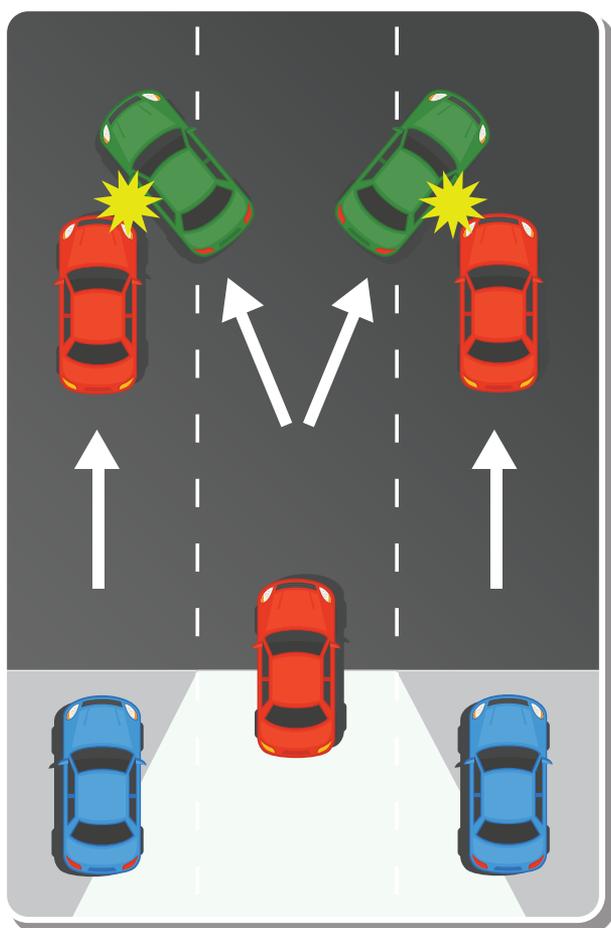
Do not let too much time lapse between steps five and six. If you wait too long to move into the lane, the gap size may change making it impossible to merge.

Blind spot

Even if your mirrors are correctly positioned, there is still a blind spot to the right and left rear corners of your vehicle. Your rear-view mirror will not show a vehicle in the lane next to yours when the front bumper of the other driver's vehicle is about even with or past your rear bumper.

If you rely on your inside mirror only and turn into another lane without looking over your shoulder, a collision is likely to occur.

Do not leave lane changing to the last minute. Plan your route and prepare for turns accordingly. Do not change lanes at an intersection. Other drivers will not know whether you are signaling to change lanes or to make the turn at the intersection.

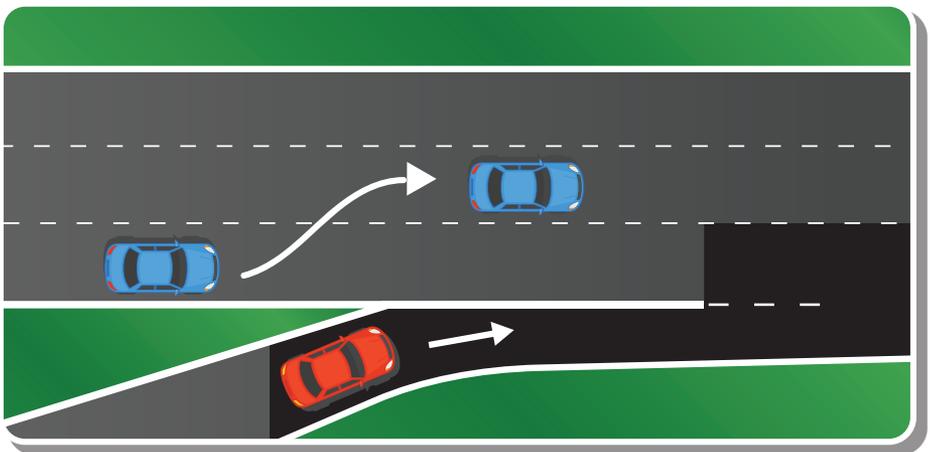
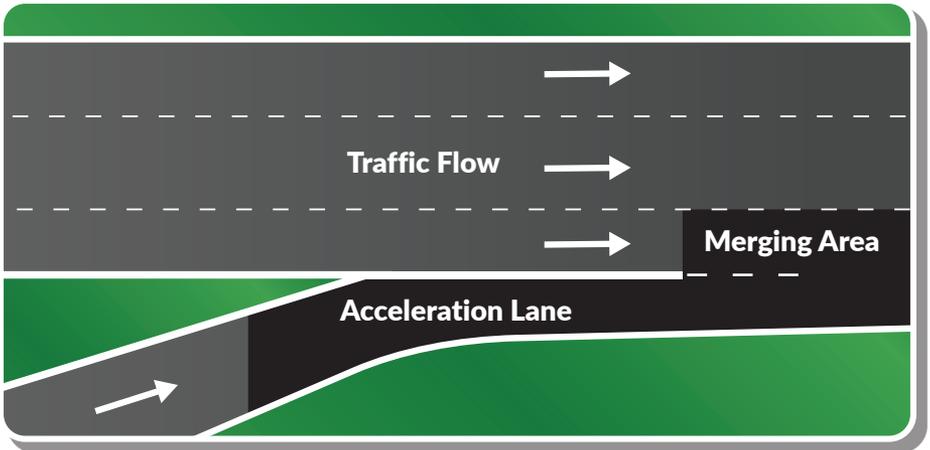


Entering and driving on a divided highway

To enter a divided highway, move onto an access ramp and into an acceleration lane. When you enter the acceleration lane, you must signal your intention to move left and speed up to be able to merge smoothly with thorough traffic.

Drivers already on a divided highway should move into the left lane if it is safe to do so. This leaves the right lane open for motorists entering the divided highway and allows them to merge safely. This is only a courtesy by the other driver. It is your responsibility to merge only when it is safe to do so.

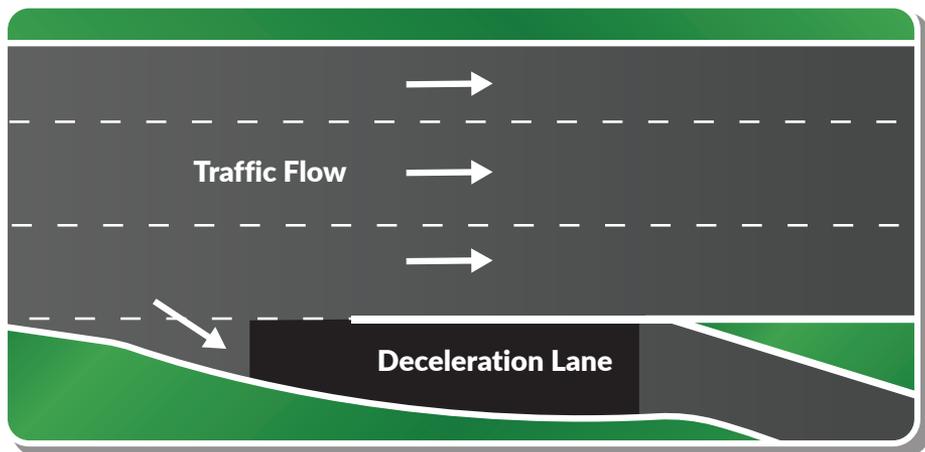
Always maintain a safe following distance after entering traffic. When driving around a curve, enter the curve slowly and increase speed as you get the feel of the curve.



Leaving a divided highway

When leaving a divided highway, signal your intention to move right and proceed into the deceleration lane. Slow down and adjust your speed to the limit posted on the exit ramp.

Signs are posted far enough in advance to warn motorists that an exit is coming up. If you miss an exit, do not stop or back up on the divided highway. Instead, proceed as usual and turn off at the next exit.



Cloverleaf

Most modern highways have roads that intersect each other on different levels (an overpass). The cloverleaf is a common example of such an intersection. The advantage of this type of intersection is that vehicles do not have to cross the path of other traffic in order to make a turn. At a cloverleaf intersection, all turns are right turns.

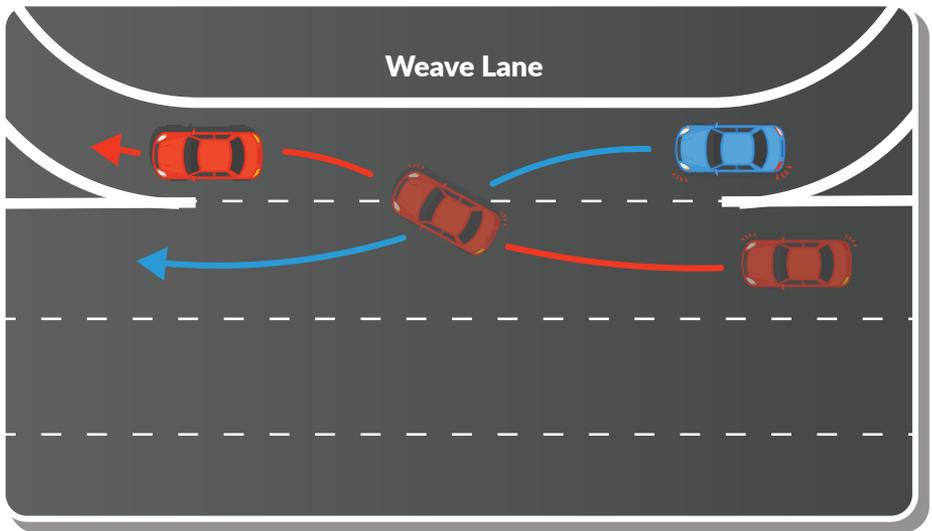
To make a right turn onto the intersecting highway, you must turn right after you pass the bridge (overpass).



Weave zones/lanes

On some roadway interchanges, there are places where the highway entrance and exit use the same lane. The entrance and exit can be close together. These areas require caution and cooperation because vehicles share the same lane to slow to exit the highway, while other vehicles are using the lane to increase speed to enter the highway.

In weave zones, control your speed and the timing of your lane change to merge with other traffic. This requires skillful use of time and space. Use caution in these zones to ensure safe highway exiting and entering for all vehicles. Vehicles exiting the highway have right-of-way over vehicles entering the highway.



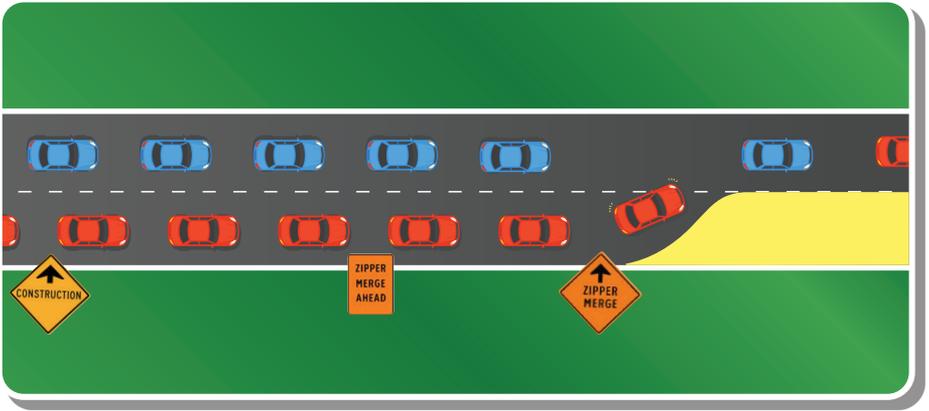
Traffic entering and exiting the highway uses the same lane.

To avoid a conflict, the driver in the blue car entering from the entrance ramp must yield the right of way of the driver in the red car who is leaving the expressway (entering yields to exiting).

Zipper merge

In general, the majority of drivers, upon seeing the first lane closure signs in a work area/construction zone, will begin to move from their current lane into the lane that will continue through the work zone.

Depending on local conditions, this method may not be the most efficient nor safe way for traffic to merge. In order to increase safety and reduce speed, queue lengths and traffic delays, there are two methods available based on local traffic conditions.



Early merge strategy

The early merge strategy is effective where local conditions result in low traffic volumes combined with high average speeds. This merge strategy directs drivers to move out of the closed lane well before the lane ends and is typical for traffic control layouts.

Late merge strategy

The late merge strategy is effective where local conditions result in high traffic volumes combined with low average speeds due to congestion.

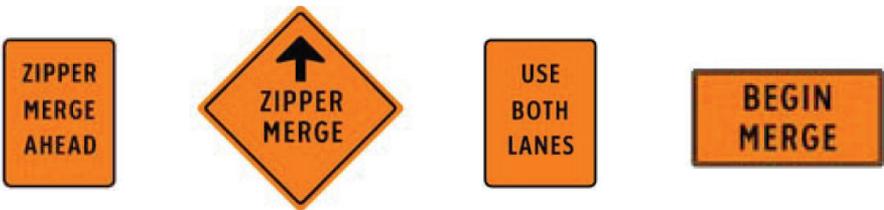
This merge strategy directs drivers in the closed lane(s) to remain in their current lane(s) until they reach the designated merge point. Here, they merge with the other open lane in an alternating pattern with the traffic already in this lane.

The late merge strategy provides the following benefits:

- Reduction in travel times, as traffic is kept moving in a slow and consistent fashion
- Increased traffic capacity through the work zone
- Shorter queue lengths in advance of the work zone, as all lanes are used to queue traffic in approach to the work zone

A variable message sign may be placed in advance of a zipper merge to provide additional notice to motorists of the merge strategy.

The late merge strategy should be implemented on all lane closures for multi-lane roadways where traffic queue lengths or congestion is a concern.



Added right lane

The added right lane allows drivers to make a right turn and flow into a dedicated lane for just the drivers turning right with no risk of other traffic being in the way. Drivers keep going, do not stop and merge to the left with traffic when there is a space in the general-purpose lane.

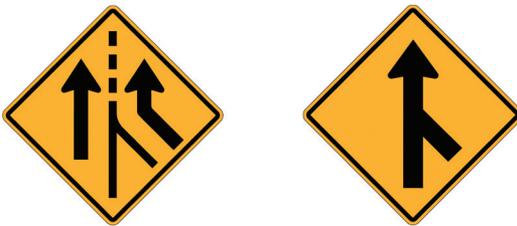
The sign is usually placed on the side of the highway near a point where the new road comes together with the main highway and where it is visible from both roadways. You may also see signs on the side of each of the two roadways.

If a highway on-ramp becomes a new lane, entering traffic continues in this new lane and does not merge. Traffic on the main highway will not expect merging traffic at this point.

The opposite is also true. Drivers on the main highway avoid moving into the new lane because entering traffic will not expect vehicles to move into their travel path.

An added lane sign that signifies that two roads converge and you do not have to merge. The lane you are driving on keeps going. If you are turning onto another road and see this sign next to your lane, keep driving. Stop for a red light and pedestrians.

Added lane sign (left) and merge sign (right)



Both signs warn of a point where another road comes together with the mainstream of traffic, but there is one important difference.

