

Connecting refugees and new immigrants to the resources needed to establish roots, build community, and become self-sufficient.

Virginia Learner's Permit Study Course for Newcomers



Module 1: Lesson 1

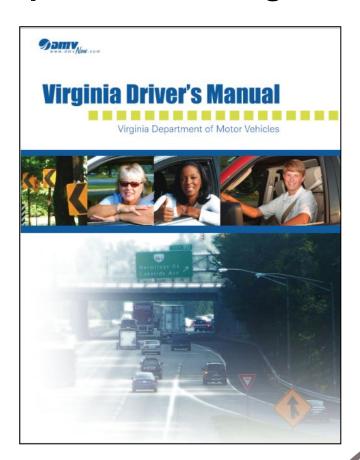
HOW TO GET A DRIVER'S LICENSE IN VIRGINIA, WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE DMV



How to Get a Driver's License in Virginia

Step 1: Prepare for the learner's permit knowledge test

- Study the Virginia driver's manual
- Practice the online questions:
 <u>www.dmvnow.com</u>
 - Drivers/ID Cards
 - Learner's Permit
 - Practice Exams
 - Study and Practice Now
 - Driver's Study Guide
 - Sections 2, 3, 4, 5
- Continue to study and review this important road safety information until you get your driver's license.



Step 2: Gather the documents required by the DMV

DRIVER'S LICENSE / REAL ID		DRIVER PRIVILEGE CARD	
	Proof of identity / photo ID	-	2 Proofs of identity / photo ID
	Proof of legal presence		Proof of tax documentation
	Social security card		Social security card, or
•	2 proofs of Virginia residency	-	Proof of tax documentation 2 proofs of Virginia residency

Documents must be original, no photocopies. The spelling of your name should be exactly the same on all documents. If in doubt, bring all of your documents with you to the DMV.

DMV Checklist: Optional documents

- Unexpired Driver's License from your country, if you have one.
 - Original, no photocopies allowed
 - If your license is printed in a language other than French, German, or Spanish, you will need to provide a translation of the license also.

Showing your license to the DMV when you apply to take the Learner's Permit test enables you to schedule the road test immediately upon passing, rather than waiting 60 days.



Step 3: Prepare for the vision test

A vision test ensures that all drivers can see clearly enough to drive safely. If you need glasses to see clearly for driving, bring them to the DMV. If you think you might need glasses, get your vision tested before going to the DMV.

Your vision must be at least 20/40 in order to take the learner's permit test.

The DMV clerk will ask you to look into the machine and read the letters in one of the rows. You will need to say (or write) the names of all the letters in that row, in order from left to right.

Then the DMV clerk will ask you to identify where you see **flashing lights**: on the Right side, or the Left side, or Both.



1	AHJP	UREZ	HWXK
2	LRSD	ABLQ	ECFZ
3	EKCM	UHGT	TDLN
4	WPDS	LKUY	XBSC
5	HAFB	MVQK	FPRZ



Step 4: Plan your trip to the DMV

MONDAY + FRIDAY by appointment only

TUES + WED + THURS + SATURDAY walk-in services

- Go to <u>dmvnow.com</u>
- Search available appointments by
 - Type of testing
 - Location
- DMV website shows all appointments that are available in the next 90 days.
- After making an appointment, you will:
 - See a confirmation message on the screen
 - Receive a confirmation email

- No appointment needed
- Expect a long wait
- Must maintain 6 feet distance
- Doors open at 8am

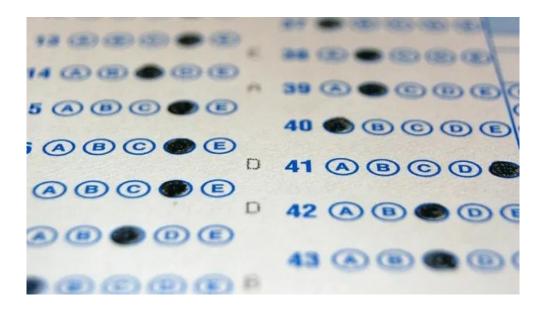


Step 5: Understand the options for taking the learner's permit general knowledge test

- The test is available in 25 languages.
- The test is available in 2 formats:
 - On a touch-screen computer
 - Audio option, with recorded voice reading questions + answer choices
 - Access to both language translation + English
 - On paper
 - Access to one language only, English or language translation
 - Answers must be recorded on a separate sheet
- The test has 2 parts:
 - Part 1 = traffic signs + signals (10/10 answers must be correct)
 - Part 2 = rules of driving (24/30 answers must be correct)
 - You must pass the first part to advance to the second part of the test.
- You may take the test up to 3 times without penalty
 - Many people fail the first time, so be sure to study and review all of the information thoroughly before going to the DMV.



Everyone who takes the test on paper must record the answers on a scantron sheet, like this:



- If the test is not available in your language, you must bring an interpreter and take the test on paper. The two of you will sit back-to-back, and the interpreter will read the questions and answer choices to you. No other questions or discussion is allowed.
- If the test is available in your language, you may take the test on paper, but you may not bring an interpreter.



Step 6: Take the learner's permit test at the DMV

- Use the resources available on the computer screen.
 - Audio option screen reader
 - Language translation + English
- Take a deep breath.
 - Stay calm and focused.
- Do not rush yourself to finish the test.
 - There is no time limit for the test. You may take as long as you need to read and review the questions and answer choices carefully before indicating your answers.
- Taking the learner's permit test is free, but when you pass the test, you will pay \$45. This amount covers the cost of the learner's permit, road test at the DMV, and driver's license.



Step 7: If you do not pass the test...

- You can ask the clerk to process your Virginia ID.
- The cost for a Virginia ID is about \$10.
- Keep studying the Virginia driver's manual + online practice questions.



What to know about taking the test again:

- Return to DMV after 15 days and test for free, or
- Return to DMV within 15 days and pay \$2 to test again.
- Having a Virginia ID card as your proof of identity will make the application process faster/easier.
- Bring all your documents each time you take the test.

If you fail the learner's permit test 3 times:

- Attend a re-examination class at a local driving school.
 - Cost: \$100+
- Bring an interpreter to help you take notes.
- Pass a written test at the end of the class.
- Receive a re-examination certificate from the driving school.
- Take this certificate back to the DMV and test again, as many times as needed.





After getting your learner's permit

Step 8: Learn to drive + practice safe driving skills

With a learner's permit, you are allowed to drive with a **licensed driver** riding in the front passenger seat of the car.

Learn and practice driving:

 Take behind the wheel driving lessons from a DMV- certified local driving school. If needed, bring an interpreter to sit in the back seat of the car so you and the instructor can clearly communicate with one another.



and/or

Practice driving with a person who has their license



After learning + practicing safe driving skills

Step 9: Take the road skills test

- Interpreter must stand outside the car.
 - Study English driving vocabulary now to increase confidence
- Schedule an appointment at the DMV.
 - No extra cost
 - Must wait 60 days after getting learner's permit

or

- Take the road test at a DMV-certified local driving school.
 - More expensive
 - Must first take permit review class + driving lessons
 - Faster than waiting for a DMV appointment
 - For experienced drivers who are ready, may take the road test
 15 days after getting learner's permit



After passing the road skills test

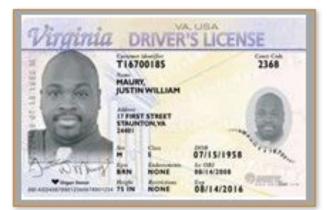
Step 10: Receive your driver's license

Vertical: Under age 21

Horizontal: Age 21 and older



A separate test is required for a Commercial Driver's License (CDL): You are allowed to drive a large truck or a bus carrying 15+ people.

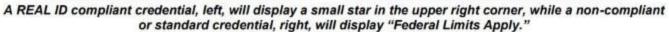




Driver's License Types: REAL ID

Beginning May 3, 2023, if you want to fly to another state, you will need to present a driver's license or Virginia ID that is REAL ID compliant or <u>another form of approved</u> <u>identification</u>. After that date, REAL ID compliant documents will be required for all adults to board a domestic flight or to access secure federal facilities.







Change of Address

Your Virginia ID, Learner's Permit, or Driver's License is your **official proof of identification**. If you move to another address, you are required to inform DMV within **30 days**.





Our Top Priorities



- Helping you to become a safe driver
- Helping your family to stay safe on the roads



Virginia Learner's Permit Study Course for Newcomers



Module 1: Lesson 2

BASIC DRIVING RULES THAT MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM YOUR HOME COUNTRY



Basic Driving Rules

- 1. Wear your seat belt.
- 2. Drive on the right.
- 3. Slow traffic must keep right.
- 4. Stay in your lane.
- 5. Signal your intentions.
- 6. Maintain a safe, legal speed.
- 7. Stay focused.
- 8. Obey traffic control devices.
- 9. Don't overuse the horn.
- 10. Keep calm.



Wear your seat belt.





Drive on the right.

On roads with 2-way traffic, cars stay on the right side of the road. The steering wheel is on the left, so the driver sits near the center of the road.





Slow traffic must keep right.

When driving on a multi-lane highway, stay in the right lane if you are driving slower than the traffic around you. The left lane is for passing only.





Stay in your lane.

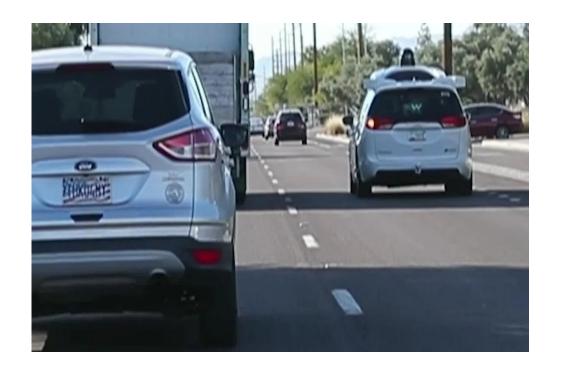
Keep your car in the center of your lane, between the lines that are painted on the road.





Signal your intentions.

Use your turn signal to let other drivers know when you plan to change lanes for any reason.





Maintain a safe, legal speed.

It is okay to drive slower than the speed limit, but you should not drive faster than the speed limit, even if you are a very experienced driver.





Stay focused.

Never put yourself or others in danger because of a call, text, or other activity. Keep your eyes and mind on the road. Keep your hands on the steering wheel.





Obey traffic control devices.

All of the traffic signs and signals are designed to regulate the flow of traffic. Following their instructions will help everyone to stay safe on the roads.





