

4. TRAFFIC ON THE HIGHWAY – RULES OF THE ROAD

Radar Detectors
Both possession and
use of radar detectors
is illegal in
New Brunswick.

It is an offence for any person to fail to comply with an order, a signal or a direction of a peace officer or to fail to observe the instructions of any official traffic sign or signal except when otherwise directed by a peace officer.

4.1 Collisions

The driver of any vehicle involved in a collision causing death or injury to any person or property damage must stop at the scene of the collision, give his/her name, address, the registration number of his/her vehicle along with the liability insurance card and show his/her driver's licence to the person struck or to occupants of any vehicle collided with or to a witness and shall render all reasonable assistance to any injured person.

First at the Scene

Remember, handling the injured must be avoided unless there is added danger of being struck by oncoming motorists.

Emergency Vehicles

Upon the approach from either direction of any authorized emergency vehicle giving an audible signal by way of bell or siren and visual by flashing red lights, the driver of all vehicles must immediately drive to the right hand curb and must stop and remain stopped until the emergency vehicle has passed, unless otherwise directed by a peace officer.

Reporting Collisions

Collisions resulting in death or injury to any person, or total property damage to an apparent extent of \$1,000.00 or more must be reported immediately to the nearest office of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or if in a town or city, to a member of the local police.

Collision reports must be forwarded to the Registrar of Motor Vehicles within 24 hours.

The Registrar of Motor Vehicles is authorized to suspend the operating privileges of any person failing to report a collision.

Financial Responsibility

A driver involved in a collision in which a person is injured, even slightly, or killed, or when the total property damage amounts to \$1,000.00 or more, must be able to prove his/her financial responsibility at the time of the collision. The accepted proof is a New Brunswick Liability Insurance Card, issued by an authorized insurance company, showing that public liability and property damage coverage has been issued on behalf of the driver or the owner of the vehicle.

The Registrar, on receipt of a collision report that does not show the owner or driver has financial responsibility, must suspend the motor vehicle privileges of the owner and operator and cancel all registrations and licence against both the owner and driver. Before reinstatement can be made, proof of financial responsibility for the future must be filed with the Registrar of Motor Vehicles.

4.2 Speed Restrictions

Where no speed hazard exists that require lower speed, the speed limits on provincial streets and highways are:

- a) 50 km (30 miles) per hour in any urban district;
- b) 80 km (50 miles) per hour in other locations or as otherwise posted.

This means that a driver apprehended at speeds in excess of those noted above is committing an offence.

OTHER SPEED LIMITS MAY BE INDICATED FOR CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE HIGHWAYS BY SIGNS ERECTED BY ORDER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY AND THESE POSTED LIMITS MAY NOT BE EXCEEDED.

No person is permitted to operate a vehicle upon any highway at such a speed as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person, including his/her own.

4.3 Slow Drivers

It is an offence under the Act for any person to drive at such a slow speed as to block the normal and reasonable movement of traffic, except when reduced speed is necessary for safe operation.

Should a driver find it necessary to drive at a slow speed on the open highway, he/she must always keep well to the right and occasionally look back to see if traffic is being slowed down and if so, the driver must pull off the road and give the traffic a chance to pass.

To delay traffic is a discourteous and illegal act and greatly increases the chance of a collision. The "road hog" is a menace almost as great as those who drive too fast for conditions.



4.4 Overtaking

Except when overtaking and where passing on the right is permitted, the driver of an overtaken vehicle must move to the right in favour of the overtaking vehicle upon hearing audible signal and shall not increase the speed of his/her vehicle until completely passed by the overtaking vehicle.

It is an offence to pass another vehicle on the right except when:

- a) overtaking a vehicle making a left turn or signalling a left turn;
- b) on a one way street;
- c) on streets and highways marked for multi-lanes going in the same direction.

Extreme care should be taken in the above situations because other drivers may swerve over to the right without warning. **You must not drive off the roadway onto the shoulder to pass another vehicle.**

It is unlawful for a vehicle to be driven to the left side of the roadway under the following circumstances:

- a) When approaching the crest of a grade or upon a curve in the highway where the driver's view is obstructed within such distance as to create a hazard in the event another vehicle might approach from the opposite direction.
- b) When approaching within 30 metres (100 feet) of or crossing any intersection or railroad grade crossing; or
- c) When the view is obstructed upon approaching within 30 metres (100 feet) of any bridge, viaduct or tunnel).