The **added lane sign** means that a new lane is added to the main roadway for traffic entering from the side road. Entering traffic does not need to merge at this point. Drivers can continue driving in the new lane.

The **merge sign** means that lanes from the two separate roadways will come together and become one single traffic lane. Drivers entering from the side road must be prepared to merge with traffic on the main highway.

Drivers on the main highway should be cautious of this incoming traffic and allow traffic to merge smoothly.

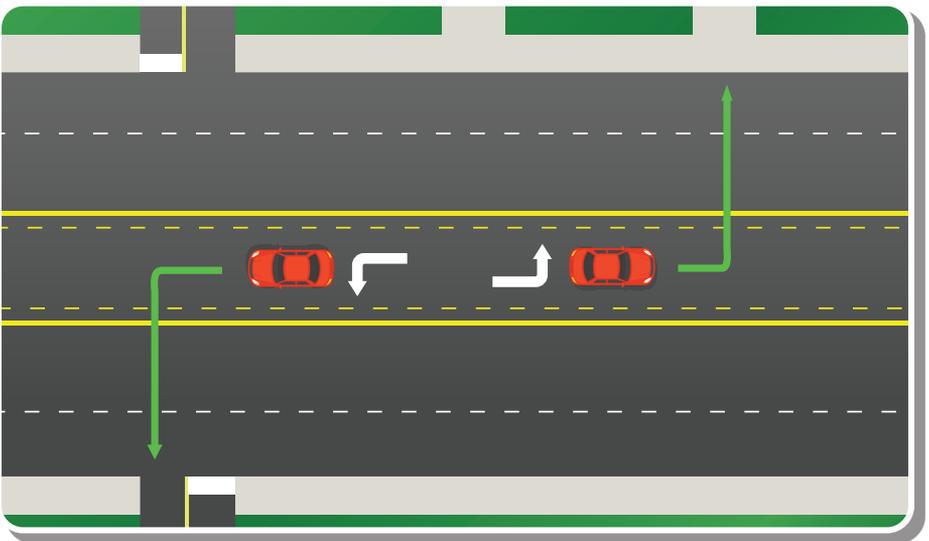
Shared left turn lane

Often called two-way left turn lanes, the lane is bordered by double yellow lines (one solid and one broken) on either side. This lane is reserved for vehicles turning left driving in both directions, as well as turning left into the roadway from alleys, driveways and parking lots (not at intersections or U-turns when they are legal). At major intersections, the lane marking may change to highlight left turning bays.

Before entering this lane, check carefully for vehicles already in the lane, as well as vehicles about to enter from either side of the road and from both directions. Drivers are permitted to cross the solid yellow line to enter the shared turn lane. The centre turning lanes may not be used as a passing lane or as a driving lane.

When you need to use a shared left turn lane to turn left, you should:

- Engage your turn signal.
- Enter the centre lane.
- Avoid driving in the centre lane – it should be kept clear for turns only.
- Watch for oncoming traffic in both the centre lane and oncoming lanes.
- Wait for a gap in oncoming traffic and complete your turn.
- Do not drive in this lane for more than 100 metres.



Backing

Many traffic collisions are caused when motorists are backing up. Backing is only permitted when the move can be made safely.

1. Before backing a vehicle, check behind it from the outside. Children, bicycles and other small objects are not always visible from inside.
2. Once you are seated in the vehicle, check both sides of the road to ensure the way is clear.
3. From the normal seated position, shift your weight onto the right hip and turn your body to look out the rear window, bracing yourself by placing your right arm along the top of the front passenger seat.
4. Place your left hand at the top centre position on the steering wheel (12 o'clock).
5. Start to back slowly and safely.
6. If you must cross a pedestrian crosswalk or sidewalk before you enter the street, stop and check both sides of the roadway once again.
7. Proceed when the way is clear.

Always back into the nearest lane of traffic that is facing in the direction you want to go.

1. Check around you to be sure the way is clear before you back up.



2. Always turn and look behind as you back up.



Parking

You may park your vehicle only where it is safe and legal to do so. Signs and pavement markings usually indicate where you are allowed to park.

- Do not park if you are blocking a sidewalk, intersection, traffic lane, crosswalk, driveway or emergency exit.
- Do not park if you are in front of an authorized loading door, on a bridge or in a tunnel. Do not double-park (parking on the left side of a vehicle already stopped on the side of the road).
- Do not park where you are obstructing the free flow of traffic.
- Do not park when you are within:
 - Ten metres of a stop sign or other traffic control signals
 - Six metres of a crosswalk
 - One metre from the point on the curb or edge of the roadway immediately opposite a fire hydrant
 - Twenty metres of a bus stop
 - Fifteen metres of a railway crossing
 - Seven metres of the entrance to a fire station
 - Six metres of the entrance to a public building (school, church, etc.)

If you must park a vehicle on the highway, pull over onto the right shoulder, parallel to the roadway and ensure your vehicle can be seen from a distance of 60 metres in either direction. Before leaving your vehicle lock the ignition, remove the key and brake properly.

In the event of an emergency, pull over to the right side of the roadway and use emergency indicators to warn other motorists. Some motorists raise the hood of their vehicles to indicate that they need help. This is widely recognized as a distress signal.

Never move your vehicle from a parked position unless you check traffic, signal and pull from the curb when it is safe to do so.

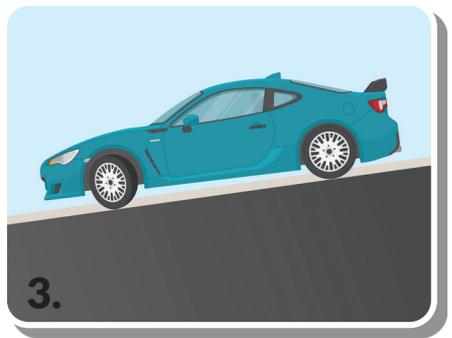
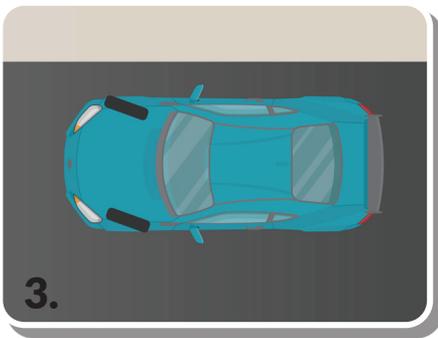
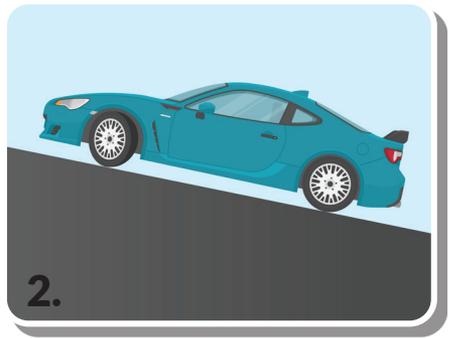
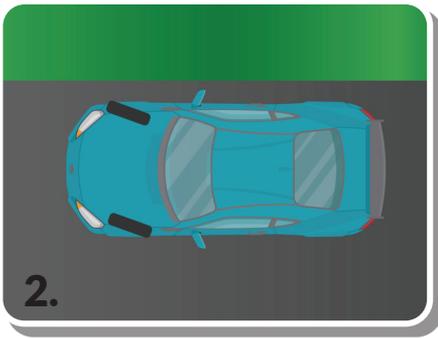
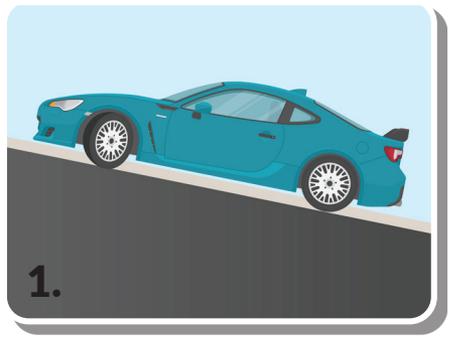
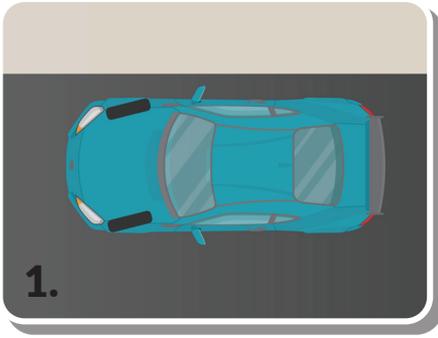
Parking on a hill

When you are parking on a hill, turn your wheels so that if your vehicle rolls away, it will not roll into the path of other traffic but away from it.

If you park facing uphill, the direction you turn your wheels will depend on whether the street has a paved curb.

If there is a curb, turn your wheels toward the centre of the street (Figure 1). If there is no curb, turn your wheels towards the edge of the street (Figure 2).

If you park facing downhill, always turn your wheels toward the edge of the street (Figure 3).

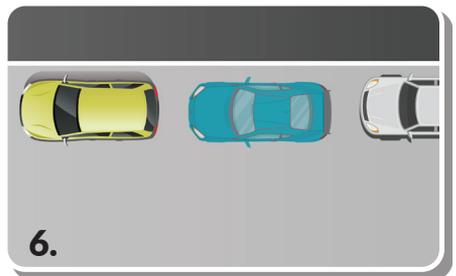
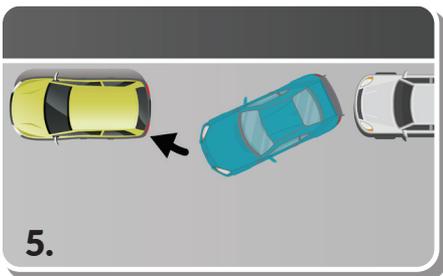
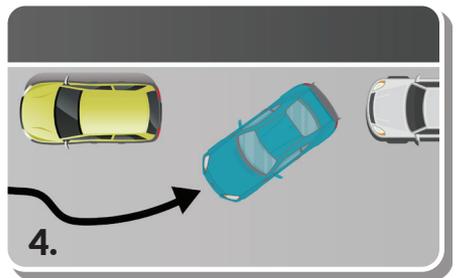
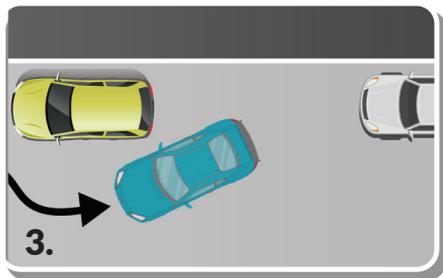
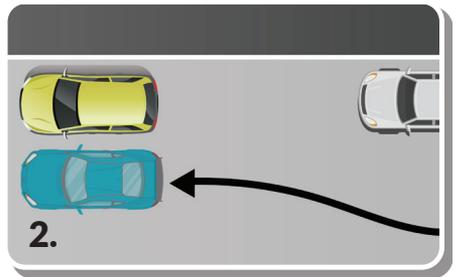
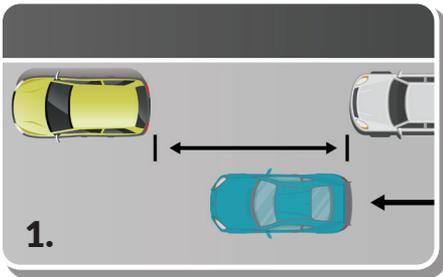


Parallel parking

When you want to park between two other parked vehicles, you must follow the correct procedure for parallel parking.

1. Make sure there is enough space between the two parked vehicles for yours to fit; about one-and-a-half times the length of your own vehicle.
2. Drive parallel to the front vehicle and stop when your back bumper is lined up with the back bumper of the parked vehicle.
3. Shift to REVERSE and back up slowly, turning the steering wheel sharply to the right until your vehicle is at approximately a 45-degree angle with the curb.
4. When your front bumper can clear the rear bumper of the vehicle ahead, turn the steering wheel sharply to the left and continue to back slowly into the parking space.
5. If necessary, straighten the wheels and move the vehicle forward in order to have an equal distance front and rear for clearance.

Your wheels should be within 30 cm of the curb when parked properly.

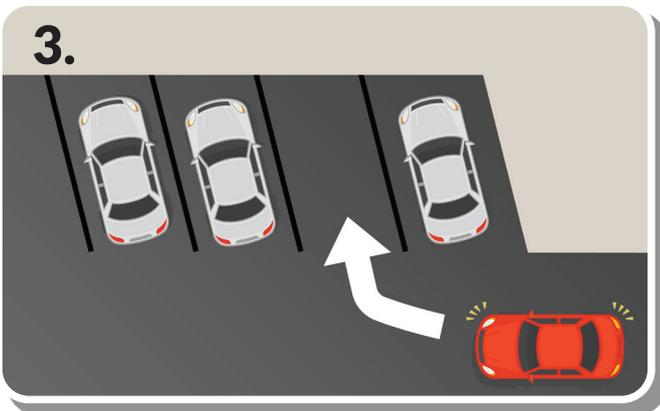
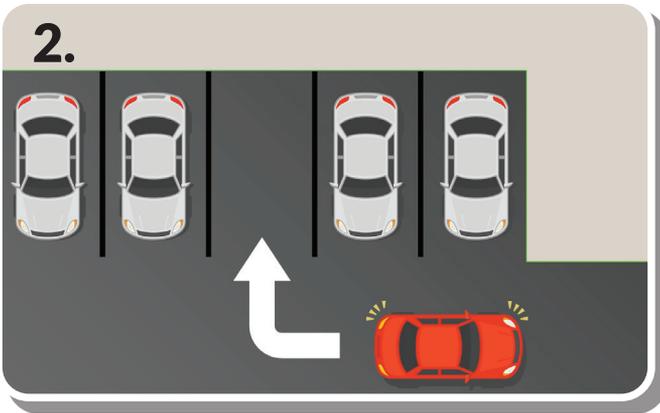
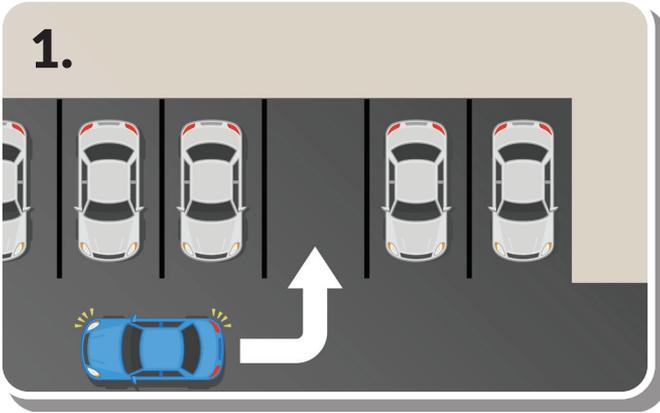


Angle parking

When your parking space is at 90 degrees, or a right angle, to the road, as it is in most parking lots, you should back into the space and then drive out (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Be familiar with backing into the space from the left and the right.