Don't overuse the horn.

Only use the horn for situations when you need to warn another driver about an unsafe situation or alert a pedestrian that they are in danger.





Keep calm.

Driving brings
freedom as well as
responsibility.
Take your time.
Follow the rules.
Be patient with
yourself and with
others. We are all
in this together!





Virginia Learner's Permit Study Course for Newcomers



Module 2: Lesson 1

TRAFFIC SIGNALS



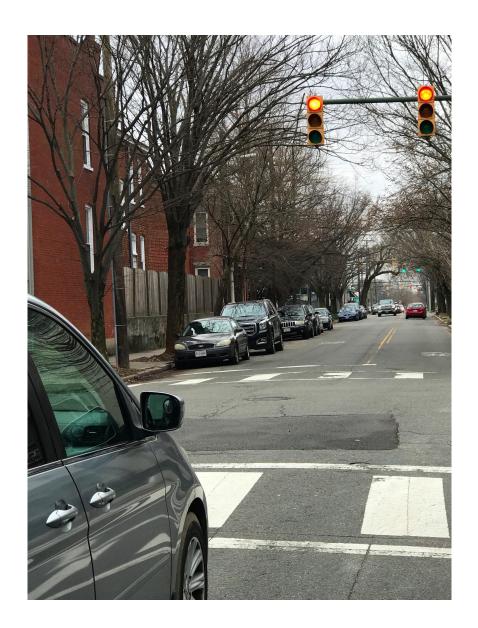


Red = STOP

Yellow = SLOW

Green = GO

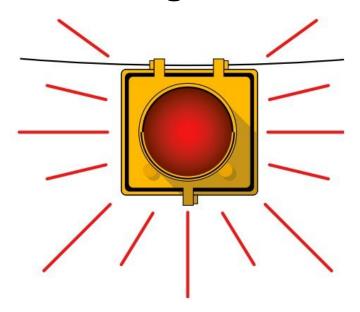




At a red light, come to a complete stop at the stop line or, if there is no stop line, before entering the intersection or before reaching the crosswalk.

Remain stopped as long as the signal is red, unless turns are allowed.





Flashing red light:

Come to a complete stop and yield to pedestrians and vehicles coming from the other direction. Go when the way is clear.



Flashing yellow light:

Slow down and look both ways to make sure that no one else is coming.
Go when the way is clear.

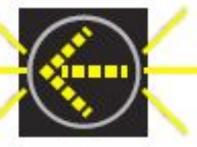




Steady red arrow: You must stop and wait. You may not go until the light or the arrow turns green.



Steady yellow arrow: You should stop, if you can do so safely.



Flashing yellow arrow: You may turn if the way is clear.

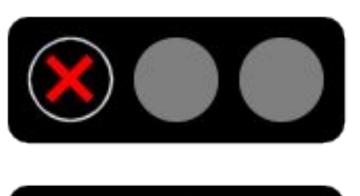


Steady green arrow: You may go. Drivers in your lane have the right of way.

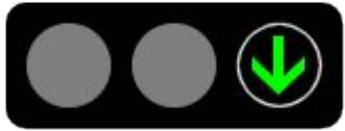


Lane Use Signals

Where you can and cannot drive during different hours of the day.



Lane is closed.



Lane is open.



Lane is about to be closed.



Lane Use Signals

Where you can and cannot drive during different hours of the day.





Virginia Learner's Permit Study Course for Newcomers

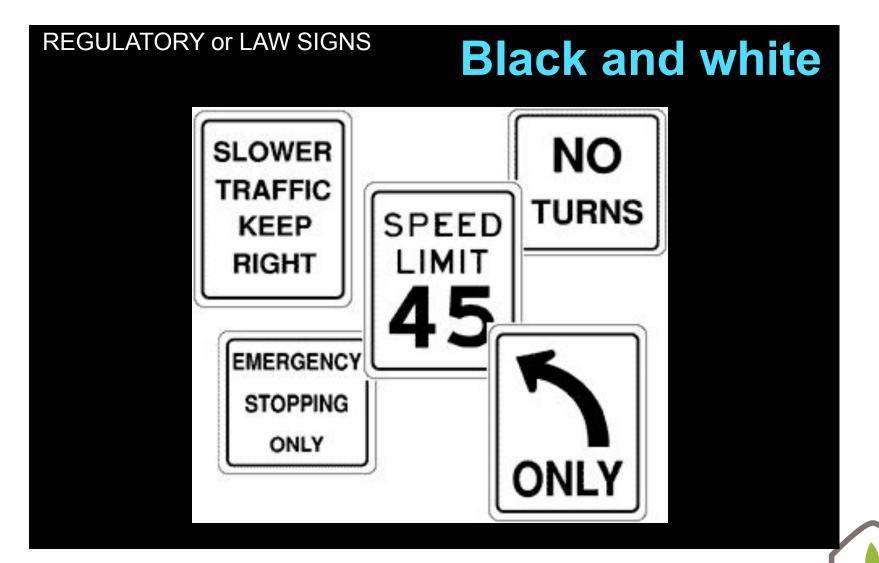


Module 2: Lesson 2

TRAFFIC SIGNS: UNDERSTANDING THE COLORS AND SHAPES

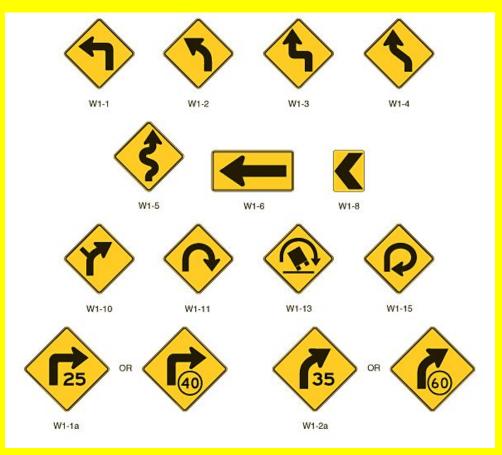






WARNING SIGNS

Yellow



GUIDE SIGNS Green DR EXIT 56 WV Regional Washington Technology Park Richmond Kanawha Valley Comm. & Tech. College

HISTORIC, CULTURAL OR NATURAL PLACES



Site Identification Entrance Sign



Pony Express
National Historic Trail



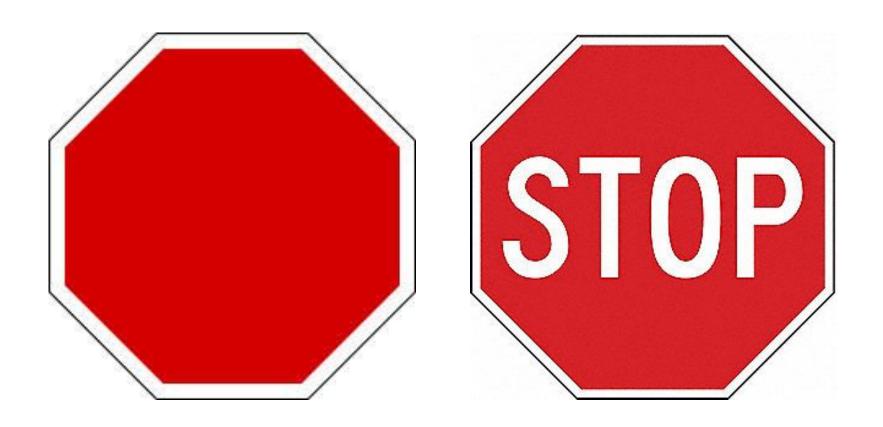








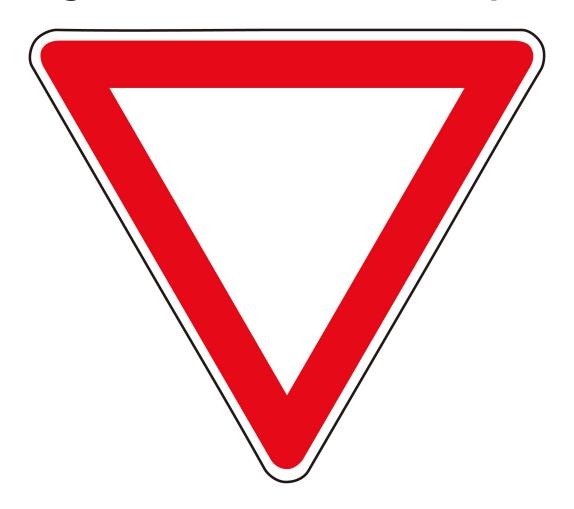
Traffic Signs: What does this shape mean?



Come to a complete stop. Wait until the way is clear.



Traffic Signs: What does this shape mean?



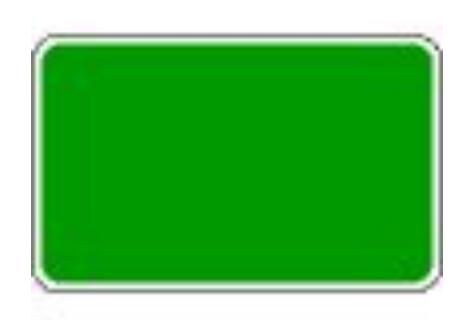
Slow down. Be prepared to stop. Let others go first.



What does this shape mean?



Regulatory = Required by Law



Guide = Directions or Information



What does this shape mean?



Slow down and be careful. Pay attention. Be ready to stop.



What does this shape mean?



This is a school crossing zone. Drive slowly. Watch for the crosswalk.

Virginia Learner's Permit Study Course



Module 2: Lesson 3

TRAFFIC SIGNS: REGULATORY SIGNS



Regulatory Signs = Required by Law









ROAD CLOSED ROAD CLOSED TO THRU TRAFFIC NAME ADDRESS CITY STATE CONTRACTOR





PASS WITH CARE DO NOT PASS OBSERVE WARNING SIGNS STATE LAW











WHEN WORKERS ARE PRESENT





Stop



Come to a complete stop at the intersection. Wait for other vehicles or pedestrians to clear the way. Then you may go.

Yield



Slow down. Be prepared to stop. Let others go first.



Speed Limit

The speed limit is the maximum safe speed on this road when weather conditions are good.

During rain, snow, and ice you should drive slower than the speed limit.





One Way

Traffic moves in one direction only. Follow the direction of the arrow.







Do Not Enter – Wrong Way





If you drive toward these signs, you are going in the wrong direction and could have a head-on crash.