4.5 School Zones, School Buses and Construction Zones

If you are approaching a school bus from the front or the rear that has stopped to take on or discharge passengers as indicated by flashing red lights, you must bring your vehicle to a full stop not less than 5 metres (16 feet) in front or rear of the school bus and

wait while passengers are embarking or disembarking and you shall not proceed until the school bus resumes motion or until signalled by the school bus driver to proceed.

When driving in a school zone, you must take extra caution and reduce speed. Recent amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Act* have doubled fines for speeding in a signed school zone. This increase will

provide safer access for children and pedestrians on roadways while traveling to school facilities. The speed limit for school zones is 50 km/h in an urban district unless a different rate of speed has been prescribed on the signs facing approaching traffic. This speed limit for school zones is in effect between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the days which school is in session.



Speeding is an issue of great concern within construction zones. To help address this issue, fines for this offence have been doubled to improve the safety of workers. Drivers should comply with the speed limit prescribed by signs that have been erected by the Department of Transportation while a worker is present within the construction zone. This speed limit is 50 km/h in an urban district unless a different rate of speed has been prescribed on the signs facing approaching traffic. In sections of the zone where no speed limit has been posted, the limit is 80 km/h. Proper signs also mark the commencement and the end of the zone for approaching traffic.

4.6 Drive on Right Half of Highway

Upon all highways of sufficient width, vehicles must be operated on the right half of the highway and slow moving traffic must move close to the right hand edge or curb.

**Keep well over on your side of the road.
Do not hug the centre line.**

4.7 Laned Traffic and Pavement Markings

Where a street or highway has been divided into lanes for traffic, a vehicle must be driven within a single lane.

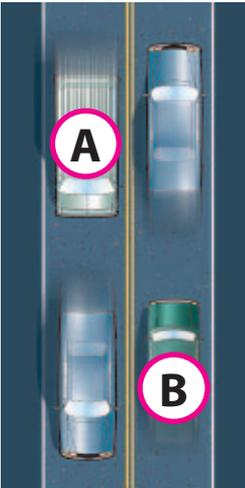
A vehicle must be driven in the lane nearest the right hand edge of the highway, except when preparing to make a left turn or when passing another vehicle.

White lines

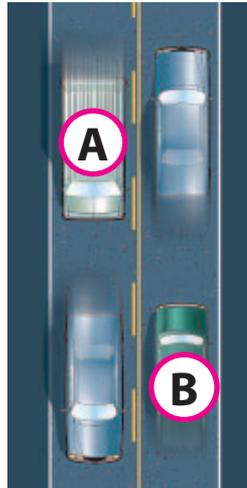
White lines are used to divide lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. White lines also may mark the right shoulder of the highway.

Yellow lines

Yellow lines on the pavement divide traffic moving in opposite directions. They are for your guidance and protection and can assist you in driving safely.



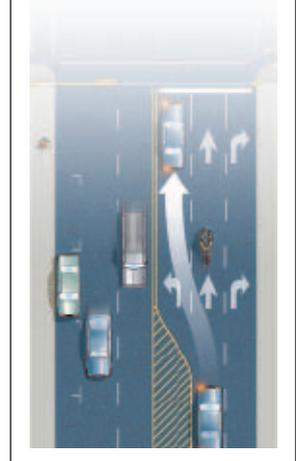
Neither A nor B may pass.



A may pass, but B is prohibited from passing.

Painted Islands

These markings are painted on the pavement at an approach to an intersection to provide a protected or exclusive lane for left or right-turning vehicles. Once in the turning lane, the motorist must turn left or right only, as the case may be, and **should not drive over the striped, painted islands**. Pavement arrows are used to show the direction in which the driver should move when using the lane concerned.

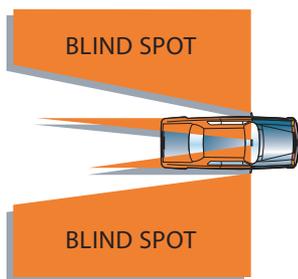


When the centre markings consist of two yellow lines and the solid line is on your side you are prohibited from passing. When the broken line is on your side it indicates that passing is permitted if traffic and other conditions allow.

A single broken yellow line marking the centre of a highway permits passing when traffic, sight distance and other conditions are ideal. A solid single yellow line indicates that passing is not permitted.