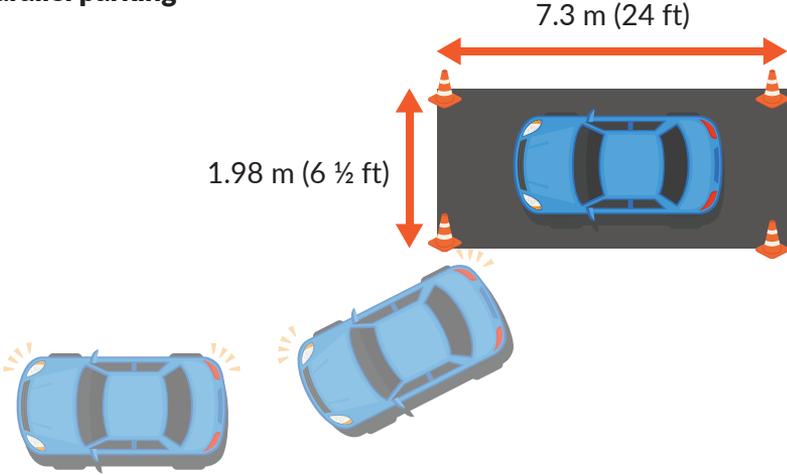
When your parking space is slanted at a 60-degree angle to the road you should drive into it and back out (Figure 3).



Practice parking

When preparing for your parking test, you may want to set up pylons or markers to help you practice. The following dimensions are used during the parking test with a driver examiner:

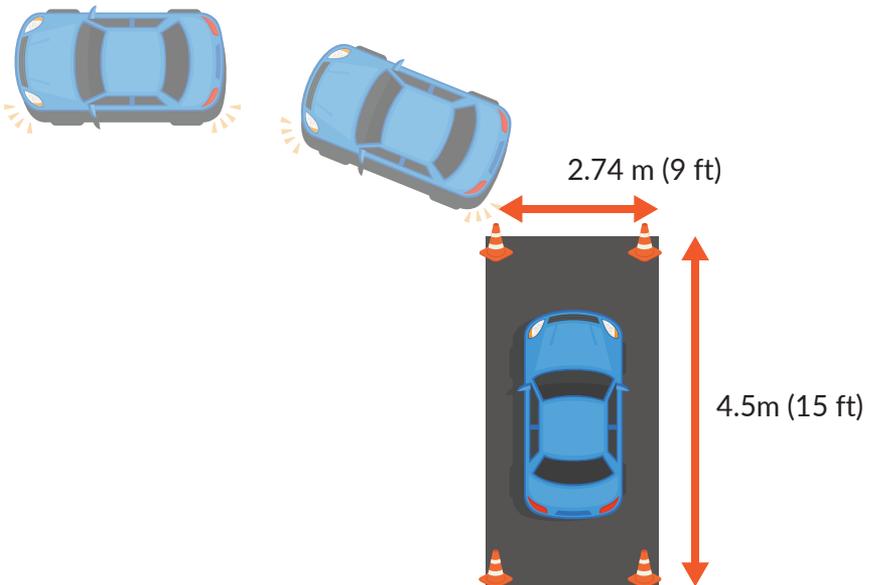
Parallel parking



Angle parking

When angle parking, the examiner may ask you to complete this maneuver from the left or right. Practice both directions. (Figure 2).

Signal lights are required during all parking procedures. Engaging your signal light advises other drivers of your intention to enter and use a parking spot or indicate if you are about to enter traffic.



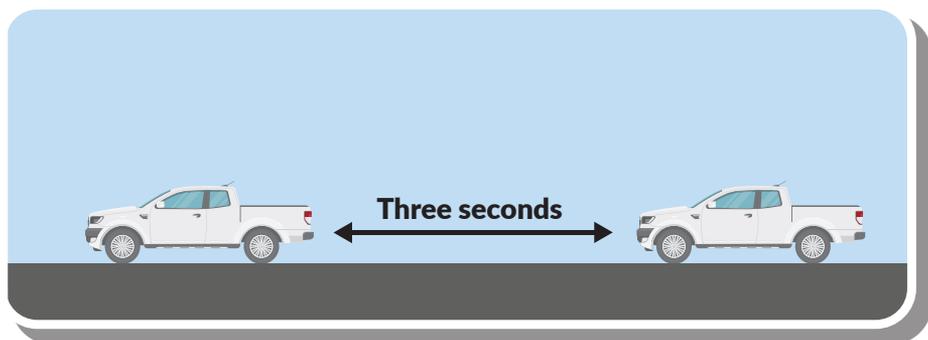
Following distance

Nearly two-thirds of rear-end collisions occur under ideal driving and road conditions. In most cases, the responsibility for this type of collision is placed on the driver following other traffic. It is important to drive at a safe following distance.

Estimate a reasonable distance between your vehicle and the vehicles you are following so you have enough space to stop. Adjust your following distance depending on traffic speed of other vehicles and road conditions.

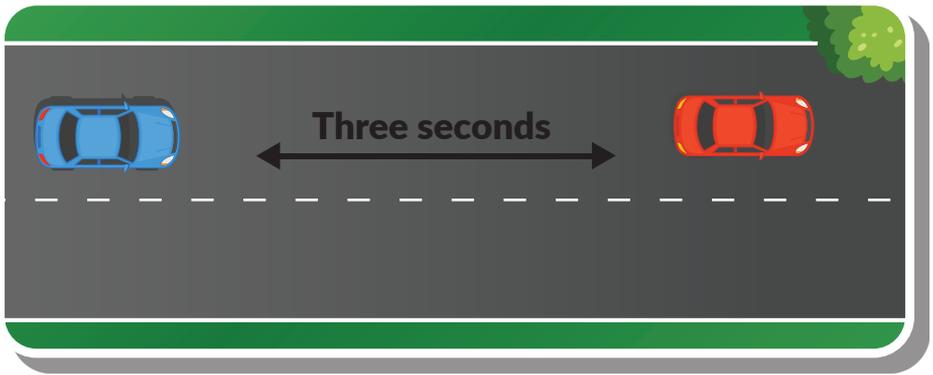
For ordinary passenger vehicles, the minimum safe following distance is at least one vehicle length for every 15 kilometres per hour. When roads are slippery, this distance should be doubled. Commercial vehicles driving outside the city should allow at least 150 metres following distance due to reduced visibility and greater stopping distance.

The three second rule or time interval driving method is a way of calculating a safe following distance. Since it can be difficult to judge the number of vehicle lengths of space you need for your speed, this is a good way to test your distance from the vehicle ahead.



The time interval driving method

1. The vehicle ahead is about to pass a checkpoint (sign, driveway, pole or other marker).
2. Begin counting seconds (i.e. one thousand and one, one thousand and two, one thousand and three) as the rear of the vehicle you are following passes your selected checkpoint.
3. If it takes fewer than three seconds for your vehicle to pass the same checkpoint, you are following too close to allow a safe stop.
4. If it takes three seconds or more for your vehicle to pass the same checkpoint, you have developed a reasonable following distance for ideal weather conditions between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead.
5. In less than ideal driving conditions, your following distance will have to increase. Three seconds at highway speeds will allow you to react to an obstacle ahead. It will not give you sufficient time to stop your vehicle.



To avoid hitting a car in front of you

- Be patient. Keep calm in slow moving traffic. Watch for the brake lights of the car ahead, but do not depend on them – they may not be working.
- Look for problems that might affect the driver ahead of you.
- Watch for a decrease in distance between your vehicle and the one ahead.
- Never assume what the actions of the driver ahead will be. For example, do not take for granted that the vehicle ahead will go through an amber light – most drivers will stop, as they should.
- If the vehicle ahead has stopped, allow enough time and distance for it to start moving again.
- Pay attention to your driving. Never drive distracted or take your attention from the road.

To avoid being struck from behind

- Keep your brake lights clean and in working order. Flash them when slowing down or preparing to stop.
- Know what is happening behind, use your mirrors frequently and keep your rear window clean and clear of frost or snow.
- Signal well in advance for turns, stops and lane changes to alert the driver behind you.
- Slow down gradually (over a long distance) to give the driver behind time and space to react.
- Keep pace with traffic within the speed limit and driver according to road conditions.
- Never impede or block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic.

Speed

The posted speed limit is the legal limit under ideal conditions.

Accidents and unsafe driving conditions can occur at any speed. Drivers should always drive within their ability to see and stop safely. Consider traffic, road and weather conditions. During low light conditions such as fog and nighttime driving, only drive at a speed that allows you to stop within headlight or vision field. Excessive speed will not allow you enough time to avoid a hazard.

Driving too slowly is also a hazard that can cause other drivers to become frustrated and attempt unsafe maneuvers such as tailgating and unsafe passing. Always drive at a speed that allows you to stop within a safe distance.

When speed signs are missing or you do not know the [speed limit](#), the following applies:

- 100 km/h on paved portions of the Trans-Canada Highway
- 80 km/h on other paved highways
- 60 km/h on gravel roads
- 50 km/h through settlements or unmarked school zones

Danger zones

A section of road that a vehicle travels through before it can stop is called the danger zone. Here, it is physically impossible for a driver to stop their vehicle in time to avoid a collision.

As speed increases, the length of the danger zone increases. In poor road conditions, such as rain, snow or ice for example, the length of the danger zone also increases. Speeding in such road conditions further increases the danger zone. When speed is reduced, so is the danger zone.

Cover the brake pedal with your foot any time you see a potential hazard (e.g. approaching an intersection, wildlife near or on highway).

Sudden stopping and reaction time

Before you can stop to avoid an object, you must see it. Inattentiveness, fatigue, poor or low visibility and other distractions often cause drivers to miss hazards until it is too late. Even after you see an object in your path, you may drive further before recognizing it as a hazard and stopping.

Reaction time and distance

Move your foot from the accelerator (gas pedal) to the brake once you realize you must stop. The distance your vehicle travels during this time is called reaction distance.

The average alert driver requires about three quarters of a second to step on the brake pedal, after seeing danger. This is known as reaction time. In three quarters of a second your vehicle, travelling at about 50 kilometres per hour, will go 10 metres (about two car lengths) before you start to apply the brakes.

Braking

The brakes must bring the vehicle to a stop. How far the vehicle will travel before the brakes do this depends upon:

- The speed of the vehicle
- The condition of the brakes
- The condition of the tires
- The nature and condition of the road surface
- Whether a vehicle is on a level road or travelling up or down a hill

Braking distance

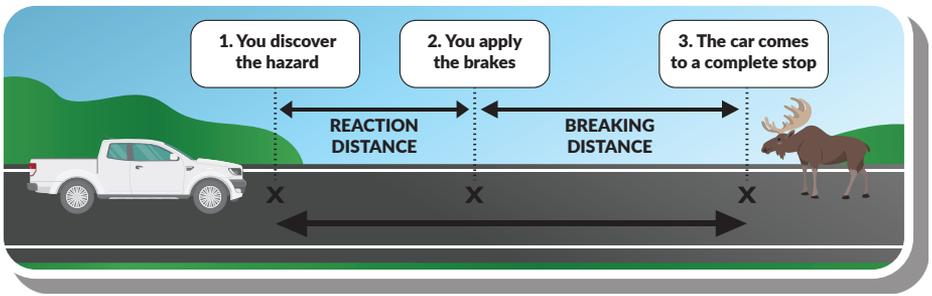
At a speed of about 30 kilometres per hour, the average braking distance is about 10 metres in good driving conditions. The total stopping distance for a car travelling 30 kilometres per hour, after the driver has seen a reason for stopping, is the sum of the reaction distance and the braking distance – a total of about 20 metres or five car lengths.

Stopping distance

Stopping distance consists of two segments.

The first is reaction distance, also known as thinking distance. This is the distance travelled from the time you recognize a hazard to the time you place your foot on brake pedal. This distance increases with the speed your vehicle is travelling.

The second distance is your braking distance and consists of total braking distance, until you come to a full stop. Braking distance increases with speed and other factors such as weather conditions, road conditions, tires and braking system. Vehicles with anti-lock brakes tend to brake quicker on most road surfaces and in most weather conditions.



Manual transmission

Press the accelerator to speed up the engine a little and let the clutch out slowly until the point of contact or friction point is felt. Slowly let the clutch pedal out and accelerate lightly at the same time.

When the vehicle has reached about 15 kilometres per hour, a shift to second is needed. Depress the clutch and at the same time release the accelerator, push the gear shift to neutral and into second gear. Release the clutch slowly; especially through the friction point and at the same time gently press the accelerator. Repeat this procedure for changing to higher gears.

When slowing, repeat this procedure from higher to lower gears. This allows the engine to assist in braking.

When headlights are required

All vehicles must be equipped with working headlights. Headlights must be turned on:

- From one-half hour before sunset to one-half hour after sunrise.
- At any time when visibility prevents you from clearly seeing people and vehicles at a distance of 150 metres or less.

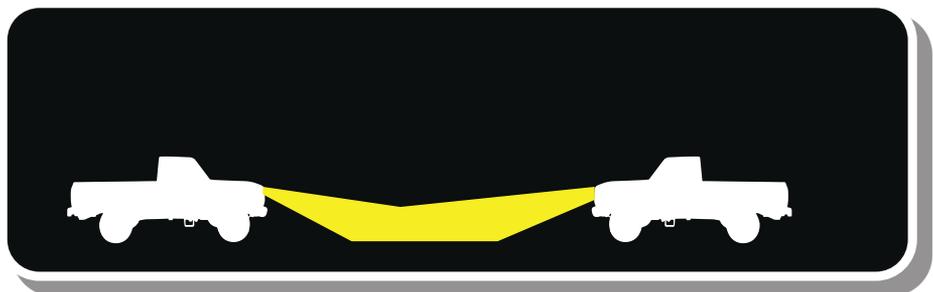
If the vehicle is equipped with daytime running lights, ensure they are working correctly.

If your vehicle is not equipped with daytime running lights, use your low-beam headlights at all times.

Use high beam only when driving in open country without other cars near.



Dim lights meeting oncoming traffic at 150m.



Dim lights when approaching from the rear, overtaking or passing at 150m.



High and low beam lights

Next to speed, inadequate or improper use of lights is the most common cause of collisions at night. Too many drivers try to drive the same speed at night as they would in the daytime. Slow down. Never drive so fast that you cannot stop within the distance you can see with your lights, otherwise you are overdriving your headlights. This means that you would not see an obstacle in time to avoid a collision. Keep your headlights clean at all times to get the maximum range of the beam.

Glare

At night, the glaring headlights of oncoming cars or the reflection of lights (from behind) in your rear view mirror can significantly reduce your vision. The glare causes the pupil of the eye to contract and it takes about seven seconds for the pupil to recover and readjust to the less intense light. If you were travelling at 90 kilometres per hour for those seven seconds, your car would have gone 125 metres while you had no vision. To avoid the effects of glare, direct your vision away from headlights by looking to the right edge of the roadway. To cut glare from the rear, adjust your mirror or use a day-night mirror.