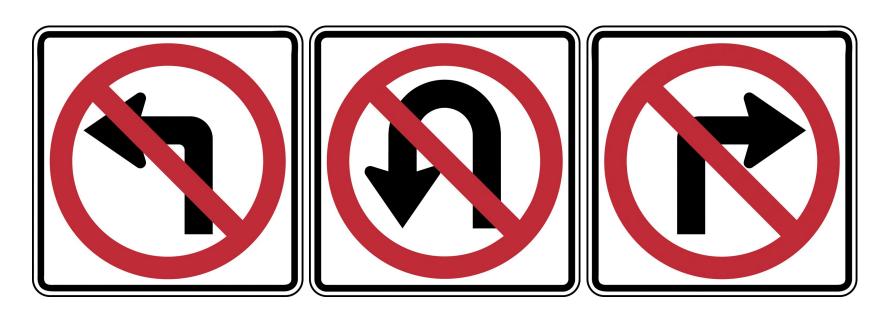


What does this symbol mean?





Restricted Turning



Do **not** turn Left.* Do **not** make a U-turn.

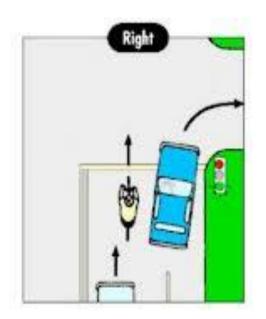
Do **not** turn Right.

^{*} In Virginia, 1 U-turn = 2 left turns. U-turns are illegal if this sign is posted.

Right Turn on Red

Normally, when the light is red, you can turn right after stopping UNLESS this sign is posted:

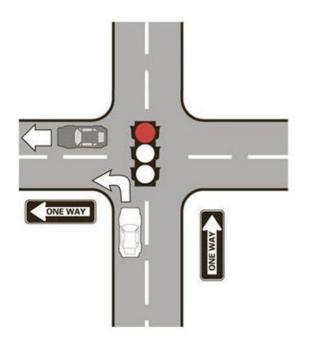






When you see this sign, you must wait for the signal to turn green before you can turn.

Left Turn on Red



ONLY from a one way onto a one way.

You may turn left at a red light only if you are on a one-way street and turning left onto another one-way street.



Left Turn Yield

Left turning traffic must yield to oncoming traffic.

Stop if necessary, and drive when the way is clear.



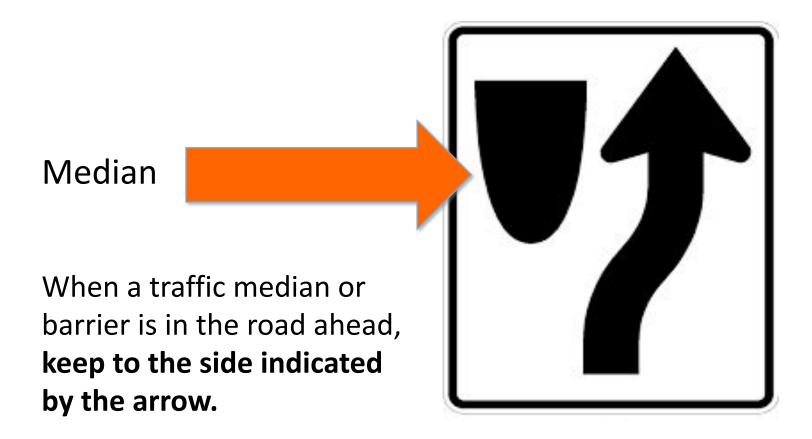


Left Turn Yield example





Keep Right – Median Ahead





Keep Right – Median Ahead



Median

Median Ahead example





Lane Use Signs







Lane use signs indicate where turns are required.

Traffic in this lane must turn in the direction of the arrow.





High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes



Only vehicles carrying two or more people may drive in these lanes.





Ride Sharing = Carpooling

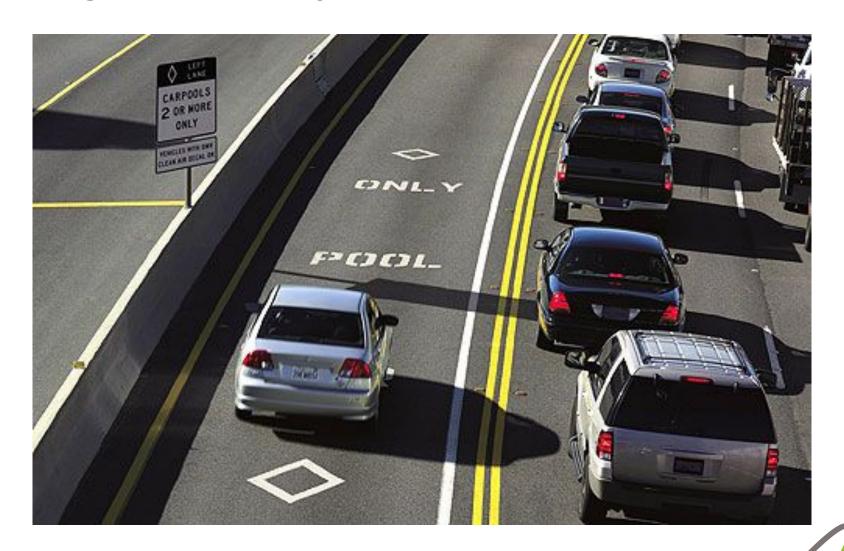


People who regularly travel to and from the same place, usually for work or school, may agree to ride together in one car in order to reduce traffic congestion and save money.





High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes example



Disabled Parking

Only people with a disabled parking permit may park in these spaces.



Virginia Learner's Permit Study Course for Newcomers



Module 2: Lesson 4

TRAFFIC SIGNS: WARNING SIGNS



Warning Signs



Watch for possible hazards or special conditions in the road ahead. Slow down and drive carefully. Be ready to stop.

Warning



Traffic signal ahead.



This is the maximum safe speed at a highway exit.



Warning



The road ahead curves left. Slow down to the safe speed limit.



Prepare to slow down. The speed limit is changing ahead.



Do Not Pass = stay in your lane





Even if the way is clear, do **not** pass cars ahead of you in your lane.



Merge = join together, blend in



Drivers in both lanes are responsible for merging safely.



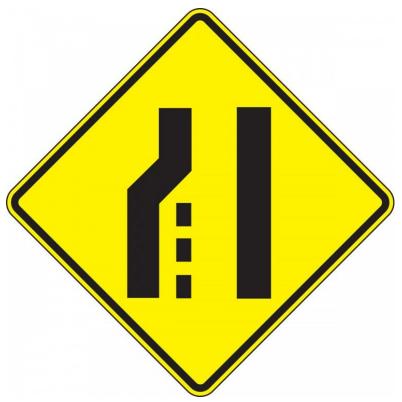
Merge example





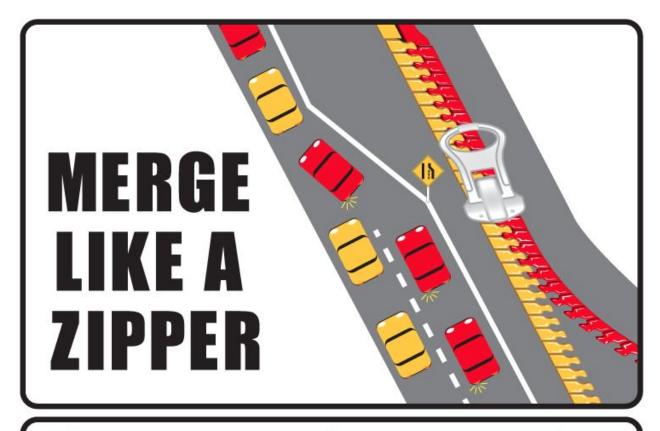
Lane Reduction (Reduce = to make smaller)





The left lane is ending. Drivers in this lane must merge right.

Lane Reduction example



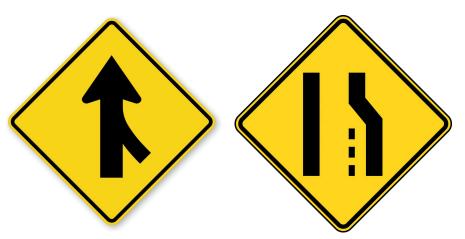


| Alternate When Merging



Video: https://www.facebook.com/MercuryInsurance/videos/369282180454619

Yield vs. Merge: Who has the right of way?



Drivers in **both lanes** take turns merging to ensure safety for everyone.



Drivers in the **other lane** have right of way. Slow down and be prepared to stop. Let others go first.



Divided Highway



The highway ahead is divided into two separate roadways, each going one way, divided by a median. Keep to the right.



The highway ahead no longer has a median. Traffic goes in both directions. Keep to the right.

Divided Highway example





Road Is Slippery When Wet



When the road is wet, **slow down**. Increase the distance between your car and the one ahead of you.



Road is Slippery When Wet

Hydroplaning is when a film of water builds up between the road and the tires. **Slow down to maintain control.**





Low Clearance





Low Clearance example





Steep Grade = Steep Hill



A steep grade is ahead. Check your brakes. Slow down.



Steep Grade example







Deer Crossing



Deer commonly cross the road in this area. Slow down, stay alert and be ready to stop.

Deer are most likely to be near the roads at dusk and dawn, especially in the fall.

Deer often travel in groups.

If you see one deer, it is likely that more are nearby, so slow down.



Pedestrian Crossing



Watch for people entering a crosswalk. Slow down and be prepared to stop. A second sign with an arrow may show the actual location of the crosswalk.



School Crossing



Watch out for children crossing the street or playing. Be ready to slow down or stop. Obey speed limits and signals from any crossing guards. A second sign with an arrow may show the actual location of the crosswalk.



Bicycle Path or Crossing

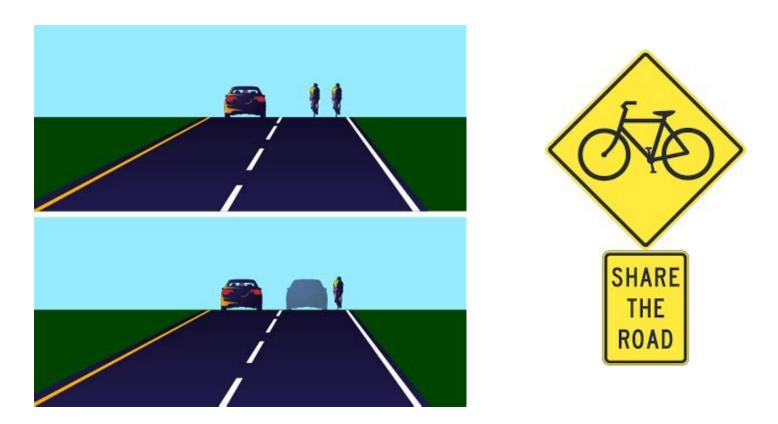




Caution: Bicycles regularly cross or ride beside traffic in this area. Where bicycles are crossing the road, a second sign with an arrow may show the actual location of the bike crossing.