4.8 Blind Spots

All vehicles have a “blind spot” in the right and left rear corners. Your rear view mirror will not show a car in the lane next to yours when its front bumper is about even with or ahead of your rear bumper. If you rely only upon your inside mirror and turn into another lane without looking over your shoulder you could collide with a vehicle travelling in your blind spot.



4.9 Passing

Many serious collisions are caused by improper passing. After deciding that it is necessary to pass and pavement markings permit, to avoid collisions, follow these rules:

1. Stay back. Often the habit of moving up closely behind a vehicle leads to collisions. Your view of the road ahead is obscured and it becomes necessary to cut out sharply to pass. When you do cut out, you may not have the time to pull in should there be an oncoming car.
2. Check ahead for oncoming vehicles or obstructions.
3. Check your rear view mirror for vehicles which may be overtaking you from behind.
4. Signal left.
5. Check your “blind spot” by looking back over your left shoulder.
6. Move left gradually.
7. Accelerate (You are not permitted to exceed the posted speed limit).

Do not attempt to pass a vehicle on a curve or hill. Keep to your own side of the “life line”.

8. Signal right after you have passed. Look over right shoulder.
9. Move right when you can see in your rear view mirror the headlights of the vehicle you have passed.
10. Resume your normal speed and cancel signal.

Caution

When approaching at night use low beam headlights until you have started to pass.

If another driver wants to pass you and gives audible warning, you must give way by driving to the right and must not increase your speed until the driver has completed the passing procedure.

It is unlawful to drive left of centre of the highway if you do not have sufficient distance to permit overtaking and passing another vehicle to be completed safely. You must not prevent the safe operation of any vehicle; either the one you are passing or one approaching from the opposite direction.

In any event, it is illegal to pass or drive left of the centre of the highway on a curve or when approaching the crest of a hill where your view along the highway is obstructed within a distance of 150 metres (500 feet) or where the pavement markings prohibit.

When changing lanes, never move from one lane of traffic to another until you make certain that you can do so safely. This means that you must check oncoming traffic for safe clearance to the side of, ahead of and behind your vehicle and give the proper signal before changing lanes.

LEFT TURN



RIGHT TURN



SLOW TO STOP



4.10 Signalling

The law requires you to signal other drivers of your intention to stop or decrease the speed of your vehicle, turn to the left or the right, change from one lane of traffic to another lane of traffic, leave the roadway or set your vehicle in motion from a parked position.

If a vehicle is so constructed or loaded as to prevent the hand and arm signal from being visible, or if any portion of the vehicle or the load on the vehicle extends more than 60 centimetres (24 inches) to the left of the centre of the vehicle's steering wheel, the signal must be given by a mechanical or electrical signalling device.

Signals must be given by signalling devices, stop light or hand and arm. Give correct signals well in advance and in such a way as to be plainly visible to other drivers. Check your signalling devices frequently to ensure that they are working properly.

All signals shall be given at least 30 metres (100 feet) before making a turn.

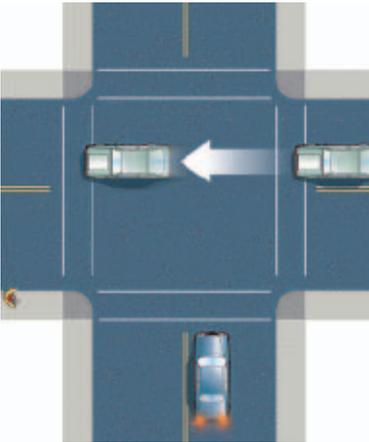
4.11 Right of Way

The fact that you believe you should be granted the right of way does not necessarily relieve you from responsibility for a collision.

Intersection

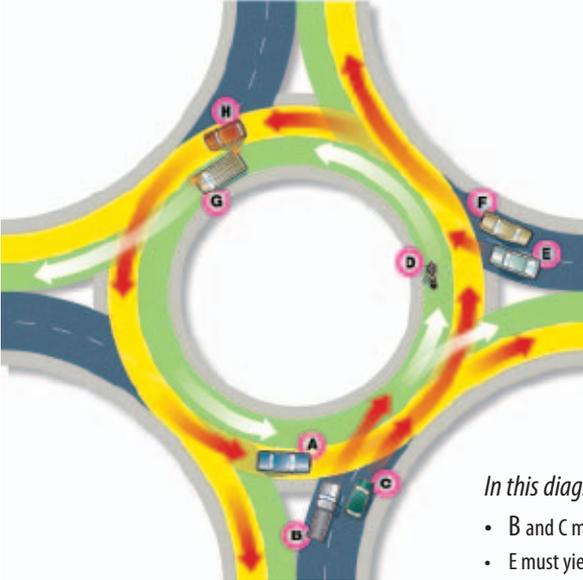
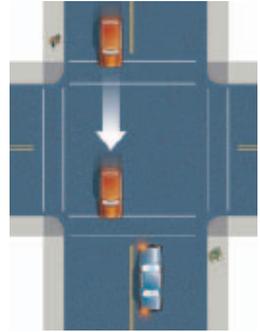
When approaching an intersection you must yield the right of way to a vehicle which has entered the intersection.