Maintaining your lights

Check your lights regularly, to ensure they are properly aimed, free from cracks and clean. On a level road, the low beam should reveal objects at least 30 metres (about 100 feet) away. Lights should be aimed below the level of the oncoming driver's eyes.

Dimming your headlights

You should use your high beams only when driving in open country without other cars approaching or passing you. Always use low beams when approaching other cars, when you are driving in areas with streetlights, in fog, and when you are following another vehicle.

When meeting an oncoming vehicle, you must dim your lights when you are within 150 metres of that vehicle.

Do not wait for the other driver to dim their lights first.

When following other vehicles, you must use your low beam lights when you are within 150 metres of the rear of the car ahead. Your lights could blind the driver ahead if they reflect in their mirror.

Vulnerable road users

Vulnerable road users are those who use or work on our roadways with little to no protection from crashes, including:

- Pedestrians
- Cyclists
- Highway maintenance workers
- Micro mobility users (small lightweight vehicles that operate at speed less than 32 kilometres per hour)
- First responders (ambulance, fire rescue)
- Enforcement personnel (police, highway enforcement)
- Service personnel (tow truck operator, utilities maintenance worker)
- Motorcyclists

There are laws and rules under the [Highway Traffic Act](#) to protect individuals using or working on or near highways.

One-metre rule (cyclists and pedestrians)

Drivers must leave one-metre of open space between their vehicle and bicycle or pedestrian on highways with posted speed limits of 60 kilometres per hour or less. Where posted speed limits are greater than 60 kilometres per hour, the required distance is one-and-a-half metres.

Under the Highway Traffic Act, 'pedestrian' means a person on foot, a person in or on a mobility aid or a child in a carriage or sleigh. The penalty for violations of the one-metre rule range between \$100 and \$400, two days to 14 days in prison and two demerit points.

Motorists need to be cautious, respectful and share the road with cyclists. Depending on circumstances and the cyclist's position, you may need to change lanes to pass safely.

When a cyclist is on the road, drivers must:

- Reduce their speed
- Leave a safe following distance
- Avoid using the horn

When turning left, watch for and yield to oncoming cyclists just as you would to oncoming motorists. When turning right, yield to any cyclist traveling on your right.

Motorists should cross the centre line while passing bicycles, only when it is safe to do so. Look for cyclists before opening your vehicle doors.

Children on bicycles can be unpredictable. Expect the unexpected and slow down.

Dooring

Look for cyclists before opening the doors of your vehicle.

The action of unsafely opening a motor vehicle door into the path of another approaching road user is referred to as dooring. Dooring can occur when a driver has parked or stopped to exit their vehicle or when passengers exit cars, taxis, ride shares and trucks into the path of a cyclist or other oncoming traffic in an adjacent travel lane.

Dooring can lead to serious injuries or even death, particularly to cyclists or occupants exiting a motor vehicle into the oncoming path of traffic.

Before exiting the vehicle, conduct a visual shoulder check. One method effectively used to avoid dooring involves reaching across the body with the hand farthest away from the door to engage the handle and open the door. This forces the occupant to turn their head and body to the rear of the vehicle, resulting in a visual check prior to opening the door.

Construction zones

Construction zones are high-risk areas where workers are in very close proximity to highway traffic with little or no protection. All motorists must be extremely vigilant when approaching a construction zone and strictly adhere to all posted warning, directional and speed limit signs.

When travelling through a construction zone there may be distractions and the noise levels can be high, limiting the workers' ability to identify the speed and/or proximity of oncoming traffic.

Drivers must be extra attentive to the movement of the workers and ensure a safe distance. Failure to comply with the posted construction zone signage can result in severe penalties. Fines are double in construction zones.

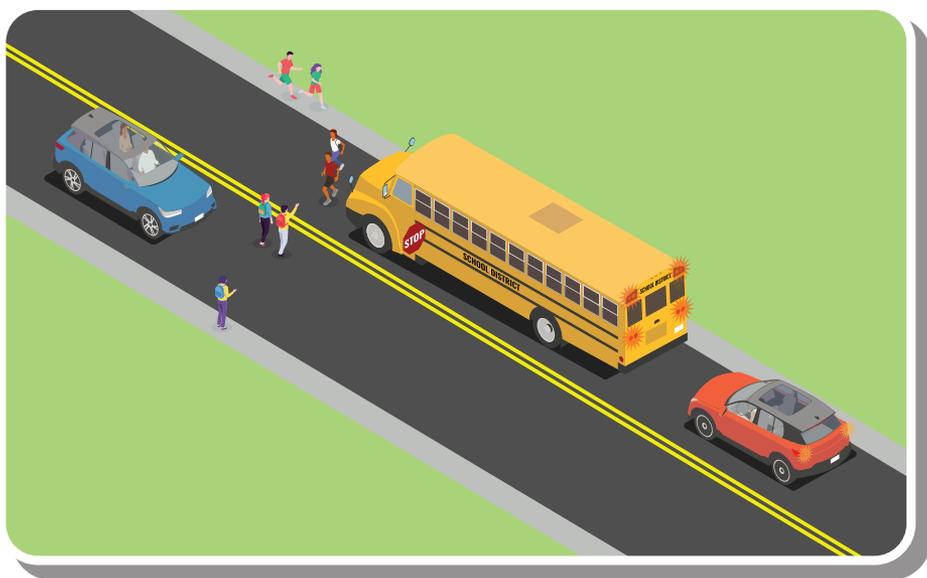
There are times when construction zone signs remain in place although there is no use of heavy equipment or the presence of workers. The signage must remain in place due to the condition of the road or the close proximity of heavy equipment or other dangers to the road user. During these situations, the construction zone signs must still be strictly followed and will be enforced by law enforcement.

Meeting a school bus

Use extreme caution when driving near a school bus. When a school bus is loading or unloading children, visual signals such as flashing lights and/or a stop sign is displayed. **YOU MUST STOP** in both directions and remain stopped until the bus has started moving again, the driver signals you to go or until the flashing lights and stop sign are deactivated.

On multi-lane undivided highways, all traffic must stop when a school bus is stopped with its lights flashing. This includes traffic moving in all directions and in all lanes.

Passing a school bus with its lights activated or speeding in a school zone will result in charges for violations under the Highway Traffic Act and an accumulation of six demerit points.



Right-of-way for emergency vehicles

Emergency vehicles are equipped with red flashing lights or a combination of red and blue flashing lights, as well as a bell or a siren.

Priority is given to any emergency vehicle that has lights and/or sirens activated. If you approach a vehicle with operating emergency equipment, reduce your speed and be prepared to stop.

When you approach an emergency vehicles, you must:

- Yield the right-of-way immediately
- Turn on your signal
- Pull over to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, clear of an intersection. On a two-lane highway, pull to whichever side is clear to allow the emergency vehicle to pass.
- Remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed
- If you are pulling over at night, it is common courtesy to ensure your headlights are dimmed

Give sufficient space and pass with caution if directed.



Slow down and move over

The move over law requires drivers to slow down and move over when an emergency or designated vehicle is stopped in a lane or on the edge/shoulder of a roadway with flashing lights activated. Create a buffer lane by slowing down and putting as much distance as possible between you and the stopped vehicle.

Drivers must reduce their speed to at least 30 kilometres per hour below the posted speed limit. In zones of 60 kilometres per hour or less, the speed must be reduced to no greater than 30 kilometres per hour.

Moving over and reducing your speed protects those who drive emergency and other designated vehicles, particularly when their work requires them to stop in and along the highway to perform their duties.

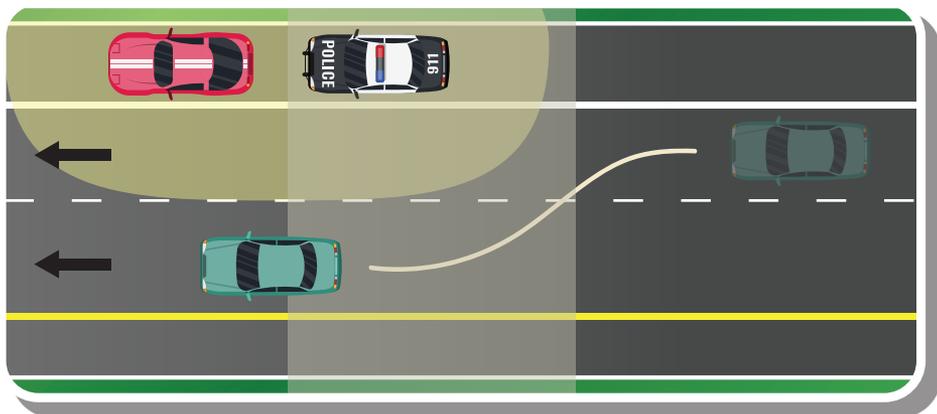
This includes emergency workers such as:

- Police
- Fire
- Ambulance
- Search and rescue
- Tow truck/roadside assistance
- Municipal, provincial or federal enforcement
- Public utility vehicles and/or service vehicles

By slowing down and moving over, you will increase the safety of those workers as they perform their duties and reduce their risk of being struck by a vehicle.

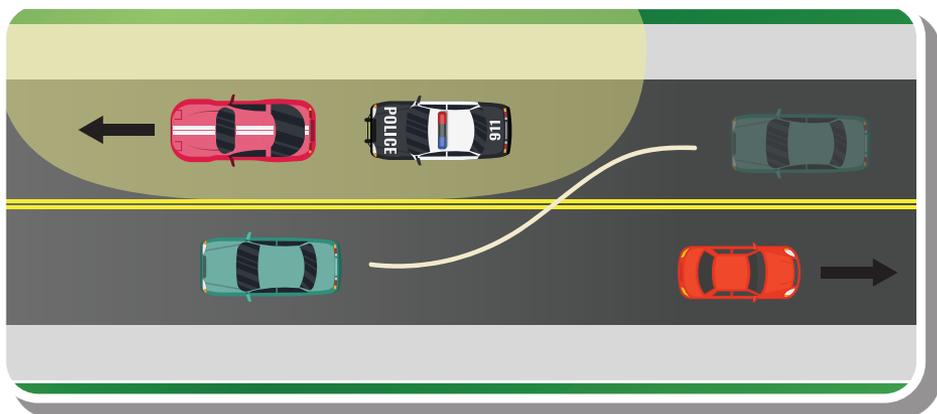
Failure to slow down and move over may result in fines or other penalties, including the accumulation of four demerit points.

Vehicle on the shoulder in a double lane



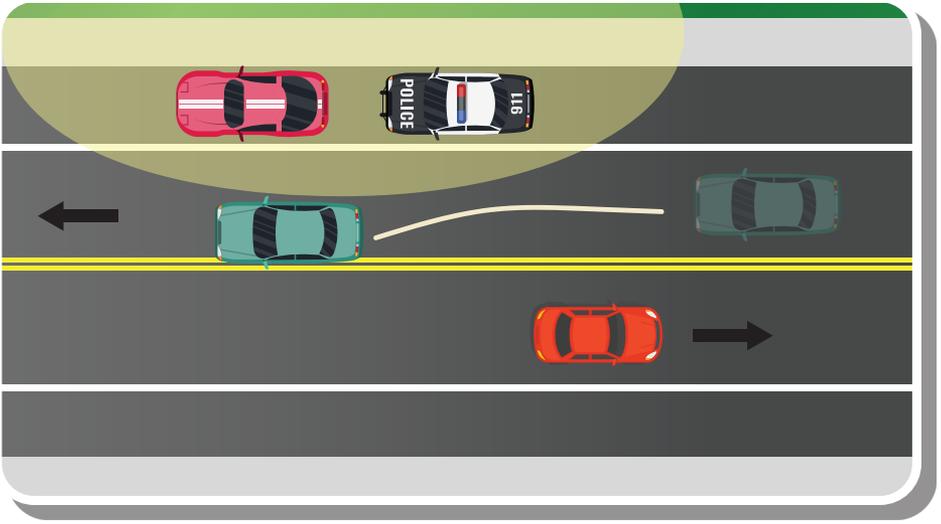
Where there is another lane going in the same direction, slow down and change lanes so there is a full lane between you and the designated vehicle, only when it is safe.

Vehicle in a single lane



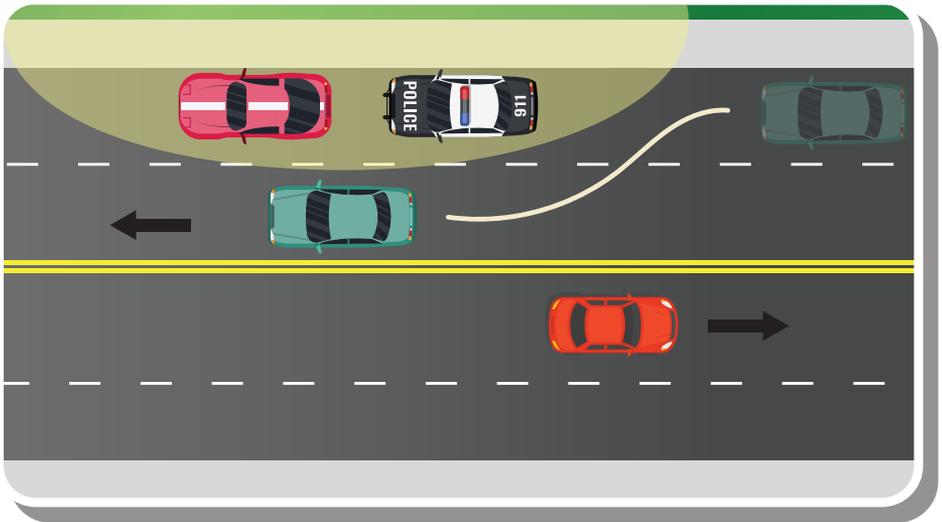
Slow down and change lanes when it is safe to do so. Yield to oncoming traffic or traffic in the other lane. Otherwise, stop your vehicle and wait until you can safely proceed. You should only pass a designated vehicle.

Vehicle on the shoulder in a single lane



If a lane change is not possible, remain in the lane you are travelling, but put as much distance as possible between your vehicle and the designated vehicle.

Vehicle in a double lane



Change lanes if there is another lane travelling in the same direction, or place as much distance as safely possible between your vehicle and the designated vehicle.

Appropriate attire

Consider your ability to safely operate your vehicle every time you drive.

The driver is responsible for choosing appropriate clothing and footwear that allows them to drive safely. Some clothing and footwear choices compromise safety where driving is hindered by discomfort, insufficient grip and interference with pedals or floor mats.