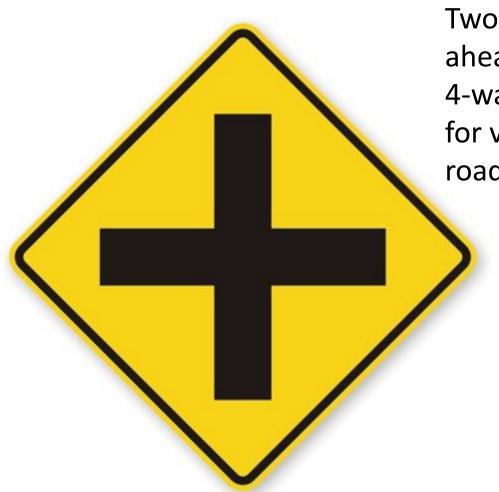
Bicycle Safety - Sharing the Road



Where bicycles ride beside traffic, drivers are required to change lanes in order to ensure their safety. It is legal for two cyclists to ride next to each other in a traffic lane.



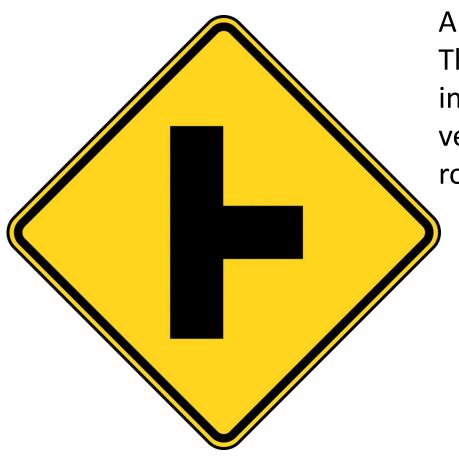
Intersection Signs



Two roads are crossing ahead. This is called a 4-way intersection. Be alert for vehicles entering the roadway.



Side Road



A road joins from the right. This is called a 3-way intersection. Be alert for vehicles entering the roadway.

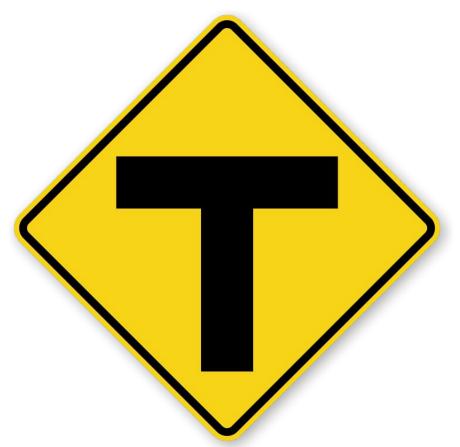


Side Road example





T-Intersection

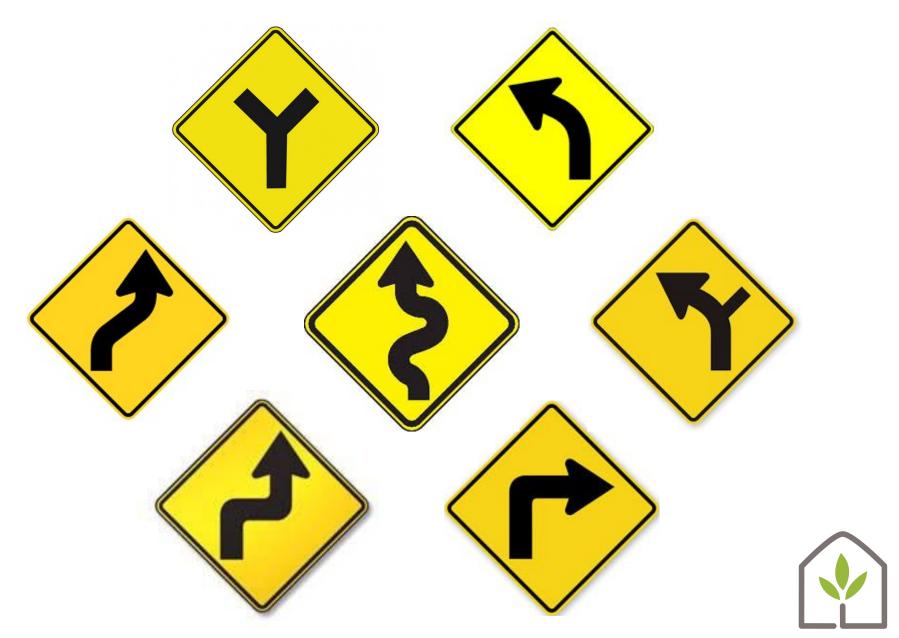


The road you are traveling on will soon come to an end.

At the intersection, obey the stop sign and then signal before turning right or left.



Other Intersections, Curves, and Turns



Railroad Crossing

This sign is a warning to look, listen, and slow down. Be prepared to stop if a train is coming.







Railroad Crossing example





Railroad Crossing

If you encounter a dangerous situation on a railroad crossing, call the emergency number on the railroad emergency sign.





Police Officers Directing Traffic



Obey all signs and signals unless directed by a police officer.

Always follow the officer's direction.





Virginia Learner's Permit Study Course for Newcomers



Module 2: Lesson 5

TRAFFIC SIGNS: WORK ZONES, SIMILAR SIGNS WITH DIFFERENT MEANINGS



Road Work or Detour Ahead





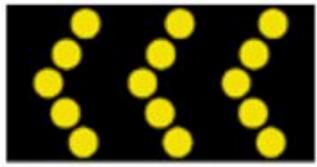


The traffic pattern may change. Slow down and watch for dangerous road conditions ahead.



Road Work or Detour Ahead







Large flashing arrow panels may be used in work zones to guide drivers into certain traffic lanes and to inform them that part of the upcoming roadway is closed. Drivers should follow all provided instructions in a work zone.



What is the difference?

Traffic on this street **always** moves **only** in the direction of the arrow.



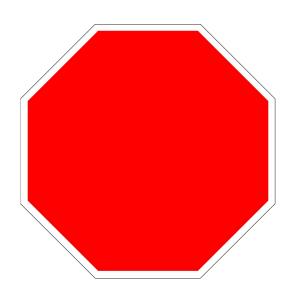
Traffic is **temporarily** being rerouted. Follow the signs until you are back on the normal route.





What is the difference?

Come to a complete stop. Wait until the way is clear, then continue on your way.



Do not enter. Wrong way.

If you drive past these signs, you are going in the wrong direction and could get into a head-on crash.





What is the difference?

These signs indicate the beginning / ending of a divided highway. Traffic goes in both directions. Keep right.



A traffic island, median, or barrier is ahead. Keep to the side indicated by the arrow.





What is the difference?

The road ahead curves right. Slow down.



The road ahead curves right. Slow down to the safe speed indicated.





Virginia Learner's Permit Study Course for Newcomers



Module 2: Lesson 6

PAVEMENT MARKINGS



RED curbs = NO parking



BLUE curbs = reserved for people with disabilities





YELLOW curbs = delivery loading and unloading only



WHITE curbs = very short stop only, long enough to pick up or drop off passengers





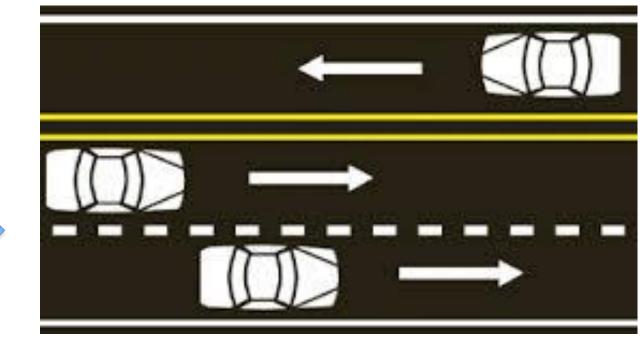
YELLOW lines = two-way traffic, flowing in opposite directions

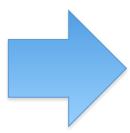




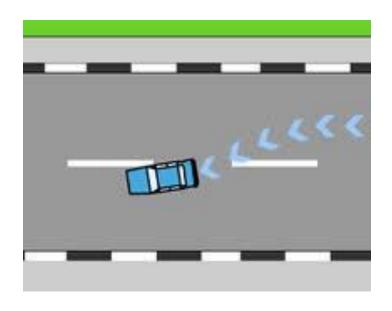


WHITE lines = cars travel in the same direction









Dotted lines = **YES**, you can change lanes



Solid lines = **NO**, you cannot change lanes.

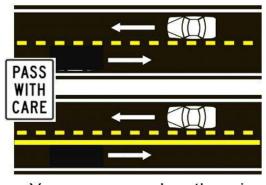




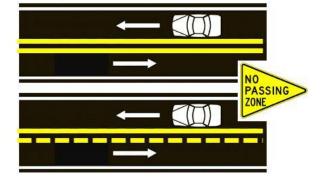
Single Lane Roads

Two-way traffic

Yellow center line may be single, double, solid, or broken (dashed)



You may pass when there is a <u>broken</u> line on your side of the road



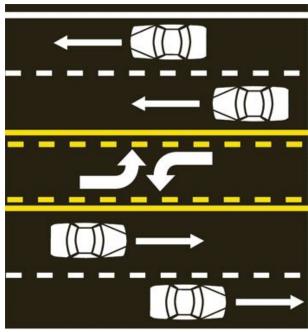
You may not pass when there is a solid line on your side of the road

If there are NO markings, you may pass on the left UNLESS there is a No Passing Zone sign.

Turning Lanes

When **both sides** of the center lane are marked by a solid yellow line and a broken yellow line, drivers traveling in either direction may use the center lane to make left turns.







Restricted Lanes: HOV

On the highway, High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes are marked by a narrow, white diamond shape in the center of the lane.







Restricted Lanes: Bicycle

Small paths or lanes reserved for bicycles will have a narrow, white diamond shape and a painted bicycle symbol. These lanes are reserved for **cyclists** only.







Restricted Lanes: Bus



Lanes reserved for buses will have a white diamond shape or say BUS ONLY.