When two vehicles enter an uncontrolled intersection (three or four way stop signs) at approximately the same time, you must yield to the driver on your right. If the intersection is controlled, the lights control the authority to proceed.



Left Turn

The driver of a vehicle intending to turn to the left must yield to any vehicle approaching from the opposite direction which is within an intersection or so close as to constitute an immediate hazard. Keep wheels straight until ready to turn.



In this diagram:

- B and C must yield to A.
- E must yield to D while F and D proceed.
- H must yield to G.

Rotary

When driving in a rotary or traffic circle you must drive in a counter-clockwise direction. If you are approaching a rotary or traffic circle, you must yield the right of way to traffic which is already in it and which is approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard.

Driveway

Before entering a highway you must yield the right of way to all vehicles approaching on the highway.



Before emerging from an alley, driveway or building in a business or residential district, you must stop your vehicle immediately prior to driving on the sidewalk or on the sidewalk area extending across any alleyway.

Before entering an alley, driveway or building or across a sidewalk, you must yield the right of way to pedestrians crossing the entrance to the alley, driveway or building or on the sidewalk at the point where your vehicle is crossing.

4.12 Railway Crossings

When the driver of a motor vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and notices the lights flashing or a flagman or a train dangerously close to the crossing, the driver must bring his/her vehicle to a stop not less than 5 metres (16 feet) from the nearest rail and shall not proceed until he/she can do so safely.

A driver shall not drive his/her vehicle around any gate or barrier used to prevent vehicles from crossing the track(s).

In cases where traffic is heavy and slow, i.e. city, a driver should never start to cross a track(s) unless there is sufficient room across the track(s) to accommodate the whole vehicle in order to prevent stopping across any part of the track(s).

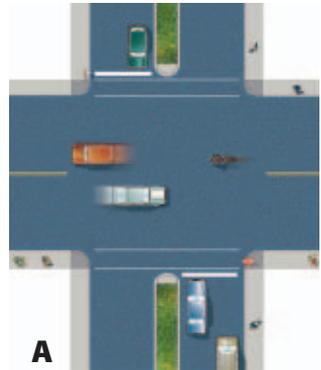
All buses or other vehicles carrying passengers for hire or any vehicle carrying an explosive substance



or flammable liquids as cargo are required to stop, listen and look in both directions before proceeding through a railway crossing. Be prepared to stop if you are following any of these types of vehicles.

4.13 Yield Sign

The yield sign is placed at an intersection which does not require a stop sign but does require some control. You must yield the right of way to traffic in the intersection or approaching so closely as to constitute an immediate hazard.



4.14 Stop Sign

A stop sign means you must bring your vehicle to a complete stop at the clearly marked stop line or at the nearest crosswalk (marked or not marked). If there is no painted crosswalk or stop line, stop just before entering the intersection, allowing room for a pedestrian to cross.

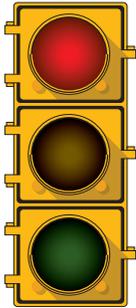
A stop sign means you must bring your vehicle to a stop:

- A:** At a clearly marked stop line
- B:** Before entering the nearest crosswalk, whether marked or unmarked
- C:** At the edge of the travelled portion of the through street or highway where the driver has a view of approaching traffic on the intersecting highway



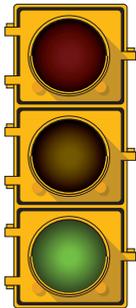
4.15 Traffic Control Signals

Traffic control signals exhibiting green, amber and red lights or green arrow lights indicate the following:



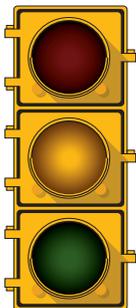
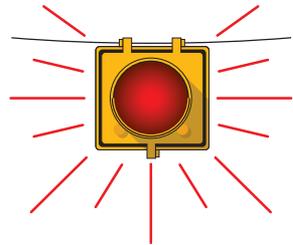
Red Light

You must bring your vehicle to a stop at a clearly marked stop line or, if none, before entering the nearest crosswalk or, if none, before entering the intersection. Unless a sign indicates otherwise, a right turn may be made on a red light provided the vehicle is first brought to a full stop and subject always to the right of way of pedestrians and other traffic.