Wearing inappropriate footwear when operating a vehicle or driving barefoot is not illegal, but not recommended. Inappropriate footwear or bare feet can negatively affect the driver's control of the vehicle. This is particularly true when the foot slips from the pedals or where insufficient pedal pressure can be applied, particularly when braking.

Inappropriate footwear includes:

Shoes with a sole that is less than 10mm thick, such as **flip-flops**, are considered unsafe for driving.

High heels are not practical for pushing down the pedals as the heel can get wedged underneath, preventing you from pushing it all the way down, which is important when braking in an emergency.

Open-backed **slippers** are unsafe for driving because your feet could slip out when using the pedals.

Oversized boots may cause you to touch the brake and gas pedal simultaneously. Choose footwear that is narrow enough to touch pedals individually.

Clothing that may cause concern include:

Bulky clothing such as heavy winter jackets or snowsuits are common in our winter climate. Wearing bulky clothing can affect your ability to access vehicle controls and impede quick movements such as emergency steering and braking.

Adding extra bulk around your face and neck (e.g. scarves, hoodies) can be hazardous, especially for parallel parking or changing lanes in traffic. A safe driver needs full range of motion and full sight lines at all times.

Any article of clothing that might prohibit movement or visibility is not recommended.

Maintaining your vehicle

It is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that their vehicle is up to safety standards before driving.

Check the external condition of your vehicle prior to operating. Windows, exterior surfaces and open storage compartments should be clean, free of dirt, snow and ice, and free from loose material that may escape the vehicle.

When transporting loose material in a pick-up truck or on a trailer, the material should be well secured and covered.

In accordance with the [Highway Traffic Act](#) and the [Licensing and Equipment Regulations](#), it is an offence to operate a vehicle on public roadways with mechanical, electrical or structural deficiencies. Failure to ensure your vehicle is safe to operate can result in fines and vehicle impoundment.

Vehicle maintenance can be divided into three categories.

1. Daily or weekly check by the driver

- Keep your vehicle clean inside and outside. Seatbelts in particular should be cleaned to prevent dirt and moisture from getting into the retracting mechanism and preventing them from working properly.
- Check your tire pressure. Tires that are under-inflated by more than 27.5 kpa (about four pounds) can be a serious safety hazard. In addition, check tires for damage or wear.
- Check that all lights are operational and clean.
- Check to see that the windshield wipers are properly attached to the wiper blades. If the wipers do not clean the window streak-free, replace them. Ensure there is adequate washer fluid in the reservoir.
- When the engine is cold, check under the hood for the correct level of oil, antifreeze in the radiator, windshield washer fluid, and brake fluid. Check hoses for cracks and leaks, and fan belts for wear or looseness of fit.
- All vehicles must be completely clean of ice and snow. The driver's vision must not be blocked with ice and snow.

2. Regular servicing by the driver and/or service garage

This includes:

- Oil and filter changes
- Transmission fluid changes
- Axle differential oil changes

The following should be inspected:

- Drive and axle shafts
- Steering, brakes and clutch reservoirs
- Cooling system levels
- Brake system
- Front-suspension, including alignment and condition of ball joints, steering rods, shock absorbers and springs
- Headlight aim
- Engine adjustments including valve clearances, ignition timing, distributor and spark plugs
- Carburetor or fuel injection system and air filter element

3. Special servicing

Anything beyond simple maintenance, including vehicle safety recalls and safety standard certification, should be carried out by a dealer or licensed mechanic.

Night driving

Driving at night is more dangerous than driving during the day. The distance you can see ahead significantly decreases. It is important not to overdrive your headlights and reduce your speed until your eyes have recovered from the glare of other vehicle's lights. The main rule for driving at night is to slow down.

Driving in inclement weather

Rain

Rain acts as a lubricant. Roads are likely to be slippery a few minutes after it rains or following a light drizzle. As rainfall increases, tires have a difficult job cutting through water to maintain contact with the road. If there is too much water, or if the vehicle is going too fast, the tires may skid on top of the water (hydroplaning). The steering will pull to one side and it becomes difficult to control the vehicle. Slow down and drive according to road conditions.

Visibility is reduced in rain. Use your wipers at various speeds to keep the windshield clear.

Make smooth steering, braking and speed changes, and allow extra space between you and the car ahead. This will reduce the amount of water that may obscure your vision and will provide you with greater stopping distance on slippery roads.

Avoid puddles. What appears to be a shallow puddle may actually be a deep pothole, which could damage your vehicle, break a wheel or cause a flat tire. The spray of water might drown your engine or decrease the efficiency of your brakes.

Fog

When driving in fog, reduce your speed, use your low beam lights, increase your following distance and use the lane markings as a guide. In very dense fog, with zero visibility:

- Safely move as far as possible off the road and stop
- Activate the hazard lights and dome light, turn off the headlights
- Do not return to the roadway until the conditions have improved

Winter driving

Take special care when driving in the winter. Winterize your vehicle and adjust your driving habits.

Icy roads – As the temperature dips below freezing, wet roads become icy and slippery. Certain sections such as shaded areas, bridges and overpasses freeze first. Look ahead and slow down. Ease off the accelerator gradually. A sudden release may cause an unbalancing effect. Should the vehicle skid, shift to neutral (automatic) or depress the clutch pedal (standard), and steer in the direction you wish to go.

Apply the brakes. If one or more wheels lockup (conventional brakes), release the brakes and reapply more gently.

If your vehicle has anti-lock brakes do not pump them. Apply full, firm steady pressure to the brake pedal and the anti-lock break system computer will do the rest.

On slippery roads, slow down, keep farther back from the vehicle ahead and avoid sudden turns, braking, accelerating, etc.

Black ice – Patches of ice that you may not see because the pavement shows through. Be aware black ice may exist and reduce your speed. That will allow you to have maximum control.

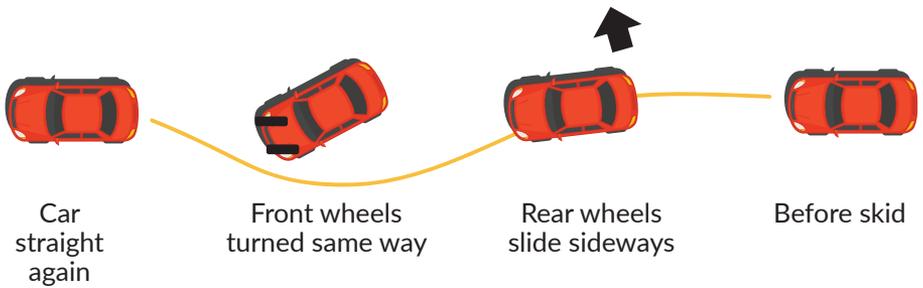
Starting on ice – Tires can grip a slippery surface better if you accelerate gently. You may even want to start in low gear to prevent skids and spinning wheels.

Snow – Snow may be hard packed and as slippery as ice. It can also be rutted, smooth or soft. In all cases, it may present a hazard to your driving.

Vehicle handling will improve under severe winter conditions by ensuring that identical winter tires are installed on all four wheels.

As a tire wears, snow traction is reduced. Tires that are worn close to the tread wear indicators have reduced traction and should not be used.

Steering and skidding – Never make any sudden or sharp turns on slippery roads. Try to anticipate your turns and start to slow down well ahead of an intersection or curve on the highway. If the rear of your vehicle starts to skid, on a rear-wheel drive vehicle, remove your foot from the accelerator and brake pedal and steer in the direction of the skid. On a front wheel drive vehicle, accelerate slightly to pull your vehicle out of the skid. Once the vehicle starts to straighten up, prepare for another skid in the opposite direction. You should always focus your attention on the roadway in the direction you wish to travel.



Slow driving

It is an offence to drive so slowly as to impede or block the normal flow of traffic. If for some reason, you must drive slowly because of mechanical or other problems:

- Move over to the right lane and permit other traffic to pass
- Pull off the roadway and stop to allow traffic to pass
- Use your emergency flashers

Courses to improve driving skills

Various courses are offered in Newfoundland and Labrador to promote safe driving, including:

1. Defensive driving

A six-hour program teaching defensive driving techniques. This course is designed primarily for the adult driver and is often a mandatory training requirement for employers. The course instills lifelong safe driving habits and helps employers to reduce accidents and associated absences from collisions.

2. Professional Driver Improvement Course (PDIC)

A six-hour program for commercial vehicle operators focusing on defensive driving techniques.

3. Demerit point reduction

A six-hour program that can remove up to four [demerit points](#) from your driving record (certain conditions apply).

4. Graduated Driver Licensing Program

[Graduated licensing](#) is a step-by-step licensing process that is designed to help novice (new) drivers acquire the knowledge and skill needed to safely operate a motor vehicle. The program includes in-class and in-vehicle instruction that is endorsed by Motor Registration. Available to those 16 years of age and older*, the program gradually increases driving privileges during the new driver's first two years on the road.

*Some may qualify for an insurance discount.

5. Motorcycle training

Twenty-five hour program designed to provide skills and knowledge for safe and enjoyable motorcycle riding.

The Registrar requires a person to provide proof of completion of one or more of the following courses prior to reinstating a driver's licence that has been suspended. Suspensions may be due to a Highway Traffic Act administrative suspension or conviction under the Criminal Code of Canada for driving under the influence (DUI) or refusal to provide a sample.

1. Responsible driver workshop (suspended driver's course)

A mandatory, eight-hour program for drivers who have had their licence suspended under the demerit point system.

2. "Think First" (SHIP) alcohol and drug education program

A mandatory, four-hour program for drivers who had their licence suspended due to a seven-day administrative suspension, followed by a 90-day administrative suspension related to drugs or alcohol. The completion of this course is required to apply for reinstatement of a driver's licence after the 90-day suspension, while awaiting proceedings for a DUI charge.

3. Alcohol and Drug Treatment (ADT) services

ADT services assess for the presence of substance use disorder(s), identifies suitable treatment protocols and provides education and awareness related to the negative impacts of impaired driving.

If you receive a roadside suspension involving alcohol or drugs while operating a motor vehicle, you may be required to complete ADT prior to reinstatement of your driving privileges.

ADT is mandatory for all drivers convicted of a Criminal Code impaired driving offence prior to initiation of Mandatory Ignition Interlock Program.

Motorcycle Safety

This section is not intended to be an in-depth study of motorcycle handling. Motorcyclists must know the rules of the road contained in the earlier sections of this guide, and be skilled in handling and controlling their bikes before attempting to pass the motorcycle balance and road tests.

Obtaining a motorcycle licence

To obtain a Newfoundland and Labrador motorcycle licence you must be at least 16 years of age (with parental consent).

You are required to pass a motorcycle balance test manoeuvre, written test, sign test, vision test and a road test.

The requirement to complete the motorcycle balance maneuver test may be waived if you have successfully completed a motorcycle safety course approved by the Registrar. You must present a certificate of completion Motor Registration to be considered for the balance test waiver.

After you successfully complete the balance, written, sign and vision tests, and pay the required fee, you will be issued a Class 6 Level I licence (motorcycle learner's permit).

If this is your first driver's licence you must complete one year at Class 6 Level I (learner). This is reduced to eight months upon successful completion of a recognized motorcycle training course. After this period the learner is eligible to attempt the road test.

If you are already a licensed driver (with no learner or novice designation on your driver's licence) the mandatory waiting period for a road test is three months. This can be reduced to one month with the completion of an approved motorcycle safety course.

Obtaining motorcycle safety skills requires practice. Before you go out on the road, there are basic skills needed for your safety.

Motorcycle balance test manoeuvre

Balance tests are administered at Motor Registration driver examination centres and Government Service Centres throughout the province.

When you report for testing you should bring the following:

- Clothing that covers your entire body. Reflective clothing is preferred.
- An approved helmet and eye protection.
- Your motorcycle, with no defects.
- Proof of insurance (pink liability card).
- Motorcycle registration permit.
- Photo identification.

The following operations will be observed during the test:

- Operating the controls - being able to designate any of the major and minor operating controls.
- Controlling the engine - starting and shutting down the engine during the test.
- Upshifting/downshifting - changing gears while riding.
- Weaving - riding in a weaving pattern through a pylon course.
- Straight line balance - riding as slowly as you can through a pylon course.
- Stopping quickly - stopping the motorcycle as quickly as possible without skidding the wheels.

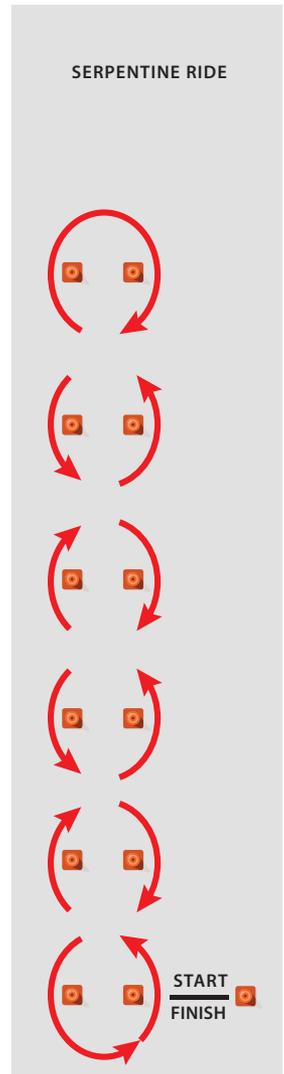
Motorcycle balance test is conducted in two manoeuvres.

Serpentine test

The serpentine test begins with the rider at the start stop line. The rider commences to maneuver around the cones in the direction of the arrows in a serpentine motion. The first phase of the test is deemed successful when the rider has returned to the start stop line.

Restrictions

- Control must be maintained over the course route.
- You cannot strike a pylon or miss a set of pylons.
- Your foot cannot touch the ground.



Straight line brake test

The rider must display good throttle control, balance and must not use their feet to maintain control. Look straight ahead, not down, and do not make any sudden changes in body position. Proceed through the line of pylons, making a right turn and coming to a full stop at the line indicated using both brakes.

Restrictions

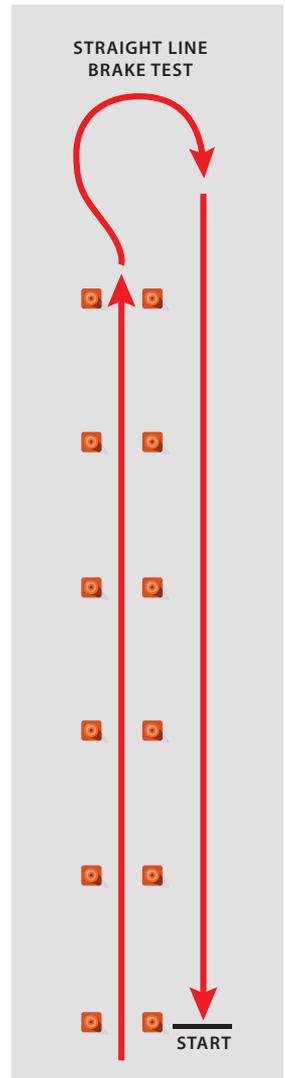
- Balance and control must be maintained.
- Applicant cannot strike a pylon.
- Front wheel cannot override stop line.
- Front wheel must be within 60 cm (approx. 24 in) short of the stop line.