Virginia Learner's Permit Study Course for Newcomers



Module 3: Lesson 1

SPEED LIMITS, WHEN TO STOP YOUR CAR, STOPPING DISTANCE



Speed Limit: Interstate Highways



70 MPH



Speed Limit: Smaller Highways



55 MPH



Speed Limit: Rural Rustic / Unpaved Roads



35 MPH



Speed Limit: Residential, Business, and School Zones



25 MPH



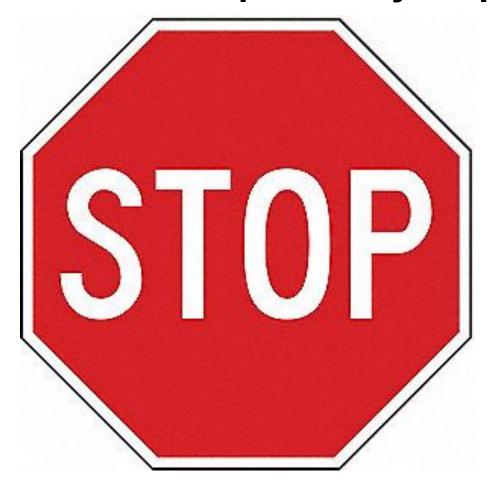


When to Stop Your Car





Every car must stop at every stop sign.

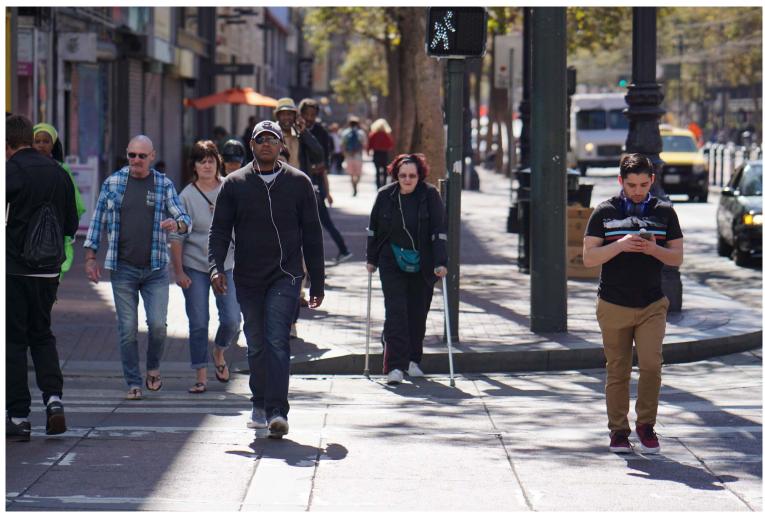


Come to a complete stop. Wait until the way is clear.





















When you see or hear an emergency vehicle, you must pull over to the right edge of the road and stop until the vehicle has passed.

You may not park within 500 feet of an emergency vehicle.



You must stop your car when...



When you see a school bus stop, you MUST stop, no matter what direction you are traveling in. You must remain stopped until ALL the children are clear and the bus moves again.

You must stop your car when...



In these pictures, the red vehicles must stop and remain stopped until all the children are clear of the roadway and the bus moves again.

Stopping Distance

The time it takes to stop your vehicle.

Determined by: Perception time

Reaction distance

Braking distance

Also affected by: Weather Visibility

Your mental and physical condition

How fast your vehicle is traveling

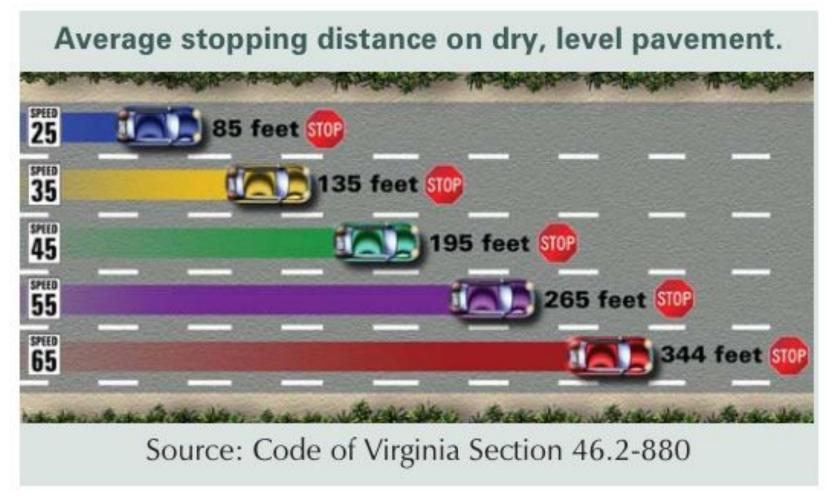
The condition of your brakes and tires

The condition of the road





Stopping Distance





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Module 3: Lesson 2

YIELDING THE RIGHT OF WAY



Yielding the Right of Way



At an intersection, who goes first?



Yield Ahead





Triangle symbol = YIELD

Whether on a sign or painted on the road, the meaning is the same.







You must yield for pedestrians who are crossing the road at a crosswalk or at an unmarked intersection.

When you see an emergency vehicle with flashing lights, you must pull over to the right edge of the road and stop, no matter what direction you are driving.



When you see any vehicle with flashing lights that is stopped on the side of the road, you must slow down and move to another lane, if safely possible. This includes mail vehicles, emergency, road maintenance, and utility vehicles.







Funeral Procession

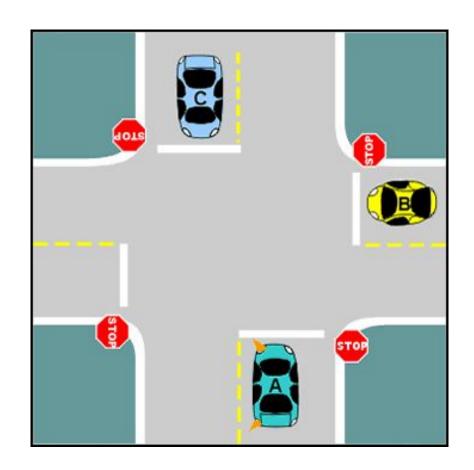
Military Convoy





When cars from different directions arrive at an intersection at different times, the one that arrived first goes first.

When more than one car arrives at the same time, the car on the RIGHT always goes first.





Yield the Right of Way when...



Roundabout = an intersection with a circular island in the center. You must yield to all traffic when entering a roundabout.



Roundabout = Traffic Circle



- Entering cars must yield to vehicles already in the circle.
- If no other traffic is in the circle, you may enter without yielding.
- Choose your lane based on which way you plan to turn.
- Stay in your lane.



Roundabout = Traffic Circle





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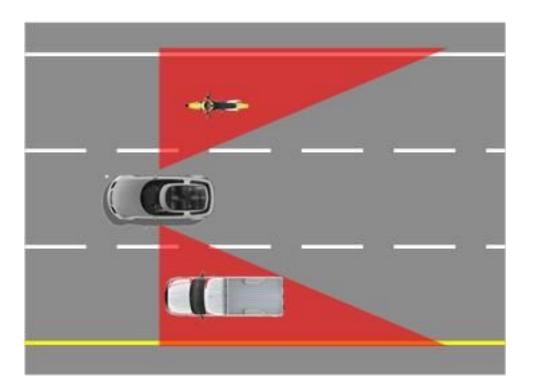
Module 3: Lesson 3

BLIND SPOTS, CHANGING LANES, PASSING, TURNING



Blind Spots

Blind Spots = danger areas that **cannot be seen** in the mirrors on either or both sides of the vehicle.

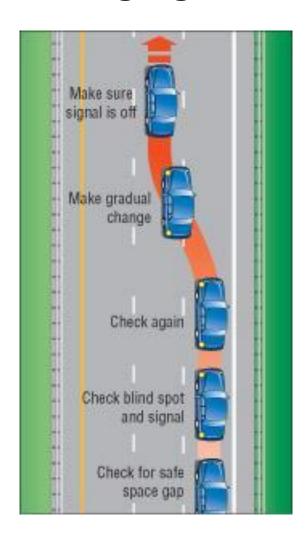


Bigger vehicles have bigger blind spots!





Changing Lanes



Before changing lanes:

- Check side and rearview mirrors.
- 2. Look over your shoulders to check blind spots.
- 3. Turn on turn signal.
- Check blind spots again.
- 5. Then make a gradual lane change.
- Turn off turn signal.



Passing Another Vehicle





Before passing another car, you must check the traffic ahead, behind, and in your blind spots.

After passing another car, return to the right lane as soon as you can see the front of the passed vehicle in your rearview mirror.



Passing Another Vehicle

- Check the traffic ahead of you.
- ✓ Do **not** exceed speed limit when passing.
- ✓ You must complete a pass **before** reaching a NO PASSING ZONE.
- Do not pass on any hills, intersections, or at railroad crossings.





No Passing Zones



These signs indicate that you are **not** permitted to pass cars ahead of you in your lane.





No Passing Zone example









Over-correcting

This can happen when you turn the steering wheel too sharply in one direction, causing the rear wheels to slide to the outside of the turn. Many single car crashes occur because drivers over-correct and lose control of the vehicle.

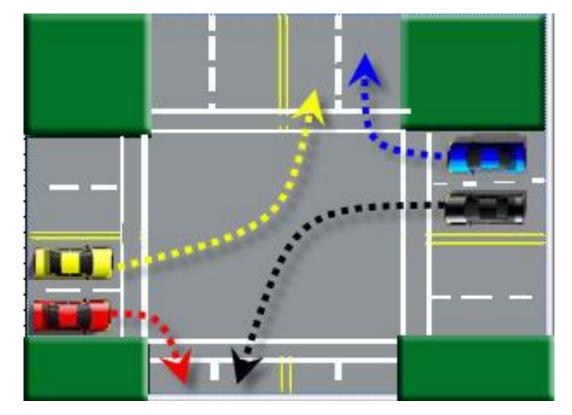






Turning

To make a **left** turn: You should be in the furthest left lane possible, unless pavement markings lead you otherwise or unless multiple left turn lanes are provided.



To make a **right** turn: You should be in the lane closest to the curb.



When turning, you should...