Red Flasher Light...

means STOP – a complete, dead stop. After stopping, proceed only when the way is clear. (Same as a “Stop Sign”.)



Green Light

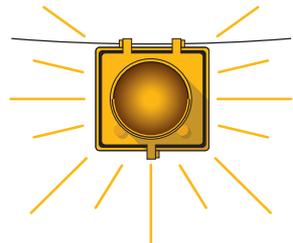
Motorists and pedestrians may proceed unless a specific pedestrian light is in operation.

Yellow or Amber Light

Caution - Red light coming up. If too close to stop safely or you have already entered the intersection, proceed with caution.

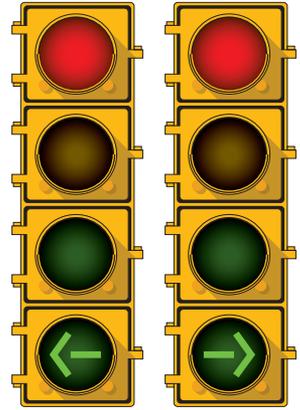
Yellow or Amber Flasher Light...

means SLOW DOWN – and be extra careful of intersecting traffic, whether you have right of way or not. Proceed with caution.



Red Light – Green Arrow

This signal indicates that motorists may turn cautiously in the direction arrow is pointing, after yielding to pedestrians and other traffic.



Red or Amber Pedestrian Light

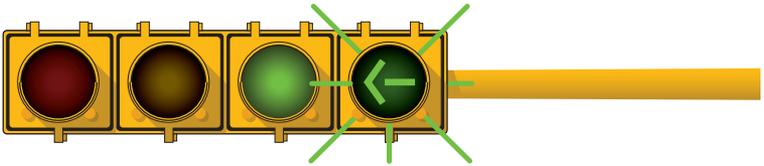


Pedestrian lights in many places are designated by a red or amber light. All vehicles must stop until traffic light changes to green and then proceed cautiously after pedestrians have cleared the crosswalk. Pedestrians may proceed on walk signal.

A driver may cautiously turn right on a red light after signalling and stopping if pedestrian and vehicle traffic will permit, unless a sign prohibits this turn.

Green Flashing Traffic Light

This is an advance green light which means you can turn left if it is safe to do so.



4.16 Peace Officer

When a Peace Officer is directing traffic and clearly directs you, regardless of signs or signals, follow the direction of the Peace Officer with caution.

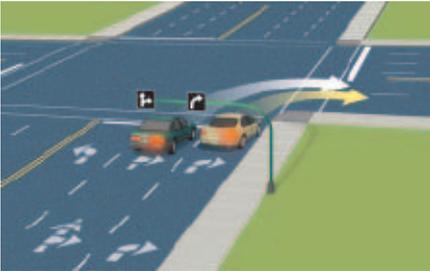
4.17 Crosswalk Guard

Crosswalk guards are authorized to stop traffic for pedestrians crossing at crosswalks only.

4.18 Turning at Intersections

These are some of the rules for making safe, courteous and legal turns.

1. Prepare for the turn before you get there. Decide well ahead where you want to turn. If you are not sure, drive slowly until you can read the street signs or markers or decide in some other way the direction you desire to turn. Never make last minute turns; they are dangerous.
2. Move into the correct lane as soon as possible. You should move into the proper lane sooner if fast moving and/or heavy traffic.



3. Look behind and on both sides to see where other traffic may be so that you can change lanes and make the turn safely.