Motorcycle requirements/restrictions

- The motorcycle can be driven to the testing site by a licensed driver who must have proof of Insurance, a valid driver's licence and registration.
- The motorcycle can be transported via trailer or in back of pick-up truck. No insurance or proof of registration is required in this case. The test is conducted on a closed course.
- Large adult size dirt bikes or street legal motorcycles can be used for balance tests.
- Mopeds are accepted for balance test.

Road test

After you have successfully completed the balance test, you will be required to undergo a written, vision and sign test followed by a road test in traffic, accompanied by a driver examiner. This test will demonstrate your knowledge of the rules of the road, traffic, signals and your driving ability. Once you have passed this final test you will be licensed as a Class 6 Level II driver.



Restrictions when learning to drive

A Class 6, Level I motorcycle operator has the following restrictions:

- Must be accompanied by a licensed motorcycle driver with four years driving experience, on another motorcycle, or in a motor vehicle.
- Novice drivers and accompanying driver must both have a Blood Alcohol Concentration of zero per cent.
- Passengers are not permitted.
- No upgrade to commercial class.
- Not permitted to drive after dark (a half-hour before sunset to a half-hour after sunrise).
- Not permitted on highways where the posted speed limit exceeds 80 km/h.

Helmets significantly reduce the risk of head trauma. Helmets with good visor protection also reduce the risk of eye injury.

Protect your eyes. Wind and rain, dust, insects and debris can hurt your eyes, blur your vision and may cause you to lose control of the motorcycle. Windshields and fairings help deflect wind, rain and debris, but they do not protect eyes. Use a helmet with a clear shield. Goggles are the best eye protection and are less likely to steam up.

Gloves will protect your hands and give you a better grip on the handlebars and controls.



Proper clothing will help protect you from debris and the weather. Leather is best, but heavy nylon and denim are acceptable. Your jacket should be belted at the waist. Do not allow flaps, laces or anything else dangle from your clothing. Clothing that flaps or balloons in the wind may be distracting. Do not carry things in your pockets that could cause injury if you fall. Bright colours will make you more noticeable. Yellows, reds, oranges and fluorescents are best. You can also apply reflective tape to your helmet and motorcycle.

Wear ventilated clothing in cold or hot weather. Avoid rubber clothing as it can cause perspiration and offers little protection in the event of a fall.

When riding a motorcycle, you will need ventilated clothing in cold or hot weather. Rubber clothing should be avoided – it can make you perspire, and offers little protection in the event of a fall.

Wear boots that protect your ankles and allow for good handling of the foot controls.

Safety check

Take a few minutes to do a safety check. Know the owner's manual. If you have purchased a used bike and the manual is unavailable, contact the manufacturer for a copy. Never drive a motorcycle unless you are familiar with its controls and operating devices and a safety check is complete.

- Replace cables if worn, damaged or frayed. Make sure all cables are well lubricated.
- With correct tire pressure, the bike handles better. Pressure changes according to load. Inspect tires for cuts, damage to sidewalls and things stuck between treads.
- Nuts, bolts and cotter pins can be loosened by vibration, and should be checked often.
- Test the horn. It may save your life.
- Ensure brake controls are adjusted correctly and work properly.
- The throttle should not stay open when released.
- Clean and adjust the mirrors before you ride. Convex mirrors make it hard to judge distance.
- Check your clutch for drag or slip. There should be neither.
- Are your lights working properly? Check turn signals, high beam indicators and brake lights.
- Check your gas and oil levels. If the engine lacks oil, it can seize and may cause your rear wheel to lock.
- When you are sitting on your bike, there should be at least two centimetres of play at the centre of the drive chain. Make sure the chain is wet, but not dripping with chain lubrication oil.

Replace **cables** if worn, damaged or frayed. Make sure all cables are well lubricated.

Are your **lights** working properly? Check turn signals, high beam indicators and brake lights.

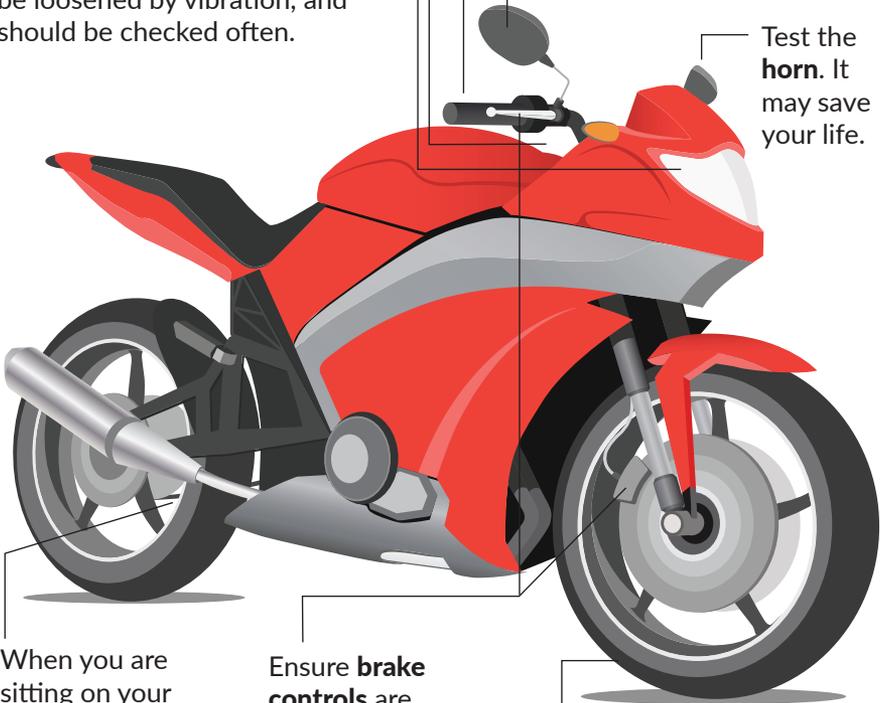
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The **throttle** should not stay open when released.

Clean and adjust the **mirrors** before you ride. Convex mirrors make it hard to judge distance.

Check your **clutch** for drag or slip. There should be neither.

Test the **horn**. It may save your life.



When you are sitting on your bike, there should be at least two centimetres of play at the centre of the **drive chain**. Make sure the chain is wet, but not dripping with chain lubrication oil.

Ensure **brake controls** are adjusted correctly and work properly.

Check your **gas and oil** levels. If the engine lacks oil, it can seize and may cause your rear wheel to lock.

With correct **tire pressure**, the bike handles better. Pressure changes according to load. Inspect tires for cuts, damage to sidewalls and things stuck between treads.

NOTE: Never take a motorcycle on the street until you have done a safety check, and are familiar with its controls and operating devices.

Proper position

Hold the handgrips firmly so you will not lose your grip if the motorcycle bounces. The wrist of your throttle hand should be flat so you don't accidentally use too much throttle and can easily reach for the brake. Grasp the throttle with your palm and thumb.



Keep your feet firmly on the foot pegs. This will help you maintain balance and ready you to use the brake and gearshift if necessary. Never drag your feet along the ground.



Sit in an upright position close enough to reach the handlebars and slightly bend your arms. You should not have to stretch to reach the controls. Hold your knees firmly against the gas tank when riding. This keeps you secure on the seat and gives you the best balance as the motorcycle turns.

Turning

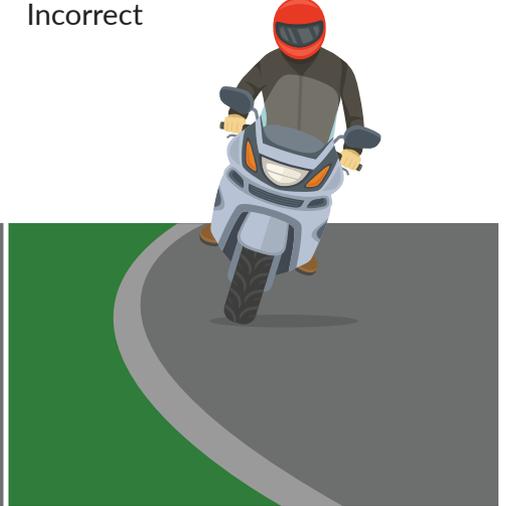
To turn a motorcycle safely you must lean the bike in the direction of the turn. The most effective way to lean a motorcycle and make a turn when travelling at speeds of greater than approximately 25 km/h is to push on the handgrip in the direction you wish to turn. This is called push steering.

At slower speeds, you must lean the bike further than your body. The sharper the turn and the faster your ride, the more you must lean the motorcycle. Before you change lanes or position within a lane, or before you turn off the roadway, always do a quick shoulder check. It may save your life.

Correct



Incorrect



Braking and stopping

Always be ready to stop. Your motorcycle has two brakes. The front brake is the more important of the two providing about three-quarters of your stopping power. Squeezing the front brake lever too hard, or applying the rear brake too hard, may cause the affected wheel to skid resulting in a longer stopping distance or causing a fall.

Important points about braking:

- Use both brakes every time you slow down or stop. If you use only the rear brake you will not develop the skill necessary to use the front brake properly when you really need it. Using both brakes will decrease your stopping distance.
- Apply both brakes at the same time using progressive pressure on the front brake, while slightly decreasing pressure on the rear brake.
- Each time you stop do a quick head and mirror check behind you in both directions, to make sure you are aware of oncoming traffic.
- Braking should be attempted before entering a turn because heavy braking while turning may require more traction than is available in a turn, especially if there's debris on the road. Since you cannot always see around a turn, move slow enough to stop quickly if necessary. If it's necessary to brake hard or stop quickly while going around a turn, the same principles apply as when braking in a straight line. It is extremely important that these additional principles (the three S's) be used when braking hard in a turn:

Straighten. Reduce speed and lean the bike to be as straight and upright as possible.

Square. Ensure the handlebars are aligned as they would be in a straight-line stop.

Squeeze. Simultaneously squeeze the front brake lever while applying the rear brake, and while squeezing the clutch lever.

Practice stopping on various surface conditions in a location away from public roads to better prepare you for variable road conditions.

Shifting gears

There is more to shifting gears than simply getting the motorcycle to accelerate smoothly. Accidents can occur if the gears are used incorrectly when down shifting, turning or starting on hills.

Downshifting

It is important to shift down through the gears one at a time as you slow down or stop. Be in the gear appropriate to your speed. Always be in first gear when you stop so you have enough power to accelerate away from trouble quickly if necessary.

Ride slow enough when you shift into a lower gear. If you are going too fast, the rear wheel may skid, particularly where the pavement may be covered with water, oil residue, debris or sand. This is more likely to happen going downhill where the motorcycle tends to pick up speed or when shifting into first gear if the speed range for first gear is very low. Under these conditions, you may need to use the brakes in order to slow down enough to shift safely. Use the clutch slowly and smoothly when down shifting. Remember your limitations with respect to available traction.

Shifting in a turn

Do not shift in a turn unless you can do so smoothly. A sudden change in power to the rear wheel can cause it to lock or spin. It is best to slow down and change gears before entering a turn. Matching engine power and vehicle speed is generally referred to as slipping the clutch.

Starting on a hill

It is more difficult to get the motorcycle moving on an upgrade than it is on flat ground. There is always danger of rolling backward.

- Use the front brake to hold the motorcycle while you start the engine and shift into first gear.
- Change to the foot brake to hold the motorcycle while you operate the throttle with your right hand.
- Open the throttle a little bit for more power.
- Release the clutch gradually. If you release it too quickly, the front wheel may come off the ground or the engine may stop, or both.
- Release the foot brake when the engine begins to slow down. This means the engine is taking hold.

Riding on dangerous surfaces

Dangerous surfaces include wet pavement or roads covered in mud, snow or ice, gravel roads, areas with wet painted line markings, road shoulders, debris covered roads and roads with raised steel surfaces like manhole covers and bridge joists.

Operating on slippery surfaces

Reduce speed. It takes longer to stop on slippery surfaces. Reduced speed makes up for this. It is especially important to reduce speed on curves. Remember, speed limits posted on curves apply to good surface conditions.

Use both brakes. The front brake is still more effective than the rear brake, even on a slippery surface. The only time you should not use the front brake is if the surface is extremely slippery, like ice. Then you should not brake at all.

Avoid sudden moves. Sudden changes in speed or direction can cause a skid on slippery surfaces. Turn, brake, accelerate and change gears as little as possible. On a very slippery surface, do not change until you are across.

Avoid slippery areas. Try to find the best pavement that you can. It is better to operate in the track created by the wheels of cars on wet pavement because oil from cars can build up in the centre of the lane.

Stay away from the edge of the road when you make sharp turns at intersections, or enter and leave the highway because dirt or gravel collects there. Certain sections of the road dry out faster after rain or snow. Try to stay in the best part of the lane. Avoid slippery areas such as ice, hard packed snow or wet wooden surfaces. If you can't avoid these areas, proceed as slowly as you can and use your feet for balance.



When following a four-wheeled vehicle on a highway you should ride slightly to the left or right of the centre of the lane.

Uneven surfaces

Uneven surfaces include bumps, broken pavement, potholes or railroad tracks and can affect your control of the motorcycle.

To operate on uneven surfaces:

- Slow down to reduce impact.
- Straighten out your course so the motorcycle is upright.
- Rise slightly on the foot pegs so you can absorb the shock with your knees and elbows.
- If you have to cross a railroad, slow down and cross as close to a 90 degree angle as possible.
- When you want to cross tracks, ruts or pavement seams, move far enough away to be able to cross it at a perpendicular angle. Do not try to edge across at an awkward angle because it could cause a slide and upset your balance.
- When you ride over rain grooves or a metal bridge grating the motorcycle will tend to wander back and forth. While this may give you an uneasy feeling, it is not usually dangerous. Stay on course and ride it out.
- When approaching two lanes of vehicles stopped at a traffic light, you should stop behind the last vehicle in either lane. Never ride between two lanes of traffic.

Following other traffic:

Maintain a safe following distance at all times. Avoid driving in the blind spot of vehicles you are following.



Riding at night

At night you cannot see or be seen clearly, even with the best headlights.

- Use your high beam light whenever you are not following or meeting a vehicle.
- Reduce your speed and do not overdrive your headlights. Ride slow enough to be able to stop should you see something in the roadway.
- Use the vehicle ahead as a guide. The motorcycle headlight can give you a better view of the road and its bouncing taillights can alert you to bumps or rough pavement.
- Allow more distance between yourself and the vehicle ahead. This will give you more time to react.
- Do not pass unless it is necessary. If you must pass, give yourself more distance to do so.
- Stay alert. If you are tired, stop and rest.
- Keep your goggles, face shield and windshield clean. If they are badly scratched, replace them.
- Ensure you are visible. Clean your lights and reflectors, wear bright colours and add reflective tape where it will be most effective. Wearing a reflective vest is a good idea.
- Signal earlier, brake sooner and flash your brake lights.