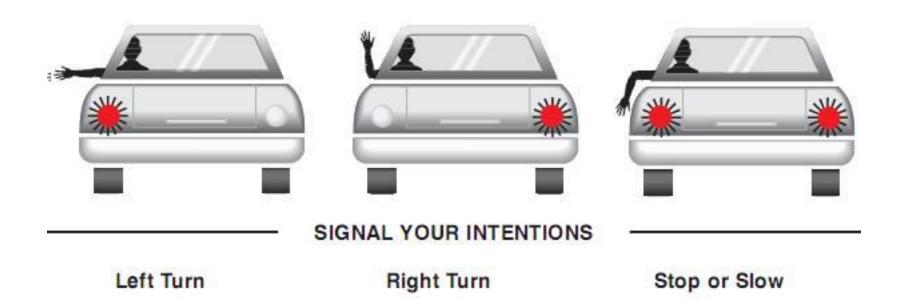
Signal your intentions to the other drivers around you by turning on your signal 100 feet or 3-4 seconds before you make the turn.

You should also use your turn signal whenever you change lanes, or exit a highway or roundabout.



When turning, you should...

Protect yourself—help others



If the turn signal indicator in your car is broken, use hand signals to communicate with other drivers.



U-Turns

It is always legal to make a U-turn unless you see these signs.



This sign has 2 meanings: No left turn + No U-turn



1 U-turn = 2 left turns



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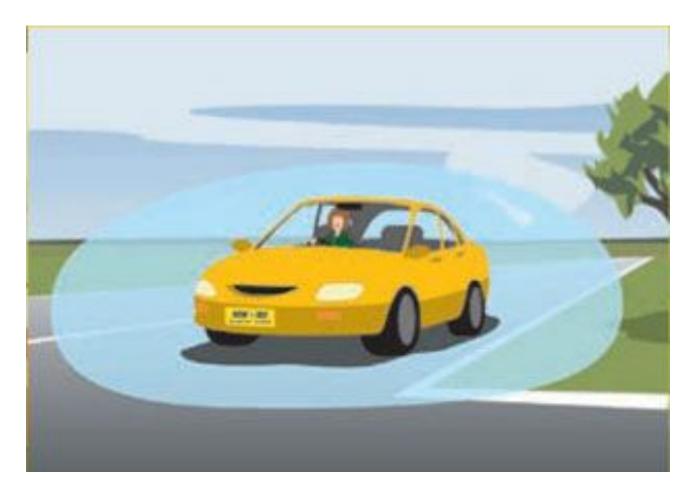


Module 3: Lesson 4

MAINTAINING SAFE SPACE AROUND YOUR CAR



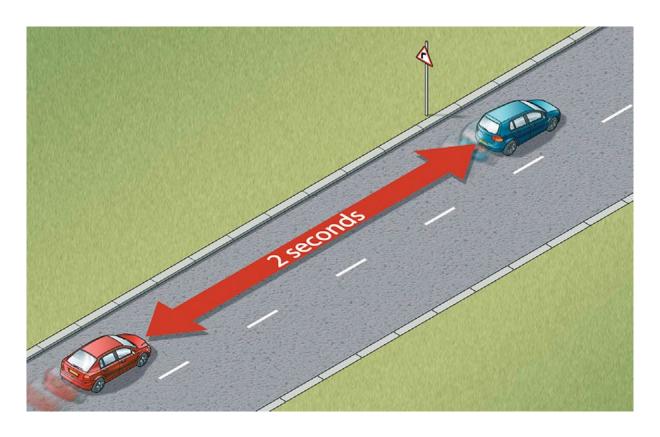
Maintaining a Space Cushion



Stay between the lines, in the middle of your lane.



Following Distance: The 2, 3, and 4 second rule



Use a fixed point to help measure a two-second gap between cars. This gap is called following distance.



Following Distance: The 2, 3, and 4 second rule

Following Distance

At these posted speeds and on dry surfaces, this distance, in seconds, allows the driver to safely steer and brake out of a problem area.

2 seconds Under 35 mph

3 seconds 35-45 mph

4 seconds 46-70 mph



Increase your following distance when...











You are driving behind a large vehicle that blocks your vision; in bad weather or heavy traffic; when exiting an expressway; when driving behind a motorcycle; or when being tailgated.

Tailgating



Tailgating = Following another car too closely.







Tailgating

If someone is tailgating you:

- Tap the brake to tell the driver to slow down.
- Increase your following distance from the car in front.
- Change lanes, if needed, to get away from the car behind.





Tailgating





Tailgating is not only annoying, it is dangerous. If someone is driving too closely behind you, don't speed up. Stay calm, and gradually slow down to allow the tailgating driver to pass you. Continue driving the speed limit, and obey traffic signals. The goal is to be safe and avoid an accident, not to make things worse.

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Module 3: Lesson 5

SEARCHING, BLIND SPOTS



Searching



Searching = looking at the entire scene for anything that might come into your path. While driving, keep your eyes moving and learn to read the road.



Searching

Keep your eyes moving:

- Look ahead and side to side
- Search for clues on the road
- Watch for different road conditions and other vehicles
- Look behind by using the rearview mirror
- Before entering an intersection: Check from left to right and then left again

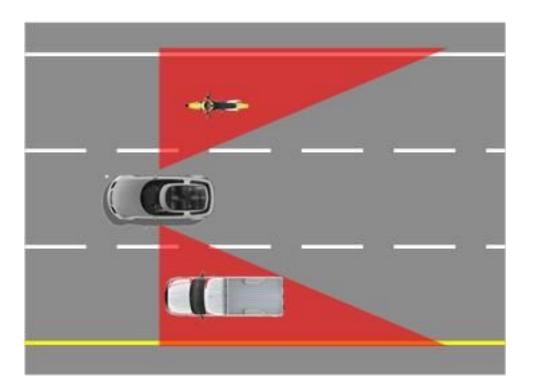


Expert drivers try to focus their eyes 20 to 30 seconds ahead



Blind Spots

Blind Spots = danger areas that **cannot be seen** in the mirrors on either or both sides of the vehicle.



Bigger vehicles have bigger blind spots!





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Module 3: Lesson 6

SHARING THE ROAD



Drivers share the road with many other users. You must be careful and allow more space between you and them. It is your responsibility to adjust your driving to avoid their mistakes.

When driving, stopping, and changing lanes, make sure you have enough space to keep everyone safe.





Pedestrians





Trucks



Where bicycles ride beside traffic, drivers are required to change lanes in order to ensure their safety. It is legal for two cyclists to ride next to each other in a traffic lane.





Motorcycles

50% of all fatal motorcycle crashes happen because the driver of a car did not see a motorcycle in traffic.





Mopeds (35 mph or slower)





Buses



Recreational Vehicles or RVs



Light Rail

Tractor-Trailers





Low Speed Vehicles



Trailers

Before driving with a trailer attached to your vehicle, you must be sure that the hitch is secure, the pin and chains are properly attached, and the brake lights and turn signals are working properly.





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Module 3: Lesson 7

BACKING UP, PARKING, VISIBILITY, WHEN TO USE HEADLIGHTS



Backing Up

The most common mistake is **not** looking **both** ways behind you.

Mirrors are not enough!









Parking in a Parking Lot

It is safer for everyone (and less stressful for you) if you park with the front of your car facing away from the parking space. When you are ready to leave, you will pull forward instead of backing out of the space. Always drive slowly in parking lots.





Parking on a Hill

You should always turn the front wheels of the vehicle to prevent it from rolling down the street and into traffic, in case the parking brake fails. Do not park more than 1 ft. away from the curb.



Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPImISRL9CY



How many feet of a fire hydrant?





How many feet of the entrance to a fire, ambulance, or rescue squad station?



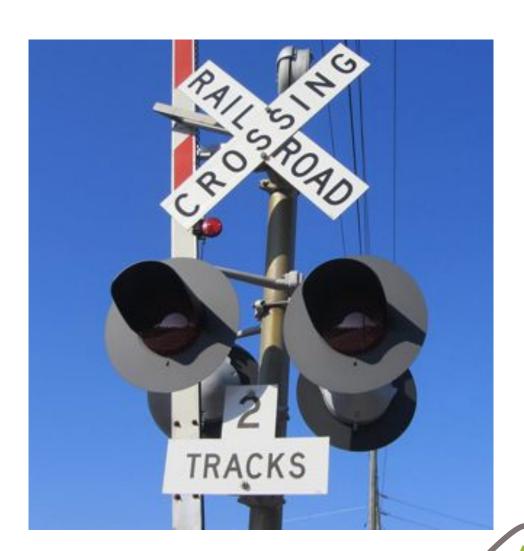


How many feet of an intersection?





How many feet of a railroad crossing?



How many feet of where fire engines or rescue equipment are stopped to answer an alarm?





You may not park...

- On crosswalks or sidewalks
- In front of driveways
- Beside another parked vehicle (double parking)
- Within areas where parking is prohibited by yellow curbs or No Parking signs
- In a parking space reserved for disabled persons
- On the hard surface of a road when no curb is present
- In any way that blocks or creates a hazard for other vehicles in a designated traffic lane





Visibility



Most of what you do while driving depends on what you see. To be a good driver, you need to know what to look for, where to look, and how to adjust to possible problems. The single biggest contributor to crashes is failing to identify a risk.

Visibility



Reduced visibility?

- 1. Slow down.
- 2. Turn on your headlights.



When to Use Headlights

Virginia Law says that you must turn on the headlights during bad weather **or** whenever visibility is reduced to 500 feet.

You **must** also use your headlights whenever you turn on the windshield wipers.





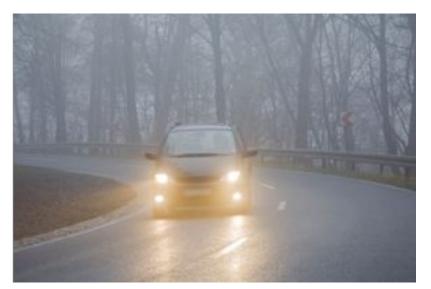
Headlights

Use headlights when there is:

- ✓ Snow
- ✓ Fog (low beams only)
- ✓ Rain
- ✓ Hazardous conditions
- ✓ Night driving









Headlights



<u>Use low beam headlights</u>: Almost all the time, especially in fog. Use high beam headlights:

Only when it's very dark and no other cars are on the road. Turn them off when a car is within 500 feet coming toward you in the opposite lane or when a car is within 200 feet ahead of you in your lane.

Headlights



If a car coming toward you has their high beam headlights on, avoid looking directly at the bright lights. You may flash your brights at them to remind them to turn their lights back down to low. Even if the other driver does not dim their headlights, do NOT turn on your high beam headlights. Instead, glance toward the right side of the road to find the boundary edge, then look quickly ahead to the middle of your lane to keep yourself on the road and to determine the other vehicle's position. Keep doing this until you have passed the other vehicle safely.