4. Signal your intention to change lanes and to turn.

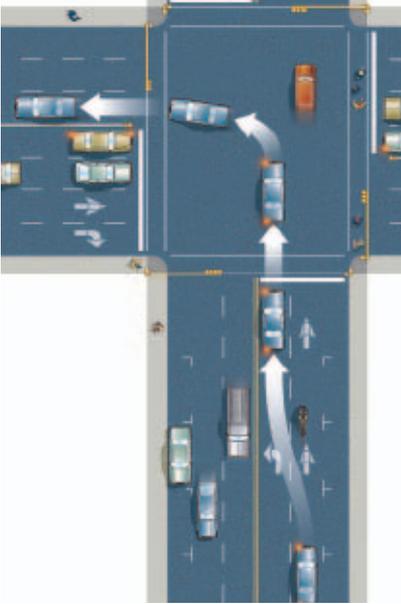
5. To make the turn safely, slow down before you reach the crosswalk and complete

the turn at the same speed at which you entered the intersection. Do not have the brake or clutch pedal pushed down while actually turning. Do not shift gears after entering the intersection.

6. Make the turn correctly. This will be easy if you are in the proper lane and are travelling slow enough at the time you start the turn.
7. Finish the turn in the proper lane which is the lane nearest you.
8. If you are stopped in position to make a left turn and waiting for opposing traffic, do not turn the steering wheel to the left until you are sure you can complete the turn. If you are struck from the rear while stopped with the wheels turned to the left, your car may be pushed into opposing traffic and cause another collision.

Do not turn from a direct course unless the move is permitted and can be made with safety.

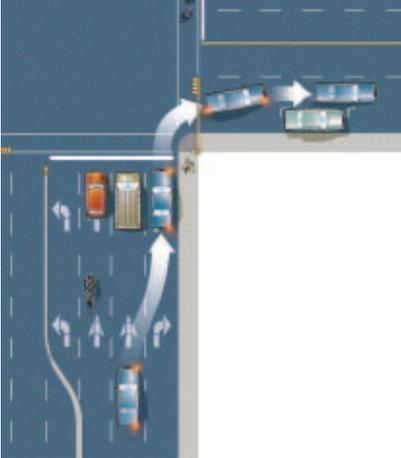
Left Turn



Left Turn – Two Way onto One Way

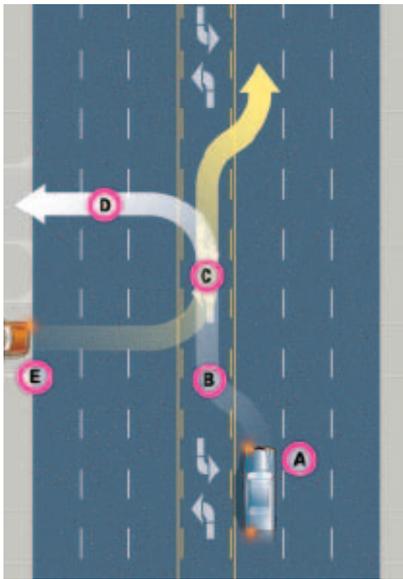


Right Turn



Left Turn – One Way onto One Way





Two-Way Left-Turn Lane

The two-way left turn lanes provide traffic from either direction an area to leave the main travelled portion of the street or highway to make a left turn.

To use these lanes position your vehicle **(A)** next to the two-way turn lane, signal your intention to turn left, reduce your speed. Check traffic in all directions, including your left blind spot. When safe move left into the two-way left turn lane **(B)** as near as possible to the point at which the left turn will be made and **(C)** wait for a break in on-coming traffic. When safe, **(D)** complete your left turn.

These lanes also allow for left turns from a driveway (see arrow for car “E”).

Remember: Extreme caution should be used. Other vehicles may also be using this lane from the opposite direction.

Some vehicles may block your view of on-coming traffic.

Caution: This lane is NOT intended as a passing lane.

4.19 Passing on Multi-lane Streets

Always keep well to the right except when you intend to overtake and pass another vehicle or when you intend to make a left turn. Leave the right lane only when it is safe to do so.

4.20 Parking

When leaving a vehicle standing on a rural highway it must be moved off the paved or main travelled part of the roadway, unless the vehicle is so disabled that it cannot be moved.

It is an offence to park a vehicle on the pavement or main travelled portion of a highway if it can reasonably be parked elsewhere.

It is an offence to disregard a parking regulation sign. Under no circumstances can a vehicle be parked on a highway unless there are 5 metres (16 feet) of unobstructed roadway left for the free passage of other traffic and the parked vehicle can be clearly seen for a distance of sixty 60 metres (200 feet) in each direction.

If your vehicle is stopped because it has broken down, you must take precautions to avoid collisions with other vehicles coming toward you.