Emergencies

No matter how careful you are, there will be times when you find yourself in a tight spot. Your chances of getting out safely depend on your ability to react quickly. Here are some examples of emergencies and ways to handle them.

Quick stops

Stopping your motorcycle quickly requires that you use the same principles you would use when making a normal stop except your actions are accelerated. Both the front and rear brakes should be used simultaneously. Brace yourself to avoid falling forward and potentially losing control. Squeeze the front brake lever steadily but firmly. Do not grab it. At the same time, roll your right foot forward on the rear brake lever firmly, but with less pressure than is being applied to the front brake. When both brakes are applied simultaneously, you will greatly decrease the possibility of wheel skids. Skids increase stopping distance and may cause a spill.

Avoiding obstacles

A piece of debris or a pothole might appear suddenly as the vehicle ahead passes over it, or the vehicle ahead suddenly stops. Even a quick stop may not work in these instances. The only way to avoid a collision may be a quick turn or swerve.

The trick to making a quick turn is to get the motorcycle to lean in the direction you wish to turn. The sharper the turn, the more you must lean. If you wish to turn right, push on the right handgrip. If you wish to turn left, push on the left handgrip. This causes the front wheel to turn slightly away from the direction in which you wish to serve, but leans the motorcycle in the desired direction to avoid the obstacle.

After you have completed your swerve or turn around the obstacle it may be necessary to slow down or stop. It is important to avoid braking and swerving at the same time. This may compound the problem by causing a skid. Always ensure the motorcycle is upright with the handlebars straight before braking aggressively. Remember, braking and turning actions affect traction.

NOTE: Push steering must be practiced to be effective. You must deliberately think 'turn left – push left' and 'turn right – push right' when you steer to develop the necessary skill and ability to avoid having to think about how to turn the motorcycle.

Speed wobbles

If you develop a speed wobble, do not brake. Hang on to the handlebars firmly, but do not try to stop the wobble. Gradually release the throttle and pull off the road as soon as you can. Check for unequal tire inflation, bent or misaligned wheels, loose spokes, loose bearings or an improperly mounted windshield or fairing. These are typical causes of unsteadiness.

Throttle sticks

If your throttle sticks, immediately squeeze the clutch lever. If you cannot correct the problem, turn off the engine with the emergency kill switch, steer off the road and brake to a stop.

Stay in your own lane in an emergency

The moment you change lanes, you risk being hit by a vehicle. You should be able to squeeze by most obstacles without leaving your lane. This is one time when the size of the motorcycle is in your favour. Even if the obstacle is a car, there is generally room to move alongside it. Change lanes only if you have enough time to make sure there are no vehicles in the other lane. During an emergency stay calm and remember what you learned during training and practice.

Be extremely careful and keep visible at all times.

If a car is coming towards you in your lane, brake. Ride toward the right shoulder of the road, never to the left.

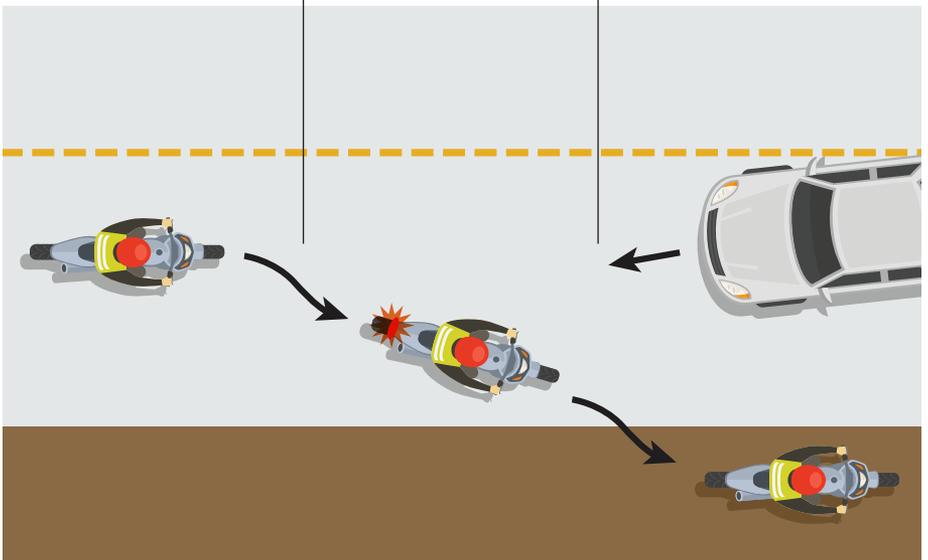
If there is time, flash your light and use your horn.

Ride off the road if necessary.

If a car is coming towards you in your lane, brake. Ride toward the right shoulder of the road, never to the left.

If there is time, flash your light and use your horn.

Ride off the road if necessary.



Blow outs

If the rear tire blows, maintain your position on the motorcycle. Do not brake. Instead, ease off the throttle.

If a front tire blows, hang on firmly, try to steer straight and shift your weight to the rear. When you have slowed enough, move to the right side of the road.



When you have slowed enough, move to the right side of the road.

Summary

When following a four-wheeled vehicle on a highway you should ride slightly to the left or right of the centre of the lane.

All motorcycle riders must be aware that riding a motorcycle is riskier than driving in a four-wheeled vehicle. Be fully aware of your surroundings and practice proactive riding principles to stay safe.

- Do a complete head check (i.e. look carefully ahead and to both sides) before you move off from a stop.
- Do a shoulder check (i.e. look carefully over your shoulder in the direction of your intended turn) on every occasion immediately before you change a lane or lane position, or before you turn off the road you are travelling on.
- Do a quick mirror check each time you stop. Check your mirrors every five seconds.

Head checks, shoulder checks and mirror checks can save your life.

The contact patch of your two tires with the road surface is approximately equal to the size of your two fists. This may be affected by a variety of factors, including weather conditions, road surface conditions, skill level, the condition of your motorcycle tires and tire pressure.

- The amount of grip that your tires have with the road surface is called traction and is variable depending on the factors listed above. Traction is affected by the ABCs of riding – accelerating, braking and cornering (or turning).
- Minimize the risks of riding a motorcycle. Wear protective riding gear and practice safe riding principles.
- Be familiar with every aspect of your machine and check it over carefully before riding. Understand the owner's manual and follow the recommendations.
- Participate in motorcycle training courses. You are never too old to learn.
- Ride smart. Ride safe.

Only you, and not your passenger, should make hand signals.

You must have a proper seat and foot pegs that allow the passenger to sit behind you without moving your normal position.

The passenger should sit as far forward as possible without crowding you, hang on securely to your waist or hips and sit still.



Sudden movements can cause a change of direction. The passenger should always move when you do. Leaning forward when you accelerate, back when you slow down and with you when you are taking a corner.

The passenger's feet should always be on the pegs, even when you're stopped. Hot pipes and mufflers are a major hazard. Adjust the shock absorbers and check the slack in the drive chain.

Passengers

Once you are licensed, you may wish to take a passenger on your motorcycle. Do not consider carrying a passenger until you are comfortable driving. Carrying a passenger changes steering, acceleration, braking and balance. You will need to ride more slowly, slow down sooner for stops and curves and allow more room in traffic. Consult the owner's manual to ensure your bike is built to allow passengers and if so, be sure to have the specified amount of air pressure in your tires. Remember, you are legally responsible for the passenger.

Information for Commercial Drivers

All commercial drivers must know and adhere to the rules of the road. Drivers should be familiar with the [National Safety Code](#), with special emphasis on Standard 9: Commercial Vehicle Drivers Hours of Service, Standard 10: Cargo Securement and Standard 13: Trip Inspections.

Information about commercial driver training is available on the Motor Registration [website](#). This training is comprised of 12 modules covering the basics of commercial driving, and is not intended to provide comprehensive entry-level training. It is recommended that this training be completed prior to attempting a written test for a commercial driver's licence.

Before applying for a commercial driver's licence the applicant must submit a [medical form](#) to Motor Registration stating that they have passed a physical examination completed by a physician. Upon submitting the medical form, the applicant must complete a written commercial and sign test along with a vision test. An air brake endorsement is required for vehicles equipped with air brakes (Class 09).

When the driver has received sufficient instruction, they must arrange for a road test. It is important that every applicant wishing to obtain a commercial class of licence have the skills and knowledge to pass the following aspects of this road test:

Commercial licence classes

Class 1

Licence permits the holder to operate all semi-trailer trucks and other classes as shown by endorsements.

Class 2

Licence permits the holder to operate all buses over 24 passengers and other classes as shown by endorsements. The Registrar may restrict a Class 2 drivers licence with passenger limits based on the type of bus used to complete the road test. Individuals seeking a full endorsement should complete the test in a full size 72-passenger bus.

Class 3

Licence permits holder to operate trucks with three or more axles including a combination of vehicles and other classes as shown by endorsements.

Class 4

Licence permits holder to operate taxis, ride-sharing vehicles, ambulances and all buses up to 24 passengers. Class 4 licences are subdivided into two categories. Class 4 taxi and ride-sharing only does not require a written test or road test but requires medical and vision test. Applicants who successfully apply for a taxi and ride-sharing licence will have a restriction 8 on their driver's licence "Not valid for bus/ambulance." All applicants who complete the written and road test for class 4 using a bus or ambulance will receive the full endorsement, including taxi and ride-sharing.

Motor Registration has implemented a comprehensive test for commercial drivers wishing to obtain a Class 1, 2, 3 or 4 driver's licence.

1. Trip inspection
2. Reverse 90-degree angle parking
3. Uncoupling and coupling (Class 1 only)
4. Road test in traffic

The following information is a summary of a road test, which an applicant must successfully complete.

[Carrier Safety Regulations](#) requires that all commercial drivers complete a pre-trip inspection of their vehicle at the beginning of each day.

The purpose of a pre-trip inspection is to eliminate costly repairs to the vehicle by conducting a visual inspection to detect minor defects and ensure they are corrected. The pre-trip inspection also ensures the vehicle is in peak operating condition for roadway use.

Trip inspection

Before starting a trip, the driver should always conduct a visual inspection of his or her vehicle. By following three basic steps the driver checks under the hood, around the vehicle and in the cab. The individual checks below may not be applicable to all classes of commercial vehicle (i.e. most passenger vehicles are not equipped with air brakes).

1. Under the hood
Check hoses and belts for cracks, excessive wear and proper tension.
Check fluid levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ coolant▪ oil▪ power steering▪ brake fluid (if equipped)▪ windshield wash
Check steering column and pitman arm (steering components).
Check front suspension for excessive wear (i.e. springs, U-bolts, tie rods).
Check the slack adjuster for free play (one-half to three quarter inches).

2. Walk around vehicle:

Check left body, tires and wheels, including:

- all glass and mirrors
- occupant compartment doors
- emergency equipment
- fuel tanks, caps and retaining straps
- suspension (as equipped; air bags, springs, rubber block, U-bolts)
- hub oil/leaks
- listen for air leaks
- damaged frame or cargo body
- no recaps/retreads on front axle
- tire, tread wear, cracks or bulges in sidewall, air pressure
- damaged, cracked, welded rim (lug nuts and fasteners)
- dual tires, alignment, no foreign objects between the tires
- exhaust, attached properly, no leaks
- mud flaps

Check left body, marker lights.

Check rear of tractor and trailer, including:

- tail, brake and signal lights at rear
- check doors or tail gate (if equipped)
- licence plate (stickers, lights)

Check right body, tires and wheels, including:

- all glass and mirrors
- occupant compartment doors
- emergency equipment
- fuel tanks, caps and retaining straps
- suspension, air bags, springs, U-bolts
- hub oil/leaks
- listen for air leaks
- damaged frame or cargo body
- no recaps/retreads on front axle
- tire tread wear, cracks or bulges in sidewall, air pressure
- damaged, cracked, welded rim (lug nuts and fasteners)
- dual tires, alignment, no foreign objects between the tires
- exhaust, attached properly, no leaks
- mud flaps
- inspection sticker (valid)

Check right body, marker lights.

Check headlights, park and signal lights at front and windshield wipers.

Check air valves and glad hands.

Check fifth wheel to ensure jaws are closed around the trailer pin.

3. In the cab, check the following:

Seat and mirror adjustments

Gauges in instrument panel

Horn

Tell-tale lamps (indicators)

Operation of park brake

Low air warning system

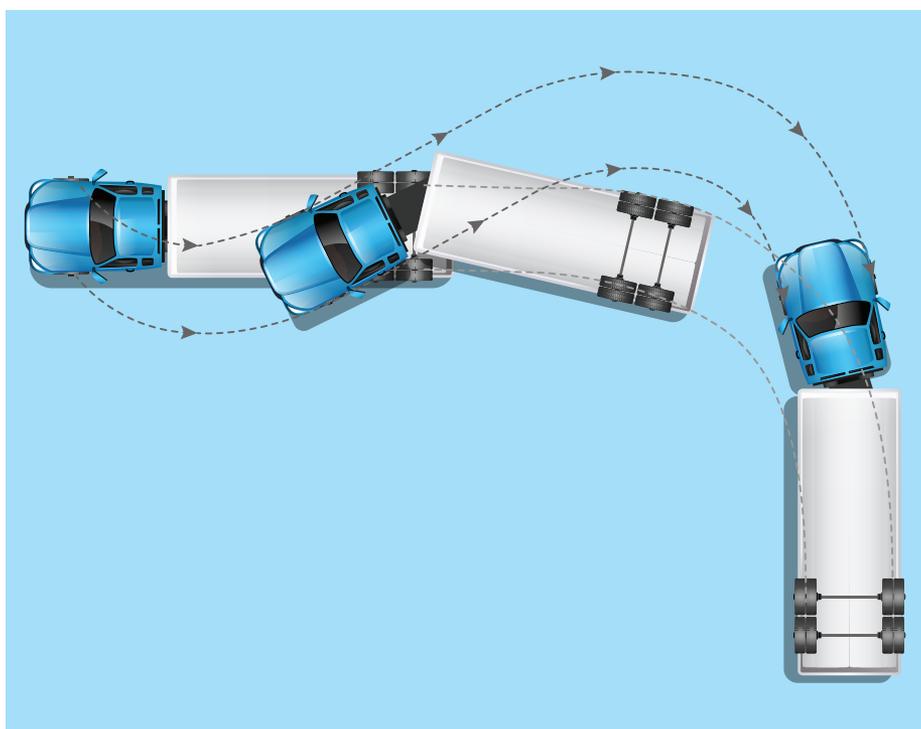
Heater/defroster

Reverse 90-degree angle parking

Drivers can reduce backing accidents if they use a guide whenever possible. The guide should stand where there is a clear, continuous view of the backing path the vehicle will follow. The guide must be visible to the driver throughout the maneuver.