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Module 3: Lesson 8

DANGEROUS DRIVING BEHAVIORS, TRAFFIC CRASHES, DEER HAZARDS, TRAFFIC STOPS



DANGER: Aggressive Driving

It is very dangerous when drivers take out their anger on other drivers.



Stay away from aggressive drivers. Avoid making eye contact. Ignore their hand gestures and shouting.

DANGER: Aggressive Driving

Do

- ✓ Keep calm
- ✓ Keep to a safe speed
- ✓ Keep driving safely

Don't

- ✓ Drive too close
- ✓ Drive too fast
- ✓ Honk your horn















Anything that takes your attention away from driving can be a distraction, endangering the driver and others.

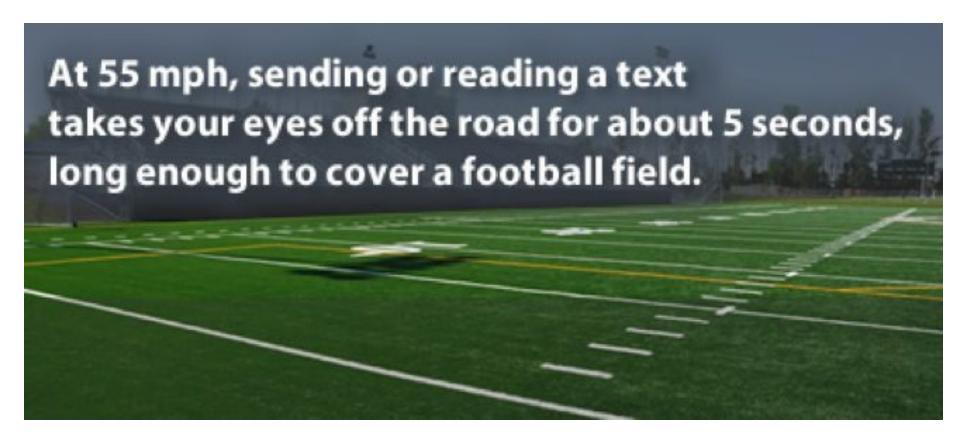
- ✓ Visual: taking your eyes off the road
- ✓ Manual: taking your hands off the wheel
- ✓ Cognitive: taking your mind off of driving

Texting while driving is especially dangerous because it combines all three types of distraction.











Approximately 1 out of every 4 car accidents is caused by someone driving and texting at the same time.

Each day in the United States:

- approximately 9 people are killed
- more than 1,000 people are injured in crashes involving a distracted driver.





Distracted Driving Law





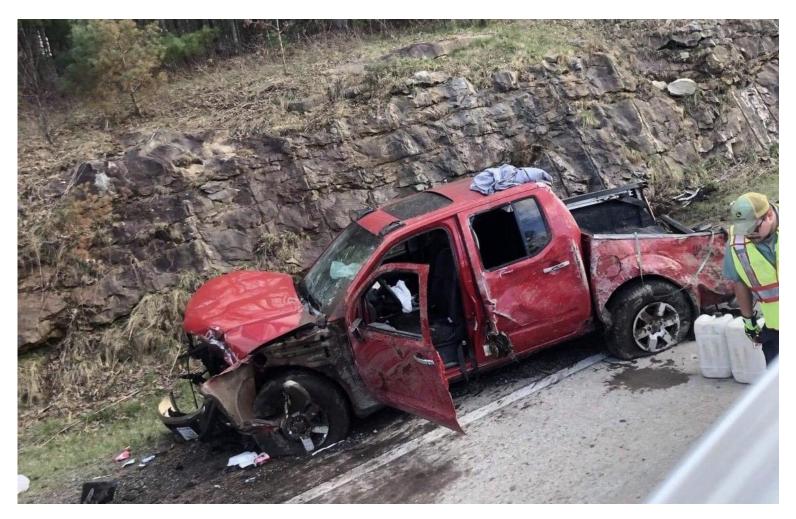
DANGER: Drowsy Driving



To avoid drowsy driving:

- ✓ Get plenty of quality sleep before a trip.
- ✓ Stop at least every two hours for rest.
- ✓ Drive with a companion and switch drivers when necessary.
- ✓ Always let a well-rested person drive.

DANGER: Drowsy Driving



Drowsy driving is extremely dangerous, for the driver and for everyone else on the road. **Do not take this risk.**



DANGER: Drinking and Driving

DUI = **D**riving **U**nder the **I**nfluence of alcohol

You could be convicted of a DUI if your blood alcohol content level is .08 or higher.

Under age 21, the limit is .02 (ZERO TOLERANCE)





DANGER: Drinking and Driving

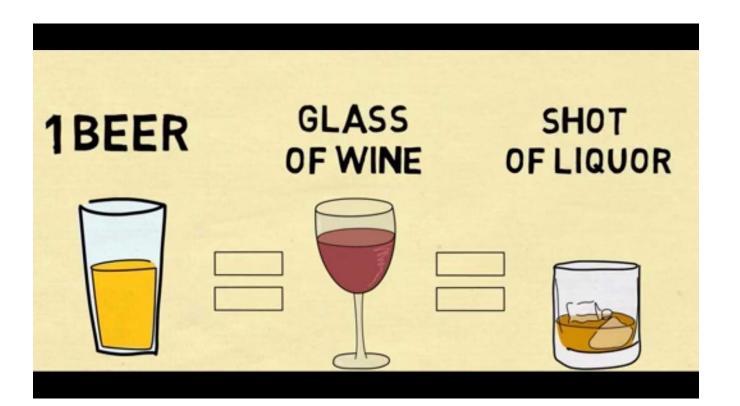
- Drunk driving is the #1 killer of teenagers ages 16 21.
- Researchers estimate that every night between 10 pm 2 am,
 3 out of every 10 drivers are drunk.
- Because alcohol affects your judgment and driving ability, your chances of being in a crash are 7 times greater if you drive after drinking than if you drive sober.





DANGER: Drinking and Driving

- Only time can decrease intoxication. Coffee, cold showers, or exercise will not sober you up.
- Just one alcoholic drink can affect your driving ability and judgment.
- The effect of 12 oz. of beer = 5 oz. of wine = 1 shot of liquor





DANGER: Drugs and Driving

Any drug can interfere with your ability to drive safely.



Pay attention to the label. Some medications can cause drowsiness and dizziness, affecting your alertness and slowing your reaction time.



Traffic Accidents / Crashes

- Stop.
- Help.
- Call **911**.
- Exchange insurance information.
- Call your insurance company.



The police will file an accident report that the insurance companies will use to decide which driver's insurance is responsible to pay for the damages.



Deer Hazards

- If you hit a deer, stop your car and call 911.
- If your car is damaged and you need to make an insurance claim, the insurance company will need the police report.



- Deer are most likely to be near the roads at dusk and dawn, especially in the fall.
- Deer often travel in groups. If you see one deer, more are likely nearby, so **slow down**.



Traffic Stops

You should:

- Use your turn signal to indicate your intention.
- Pull over to the far right side of the roadway.
- Stop the car and roll down the window.
- Turn off the car engine.
- Stay inside the car.





Traffic Stops

Documents to show the officer:

- Your driver's license
- Proof of vehicle registration
- Proof of insurance

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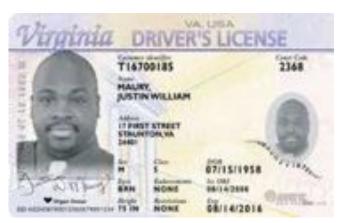
RDA

Model

SOMEWID EX

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Thur 2001





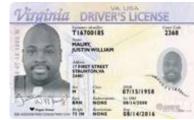


Where to Keep Your Driving Documents

Keep with the person

Driver's license





Keep in the car

- Proof of vehicle registration
- Proof of insurance







Keep at home

Certificate of title







Traffic Stops

- Remain calm.
- Keep both of your hands on the steering wheel, in plain view.
- Do not make any sudden movements that could make the officer think you are hiding or reaching for something.
- Always carry your driver's license with you.
- Keep proof of vehicle registration and proof of insurance in a safe place inside the car. If an officer asks for these documents, tell the officer where they are and reach for them slowly, keeping one hand on the steering wheel.
- If the officer is driving an unmarked car or is not in uniform, ask to see their identification.



For your safety

Stay in your car. Keep your seatbelt on.

If you are stopped by the police for any reason, do not get out of your car **unless** the officer shows a badge and says that you are suspected of DUI.





Virginia Learner's Permit Study Course for Newcomers



Module 4: Lesson 1

SEAT BELTS, AIRBAGS, CHILD SAFETY SEATS



Child Safety

It is against the law for children to ride in the back of a truck.



The driver is legally responsible for children's safety.



Child Safety

It is against the law for children to ride in the back of a truck.



The driver is legally responsible for children's safety.



Seat Belts



It is the **law** that the **driver** and all other **front seat** passengers must wear a seat belt. Make sure it is snug or tight to your body!

Anyone under 18 must wear a seat belt in the back seat, too.

Wearing a seat belt can double your chances of surviving a crash!



Air Bags



In a car crash, air bags provide a cushion to keep the head, neck, and chest from hitting the dashboard or steering column, reducing the force of impact.





By law, all children under age 8 must use a car seat.



Using the correct car seat or booster seat can be a lifesafer: make sure your child is always buckled in an age- and size-appropriate car seat or booster seat.





REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Birth until age 2-4

Buckle children in a rearfacing car seat until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their car seat. Keep children rear-facing as long as possible.



FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

After outgrowing rearfacing seat until at least age 5

When children outgrow their rear-facing car seat, they should be buckled in a forward-facing car seat until they reach the maximum weight or height limit of their car seat.



BOOSTER SEAT

After outgrowing forwardfacing seat and until seat belts fit properly

Once children outgrow their forward-facing seat, they should be buckled in a booster seat until seat belts fit properly. Proper seat belt fit usually occurs when children are 4 feet 9 inches tall and age 9-12.



SEAT BELT

Once seat belts fit properly without a booster seat

Children no longer need to use a booster seat once seat belts fit them properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lays across the chest (not the neck).

Keep children ages 12 and under properly buckled in the back seat. Never place a rear-facing car seat in front of an active air bag.

*Recommended age ranges for each seat type vary to account for differences in child growth and height/weight limits of car seats and booster seats.

Use the car seat or booster seat owner's manual to check installation and the seat height and weight limits, and proper seat use.