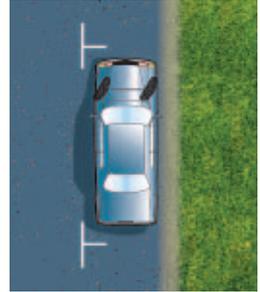
Whenever a vehicle is left unattended, the front wheels should be turned to the curb or side of the highway and the parking brake must be effectively set.

Whenever you park a vehicle on a rural highway at night or whenever lights are required, you must have at least one white or amber light showing from the front on the roadway side of your vehicle and at least one red light showing from the rear on the roadway side of your vehicle.

Your Parking Shows Your Skills

Many drivers find parking in a limited space at the curb their most difficult driving operation. To park skillfully, you must be able to have complete control of your vehicle at all times.

Parking on a Hill



*Uphill or downhill without curb:
Steering wheel turned right.*



*Uphill with curb: Steering wheel
turned left.*



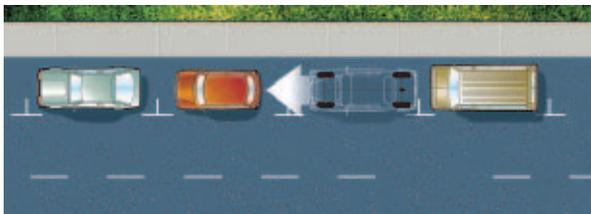
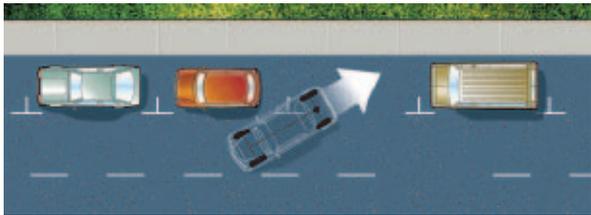
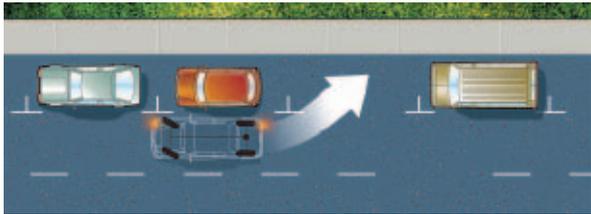
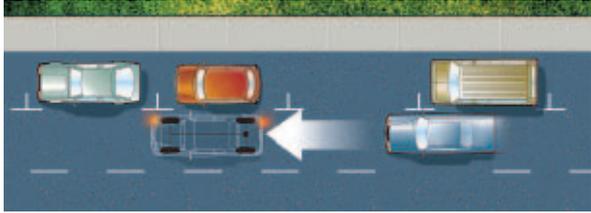
*Downhill with curb: Steering wheel
turned right.*

SET PARKING BRAKE

Parallel Parking

Many drivers have difficulty with this specific type of parking and it requires more skill.

1. Signal your intention. Stop even with car parked ahead of parking spot and about one-half metre (1 1/2 feet) away from it.
2. Back slowly, turning wheel sharply to the right.
3. Continue to back slowly and straighten your wheels
4. When the front of your car passes the rear of car ahead, turn wheel to the left - sharply, then gradually - while backing while ensuring clear passage.
5. Straighten wheels and pull up to within 60 centimetres (2 feet) of car ahead and close to the curb. (no further than 50 cm (20") from the curb).



4.21 Backing

Backing a vehicle is a difficult task at any time, either to go straight back or to turn to one side or the other. Backing procedures should be completed at a speed no faster than a person walking quickly.

Backing Procedures

- Keep your foot on the brake pedal and select reverse gear.
- Do a complete safety scan.
- Get in the proper seating position (photo).
- Aim well into your intended path of travel.
- Move slowly controlling your vehicle with your right/left hand at the 12 o'clock position on the steering wheel.
- Continue to scan in all directions while backing.



4.22 Miscellaneous Traffic Provisions

No person shall drive a vehicle when it is so loaded or when there are in the front seat such number of persons as to obstruct the view of the driver to the front or sides of the vehicle or as to interfere with the driver's control over the driving mechanism of the vehicle, and in no event, when there are more than three persons in the front seat.

Coasting a motor vehicle with the transmission in neutral is prohibited.

No person may deposit any glass, nails, wire, cans or scraps of metals or any rubbish, refuse or waste upon any highway.

No person shall stop a vehicle to load or unload goods other than at the curb or shoulder of the roadway.

No person in control or charge of a motor vehicle shall cause the tires of such vehicle to squeal or make any other unnecessary or unreasonable noise.