Although a guide may be used, it is still the driver's responsibility to avoid accidents.

Reverse 90-degree angle parking requires the driver to safely back up to a loading dock. Two attempts are allowed in this portion of the test. One pull ahead is permitted during each attempt.



Uncoupling and coupling (Class 1 only)

Uncoupling

1. Apply tractor parking brake and pull out tractor protection valve (if equipped).
2. Place chock blocks under trailer wheels.
3. Check ground surface (level and solid).
4. Crank trailer landing gear down until it contacts the ground. Shift handle to low gear and crank until the landing gear takes part of the trailer weight. Leave handle in low gear.
5. Climb up on rear of tractor in safe manner.
6. Disconnect air lines and light cord and secure them on dummy couplers.
7. Dismount tractor in safe manner. Pull the fifth-wheel lock handle into the open position.
8. Release park brake; pull ahead until the trailer apron slips to the lower part of the fifth wheel. Stop and apply tractor parking brake.
9. Check landing gear to make sure the ground is firm enough to support the weight.
10. Pull tractor ahead one tractor length and apply parking brake.

Coupling

1. Release tractor parking brake and back the tractor slowly so the fifth wheel throat is in direct line with the kingpin under the front of the trailer. This is best done by aligning the tractor drive wheels with the side of the trailer, while looking in the side mirrors.
2. Stop just before the fifth wheel makes contact with the front of the trailer. Apply tractor parking brake.
3. While standing alongside the tractor drive wheels, check the height of the trailer and raise or lower as necessary. Check to see if jaws are open and that the pin is lined up with the fifth wheel. Do this from underneath the trailer coupling area and behind the tractor.
4. Proceed to rear of trailer and check that chock blocks are in place. Check behind the trailer to ensure there is nothing in the way should the trailer accidentally roll back during coupling.
5. Connect air lines and light cord. Align hose couplers with trailer glad hands so that they look straight. Align light cord with the trailer socket so that the raised area fits into the socket without forcing.

6. Re-enter tractor cab, activate trailer supply valve (red hand valve) and depress tractor protection valve if equipped. With your head out the window or door, listen for air exhausting at the rear of the trailer. This is to determine if the air lines are connected in the right order. Pull hand control lever/spike down and hold it there to secure trailer brakes.
 - Call out air pressure (minimum 100 PSI for coupling).
 - Release tractor park brake.
7. Back under trailer so that fifth wheel jaw locks firmly around kingpin. Test the coupling by gently pulling the tractor forward.
8. Apply tractor parking brake. Release hand control valve.
9. Check and double check front and rear of fifth wheel to determine that the jaws are properly closed around the kingpin and that the safety lock or latch is in place.
10. Crank up trailer landing gear, reverse handle one full turn and secure handle on hanger strap in position.
11. Remove wheel chocks, return to driver's seat and advise your examiner that coupling procedure is complete.

Road test in traffic

The road test will consist of a number of traffic situations, traffic lights, left and right turns and lane changes. The examiner will keep a watchful eye on ability to negotiate the vehicle through traffic, on transmission shifting, and on general knowledge of the rules of the road.

Class 2 and Class 4 drivers are required to stop at all railway crossings a distance of five meters from the nearest rail. All commercial vehicles with manual transmission, which have stopped at a railway crossing, must proceed across the railway crossing without changing gears.

The examiner will record any faults during the test and inform you of any mistakes at the end. The examiner will not discuss your test while the test is in progress.

To receive a full Class 2 licence, the bus used for the road test must contain a minimum of 48 seats. Any buses used between 25 and 48 seats will be endorsed with a restricted Class 2 licence limiting the number of passengers to vehicle configuration of that used for the road test.

Shifting gears

Drivers must be alert to changing conditions that may require you to reduce speed and shift to lower gear.

For dangerous downgrades, gears should be down-shifted at the top of the hill before entering the grade to make use of engine braking.

Double-clutching (depressing the clutch twice with each change of gears) must be used on most manual shift truck transmissions. Shifting is faster and smoother when you use this double-clutch procedure.

Crossing tracks

Before crossing railway tracks, the following drivers must stop the vehicle no less than five metres from the nearest rail.

- A vehicle carrying passengers for compensation.
- A school bus carrying a child.
- A vehicle carrying explosive substances or inflammable liquids as cargo.

While stopped the driver must look in both directions for an approaching train and listen for signals indicating the approach of a train. Do not proceed until it is safe to do so.

When a driver has stopped and is proceeding cross the railway track in a gear that will not need to be changed while crossing. Do not shift gears while crossing.

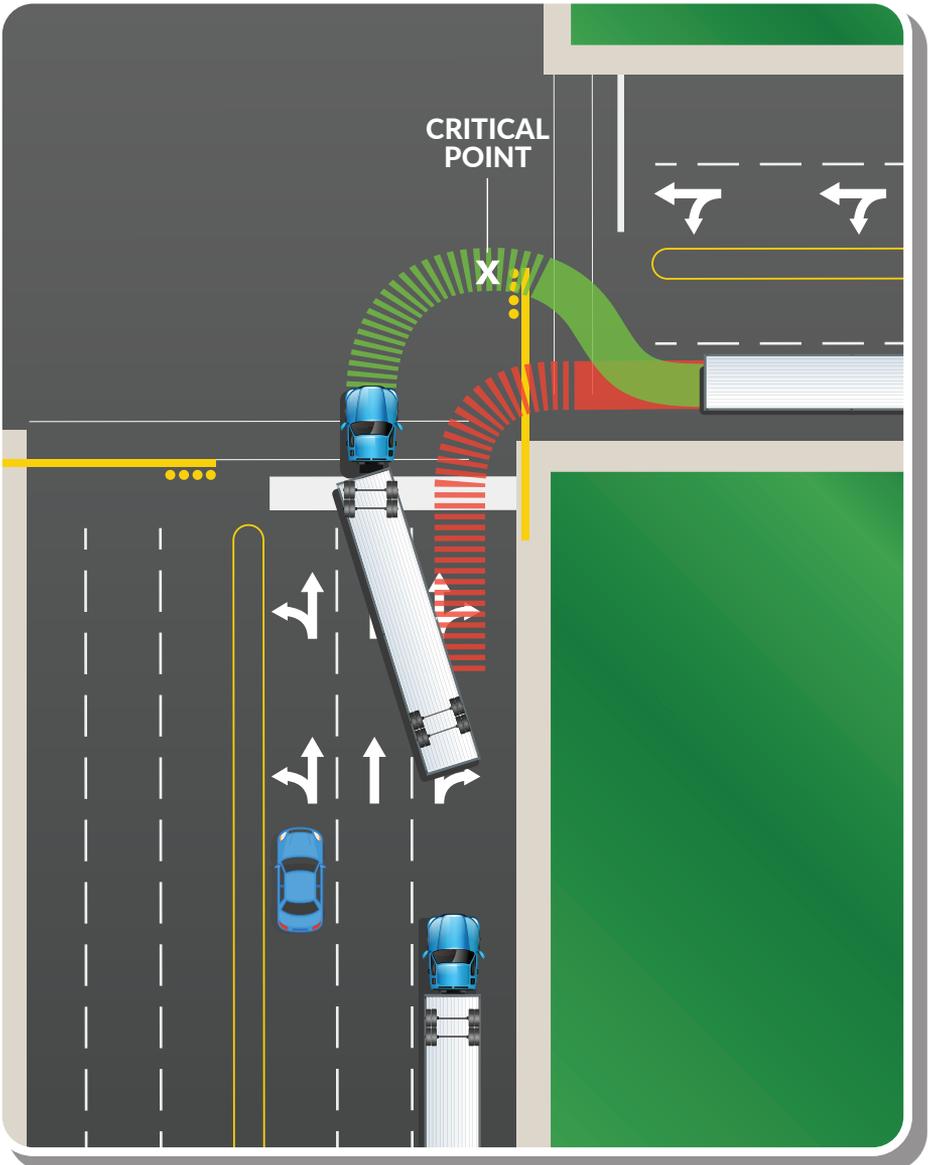
The driver does not have to stop where a traffic officer or traffic-control device directs traffic to proceed.

The information above does not apply to industrial spur railway crossings within an urban district.

Turns

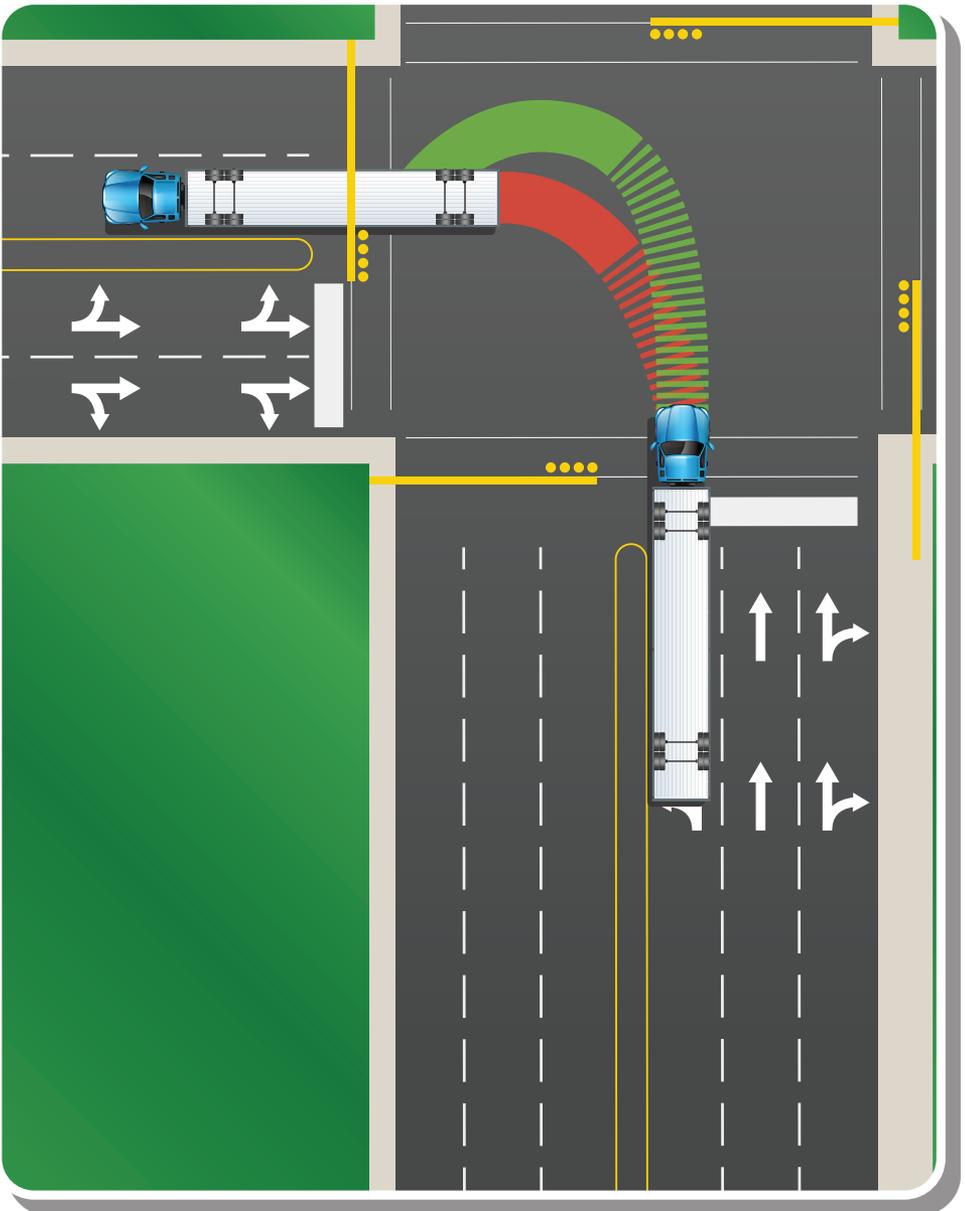
Rules and guidelines for right turns

- Turn slowly to give yourself and others more time to avoid problems. If you are driving a truck or bus that cannot make the right turn without swinging into another lane, turn wide as you complete the turn and keep the rear of your vehicle close to the curb.
- Do not turn wide to the left as you start the turn. A driver behind you may think you are turning left and try to pass on the right.
- If you must cross into the oncoming lane to make a turn watch out for vehicles coming toward you. Give them room to go by or stop.
- Do not back up for oncoming traffic. You might hit someone behind you.



Left turn rules and guidelines

- Ensure you have reached the centre of the intersection before you start the left turn.
- Turning too soon can cause the left side of your vehicle to hit a car because of off-tracking.
- If there are two turning lanes, always take the right-most location of the turn lane. Starting in the left-most or inside lane may cause you to swing right to make the turn.
- During a left turn, staying in the right lane will help you see the drivers on your left side.



Knowledge of air brakes

The air brake manual is available [online](#). All drivers operating any commercial class of vehicle with air brakes must have the Class 9 air brake endorsement on their driver's licence.

Transportation of dangerous goods

Drivers of vehicles transporting any class of dangerous goods (i.e. explosives, compressed gases, flammable and combustible liquids, flammable solids, oxidizing substances, poisonous and infectious substances, radioactive materials, corrosives and hazardous waste materials), must be in possession of proper documentation and a Certificate of Training issued by the employer.

The Certificate of Training is valid for 36 months.

Drivers must be aware of the necessary safety requirements regarding the packaging, loading, unloading and transporting of dangerous goods, as well as the display of proper safety markers. For instance, a tractor trailer carrying a load of propane is required to have dangerous goods placards on the front, rear and both sides of the trailer.

Vehicle dimensions

Commercial vehicles are limited to height, width, length and weight in accordance with [Vehicle Regulations](#). Special permits may be issued for vehicles carrying oversize or over width loads. Regardless of licensing or permits issued, you must obey all posted signs, which restrict the dimensions or weight of loads on any portion of the highway.

The maximum legal height of a vehicle on highways is 4.15 metres.

The maximum legal width of a vehicle and its load is 2.6 metres

The legal lengths of vehicles vary according to the type of vehicle. In Newfoundland and Labrador the maximum vehicle lengths are:

Single unit vehicle - 12.5 metres

Semi-trailer, A, B or C Train Double - 25 metres

Semi-trailer, including load, tractor - 23 metres

Combination, including truck or car pulling trailer - 23 metres

Intercity bus - 14 metres

Commercial vehicles are licensed in Newfoundland and Labrador in accordance with their gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR). This weight is the combined weight of the vehicle and its load. The maximum allowable GVWR is determined by such factors as the manufacturer's specifications, number of axles, the spacing of the axles, size of tires, etc.

The safety with which you operate as a commercial driver depends entirely on you. Remember that as the driver you are solely responsible for your actions. With this in mind you can make our highways a safer place to drive.