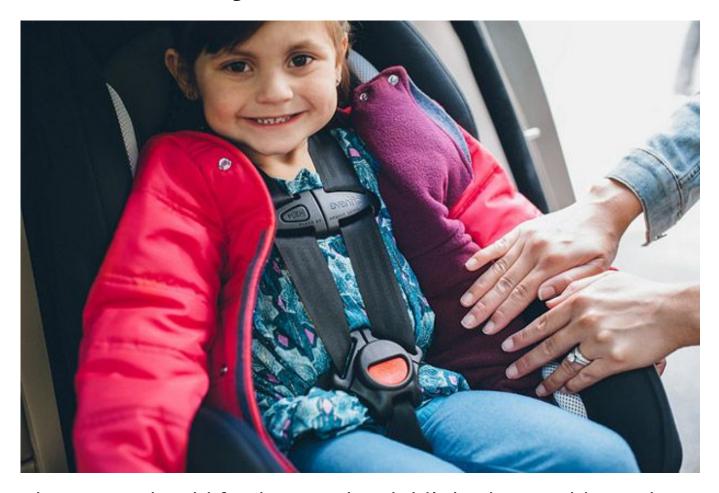


As your child grows, the shoulder straps need to be moved up to the correct harness slots and adjusted for a proper fit.

Rear-facing car seats: shoulder straps should come through the car seat slots at or just **below** your child's shoulders.

Forward-facing seats: shoulder straps should be at or just above the shoulders.





The straps should fit close to the child's body. In cold weather, remove the coat if needed, and use it as a blanket to keep the child warm while riding safely.





Until age 5, children must use a solid, high-backed car seat with harness straps that fit over the child's shoulders and around the hips. The straps are fastened in the center of the chest and between the child's legs.
This is called a 5-point harness.





After age 5, children should use a booster seat to make sure that the car's seat belt is centered across the child's shoulder and chest.





Between ages 8-10, when the car's seat belt fits properly and the child can sit all the way back with knees bent at the end of the seat, the child is ready to ride without a booster.



For more information:

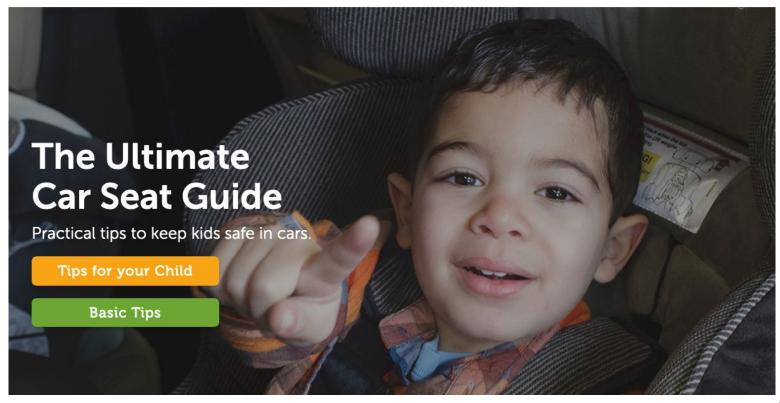
www.safekids.org/ultimate-car-seat-guide



Ultimate Car Seat Guide







Virginia Learner's Permit Study Course for Newcomers



Module 5: Lesson 1

PENALTIES, DEMERIT POINTS, DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



If you break the law while driving, your driving privilege may be suspended or revoked by the court and/or DMV.



Suspended = you may not drive for a short period of time (temporary)

Revoked = you may never drive again (permanent)



Your driver's license can be suspended or revoked if you...

- Drink and drive
- Lie to the DMV
- Run from the police









Your driver's license can be **suspended** if you...

 Drive aggressively or dangerously



 Hurt someone in a car crash





Your driver's license can be suspended if you...

- Drive without a valid driver's license
- Drive while your license is suspended or revoked
- Fail to pay traffic fines within 30 days
- Refuse to take a blood/breath test when charged with DUI







Penalties: Alcohol and the Law

If you refuse a breath test **or** your BAC is **.08 or higher** while driving, your driving privilege will be automatically suspended:

1st offense: for 7 days

2nd offense: for 60 days or until you go to trial,

whichever comes first

3rd offense: until the trial



Demerit Points

- Demerit points are penalties that are added to your record when you are convicted of a traffic violation.
- They remain valid for 2-11
 years from the date you
 commit the offense, depending
 on the violation.
- DMV monitors your driving record to see how many demerit points you receive within a 12-month and 24-month period.
- Convictions may be assigned 3,
 4 or 6 demerit points.

Virginia's Demerit Point System Common Traffic Offenses

Violations	Points
Failure to observe traffic signals (e.g., red light)	3
Speeding 1-9 mph above the posted speed limit	3
Illegal turn (e.g., U-turn)	3
Reckless driving	4
Speeding 10-19 mph above posted speed limit	4
Unsafe passing	4
Failure to yield right-of-way	4
Tailgating	4
Failure to obey railroad crossing signal	4
Driving Under the Influence (DUI)	6
Speeding 20 mph above speed limit	6
Speeding in excess of 80 mph	6

Driver Improvement Program

Demerit Points	1 st conviction	2 nd conviction	3 rd conviction
Under Age 18	Must attend driver improvement class within 90 days.	Driver's license suspended for 90 days.	Driver's license revoked for 1 year or until you turn 18 (whichever is longer).
Age 18 or 19	Must attend driver improvement class.		



Driver Improvement Program

Demerit Points	12 points in 12 months or 18 points in 24 months	18 points in 12 months or 24 points in 24 months
Age 18 or Older	Must attend driver improvement class within 90 days.	Driver's license suspended for 90 days and Must attend driver improvement class.



Additional Consequences

If you break the law while driving:

- Traffic ticket
- Demerit points for that offense
- Fine of \$100 or less
- Go to court



Demerit points on your driving record will also affect how much you pay for car insurance. Drivers with a clean driving record pay lower insurance rates than those who have multiple traffic violations or offenses.



Keep your driving record clean!

The penalty (punishment) is small for the first offense. The more times you break the law, the penalties get worse.





Virginia Learner's Permit Study Course for Newcomers



Module 5: Lesson 2

THE COST OF OWNING A CAR



The Cost of Owning a Car

Buying a car is a big decision. If you can manage by using public transportation and/or a bicycle, you will be able to save a lot of money. However, for most people - especially families - owning a car is essential.

Before buying a car you should understand the many financial responsibilities that come with car ownership to make sure that you are prepared for this commitment.





Owning a Car: Buying New or Used?

NEW CAR	USED CAR
Various financing options	Less expensive to buy
Comprehensive warranty coverage	Slower depreciation
Latest technology	Lower insurance cost
Fewer repairs/maintenance costs	Premium models more affordable
NEW CAR	USED CAR
NEW CAR Very expensive to buy	USED CAR High mileage = higher repair costs



Buying a Car: Other Considerations

- Safety ratings
- Fuel efficiency







Owning a Car: Counting the Cost

- Purchase price = monthly payments + interest
- Car loan = debt that follows you after the car
- Extended warranty = unnecessary expense
- Annual capital cost = purchase price cost to you each year:
 If you purchase a car for \$22,000, keep it for 5 years, and then sell it for \$2,000, the annual capital cost is \$4,000.



 $$22,000 - $2,000 = $20,000 \div 5 = $4,000$



Owning a Car: Buying Auto Insurance

Everyone is required to buy auto insurance, but not everyone pays the same amount. Insurance rates vary according to the age and gender of drivers, the make/model of the car, the type/amount of coverage, and the insurance company.



As a new driver in this country, you will have higher insurance rates for the first 3 years.

If you do not have any accidents and you do not have any traffic violations (such as speeding tickets) in the first 3 years, your insurance rates will go down after that.



Owning a Car: Buying Auto Insurance

Types of car insurance:

- Liability coverage REQUIRED
 - Pays car repairs and medical bills of the other vehicle if you cause an accident
- Collision coverage (includes a deductible amount) OPTIONAL
 - Pays your car repairs and medical bills if you cause an accident
- Uninsured motorist coverage REQUIRED
 - Pays your car repairs and medical bills
 if an accident is caused by an uninsured driver
- Comprehensive coverage OPTIONAL
 - Pays for any damage to your car caused by vandalism, theft, nature (fire/flood/wind), or accidents with animals



Owning a Car: Updating Auto Insurance

When should you update your auto insurance policy?

- Adding another driver of your vehicle
 - Spouse or child gets a learner's permit/driver's license
- Any vehicle changes in the household
 - Buying an additional car
 - Buying a different car
- Any changes to the use of your vehicle
 - Driving for a ride service company
 - Making deliveries
- Moving to another location in town (or to another state)
 - Where you park your car = garaging address

These changes may increase the cost of your insurance policy. Failure to provide this information can complicate the claims process in the event of an accident.

Owning a Car: Registering at DMV



Documents required:

- Proof of identity + current mailing address
 - Driver's license
- Proof of car ownership
 - Title
- Proof that the car meets minimum safety standards
 - State inspection certificate
- Proof of auto insurance
 - Insurance card

What you receive:

- 2 license plates (front + rear)
- Stickers re: expiration date
- Registration card





Owning a Car: Annual Fees

Registration

 There is a sticker on your license plate with the date your registration expires.

Car inspection

You need to have your car inspected each year.

Personal property tax

You will receive a tax bill in the mail every 6
months. The amount is based on the value of the
car and is assigned by the city or county where you
live.



Owning a Car: Maintenance

- Gas
- Oil changes
- Tire pressure + rotation
- Filter replacement: oil, engine air, cabin air
- Repairs

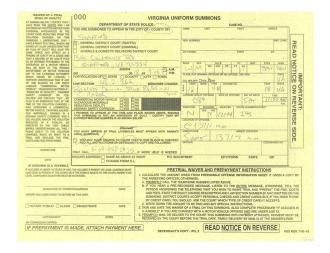




Owning a Car: Additional Costs

- Tolls
- Parking fees
- Traffic tickets
- Driver improvement classes









Owning a Car: Organize Your Documents

	Stays with the driver	Stays in the vehicle
Driver's license		
Vehicle registration		
Proof of insurance		



Owning a Car: Organize Your Documents

Keep at home , in a safe place	
	Title
	Purchase papers, car loan, etc.
	Insurance policy
	Registration + inspection receipts
	Repair + maintenance records



Owning a Car: Requirements for Child Safety

Child safety seats

- Each child must use the correct seat for their age
- Each car seat must be secured properly
- Each child must use the appropriate seat belt/harness





Our Best Wishes to You on Your Journey