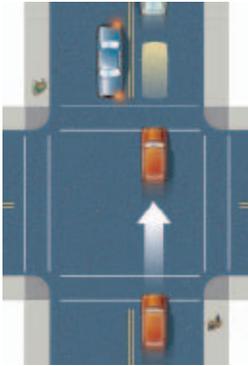
The driver of any motor vehicle carrying passenger(s) for hire or of any bus or any vehicle carrying explosives or flammable liquids, shall not cross a railroad crossing(s) without first bringing his/her vehicle to a complete stop, no closer than 5 metres (16 feet), before the crossing and shall not proceed over the crossing(s) until the way is clear and safe.

Passengers in Vehicles

You must not stop a vehicle on the highway or street for the purpose of taking on or letting off passengers other than at the curb or side of the roadway. You must not permit a person to enter a vehicle while it is in motion.

Intersections and Crosswalks

Except when preparing for a turn, do not enter an intersection or a marked crosswalk unless there is enough space in the roadway on the other side of the intersection for your vehicle to completely clear the intersection or marked crosswalk.



4.23 Pedestrians

The Driver's Responsibility

As the driver of a vehicle you are required to yield the right of way to a pedestrian, which includes a person in a wheelchair, within a marked crosswalk or within an unmarked crosswalk at the end of a block, except at intersections where the movement of pedestrian traffic is being regulated by a peace officer or traffic control signs.

Whenever a vehicle has stopped at a marked crosswalk or at an intersection to permit a pedestrian to cross the roadway it is an offence for the driver of any other vehicle approaching from the rear to overtake and pass the stopped vehicle.

The Pedestrian's Responsibility

Every pedestrian, which includes a person in a wheelchair, crossing a roadway at any point other than within a marked or unmarked crosswalk at the end of a block, is required to yield the right of way to vehicles upon the highway.

At an intersection where traffic is controlled by traffic signals, it is an offence for a pedestrian to disobey the instruction of any traffic signal placed in accordance with the *Motor Vehicle Act* unless otherwise directed by a peace officer.

Walk Light – Pedestrian traffic facing this signal may only proceed in the crosswalk and all other traffic must yield the right of way to the pedestrian traffic.

Don't Walk – Pedestrian traffic facing this signal must not proceed across the intersection.



4.24 Traffic on the Highway

Sharing the Road

When driving, remember that there are many different users of our streets and highways. It is everyone's responsibility to be aware and adjust to the presence and actions of others: passenger car drivers, truck drivers, motorcycle drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, school bus drivers and emergency vehicle operators.

The safety of all road users is shared. The more we make ourselves aware of and accept this responsibility the safer we will make our streets and highways.

Walking on the Highway

Where sidewalks are provided a pedestrian shall not walk along or upon an adjacent highway.

When sidewalks are not provided any pedestrian walking along and upon a highway must, when practical, walk only on the left side of the roadway or its shoulder facing traffic which may approach from the opposite direction.



Wearing dark clothing



Carrying a hankerchief



Wearing medium clothing



Wearing retro-reflective material

Pedestrian Safety

Pedestrian walking on unlighted highways after dark should carry a light or wear light coloured clothing.

In snow conditions, it is advisable to wear some dark clothing.

Retro-Reflective Material

Retro-reflective material can be seen at several hundred metres away. This material reflects light from a vehicle's headlights back towards the driver.

Thumbing Rides

It is an offence for any person to stand in a roadway for the purpose of soliciting a ride from the driver of a private vehicle.

4.25 Horseback Riding

Horseback riders and drivers of horse drawn vehicles are permitted to use streets and roadways unless restricted by signs.

The rider/driver should travel with traffic, as far to the right as possible, obey all signs and signals that apply. Riders should always observe stop signs and use the appropriate hand signals when crossing the road. It is not permitted to ride horseback on the sidewalk, to race the animal or to leave the horse unattended.

Remember, a horse is sometimes unpredictable. Be alert, slow down and give plenty of room until you have safely passed.

4.26 Bicyclists

It is an offence to drive on sidewalks. Bicyclists are subject to the same rules of the road as motor vehicle drivers. A cyclist must drive in the same lane as traffic, as close to the right as possible. Light or reflective clothing should be worn at night. Bicycles should be equipped with a headlight, reflectors and a horn or bell.

It is mandatory to wear a helmet when riding a bicycle.