









# Signs you must recognize

Shape and color tell you what to do before you read the text.

## Sign color decoder

 <b>Red</b> Stop, yield, or do not enter	 <b>Yellow</b> Warning of hazard ahead	 <b>Orange</b> Work zone, construction, or detour	 <b>Green</b> Permitted movement or directions
 <b>Blue</b> Driver services, hospitals, rest areas	 <b>Brown</b> Recreation, parks, scenic areas	 <b>White</b> Regulatory — must obey the posted rule	 <b>Yellow-green</b> Pedestrian, school, or bike crossing

## Iowa signs you will see on the test

 <b>Railroad crossing</b> Look, listen, and prepare to stop at the crossing if necessary.	 <b>Disabled parking</b> Reserved parking for persons with disabilities only.	 <b>Right lane ends</b> Right lane ends ahead — traffic must merge left.	 <b>No U-turn</b> U-turns are prohibited at this location.	 <b>Do not pass</b> Passing other vehicles is not permitted — for any reason.	 <b>Slippery road</b> Road ahead may be slippery. Slow down and proceed with caution.
 <b>Advisory speed</b> Maximum safe speed for an expressway exit — not a legal limit.	 <b>Merge from right</b> Watch for traffic merging into your lane from the right.	 <b>Yield</b> Give the right-of-way to traffic on the road you wish to enter.	 <b>Railroad crossing round advance warning</b> Round yellow advance warning: slow, look, listen, prepare to stop.	 <b>Low clearance</b> Distance from road surface to the bottom of a bridge or overpass.	 <b>Do not enter</b> Prevents wrong-direction entry on one-way streets and ramps.
 <b>Railroad crossing (round advance warning)</b> Approaching a railroad crossing — prepare to stop.	 <b>School zone</b> Pentagon shape: school zone ahead — watch for children.	 <b>Steep hill</b> Steep downgrade ahead. Use lower gear; do not ride brakes.	 <b>Stop</b> Full stop at the line — check all directions before proceeding.	 <b>Curve ahead</b> Upcoming curve in the road — slow before, not in, the curve.	 <b>Sharp turn</b> Road changes direction at an extreme angle — reduce speed.

## Sign shape shortcuts

- Octagon** — Always means STOP. The only 8-sided sign.
- Downward triangle** — Always means YIELD. Red and white edges.
- Diamond** — Warning of a road condition or hazard ahead.
- Vertical rectangle** — Regulatory — speed limits, turn restrictions, lane use.
- Horizontal rectangle** — Guidance — route markers, exit info, distance signs.
- Pennant** — Sideways triangle on LEFT side = START of no-passing zone.
- Round** — Yellow circle with X+R-R = railroad crossing ahead.
- Pentagon** — School zone or school crossing — children present.

# Rules of the road

## Right of way

**4-way stop** — First to arrive goes first. Ties: yield to driver on the right.

**Uncontrolled intersection** — Yield to the vehicle on your right.

**Left turn** — Yield to all oncoming traffic and to pedestrians.

**Alley or driveway** — Yield to all traffic before entering the street.

**Emergency vehicle with siren** — Pull to right edge of road and stop until it passes.

**Pedestrian in crosswalk** — Always yield — even if crossing carelessly.

**Green arrow left** — You have right-of-way to turn left; oncoming must stop.

**Stopped school bus** — Stop until red lights stop and stop arm retracts.

**Flashing yellow light** — Slow down and proceed with caution — do not stop.

**Traffic signals out** — Treat as 4-way stop — first arrive, first go.

## Iowa speed limits

Residential / urban street	25 mph (typical)	School zone (children present)	20 mph (posted)
Two-lane rural highway	55 mph	Signal distance ≤ 45 mph zone	100 ft before turn
Interstate / divided highway	65–70 mph	Signal distance > 45 mph zone	300 ft before turn

## Lane markings and changes

**Double solid yellow** — No passing from either direction.

**Broken yellow** — Passing allowed when safe from that side.

**Solid + broken yellow** — Only the side next to broken line may pass.

**Broken white** — Lane change OK when safe (same direction traffic).

**Solid white across lane** — Stop line or crosswalk boundary — do not cross.

**Yellow lines separate** — Opposite-direction traffic on two-way roads.

**White lines separate** — Same-direction lanes or shoulders.

**Change lanes: check** — Mirror + signal + blind-spot shoulder check.

## Turning and signaling

**Signal ≤ 45 mph zone** — Signal continuously for last 100 feet before turning.

**Signal > 45 mph zone** — Signal at least 300 feet before turning.

**Hand signal — left** — Left arm extended straight out the window.

**Hand signal — right** — Left arm bent upward at the elbow.

**Hand signal — slow/stop** — Left arm bent downward at the elbow.

**Right on red** — Allowed after a full stop, unless posted otherwise.

**Left turn from one-way** — From a one-way street onto a one-way street only, after full stop.

**Always signal when** — Turning, changing lanes — even with no visible traffic.

## Following distance

**Under 40 mph — experienced** — At least 2 seconds of following distance.

**Under 40 mph — new driver** — At least 3 seconds of following distance.

**Above 40 mph** — 4–5 seconds recommended.

**Increase following distance when** — Rain, fog, ice, night, heavy load, or towing.

**Behind large truck** — Follow farther — improves your visibility around sides.

**Behind motorcycle** — Allow extra space — motorcycles can stop faster.

**Being tailgated** — Slow gradually and encourage the driver to pass.

**Passing prohibited within** — 100 feet of intersections or railroad crossings.

## Sharing the road

**Bicyclists** — Same rights as vehicles — give full lane, check before turning.

**Pedestrian with white cane** — Always stop and yield — no exceptions.

**School bus — amber lights** — Slow to 20 mph; prepare to stop.

**School bus — red lights** — Stop both directions; wait for arm to retract.

**Railroad crossing — gates down** — Stop; never drive around or under gates.

**Railroad crossing — no signals** — Slow, look both ways, yield to any train.

**Railroad — after train passes** — Wait for all gates to fully rise before crossing.

**Truck blind spots** — If you can't see the mirror, the driver can't see you.

# Safety, OWI, parking, and test-day

## Iowa OWI (DUI) quick-facts

<b>Adult BAC limit (21+)</b>	0.08 %	<b>Implied Consent covers</b>	Breath, urine, or blood test
<b>BAC 0.02% effect</b>	Each +0.02% increase nearly doubles crash risk	<b>Only time lowers BAC</b>	Time — coffee and food do not
<b>Implied Consent — refusal OR failure</b>	License withdrawn on the spot either way	<b>Alcohol impairs</b>	Judgment, reaction time, and coordination

## Hazardous conditions

<b>DO</b>	<b>DON'T</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Use low beams in fog, rain, or snow</li> <li>+ Increase following distance in rain, fog, or ice</li> <li>+ Steer in the direction of the skid; ease off gas</li> <li>+ Turn on headlights at dawn, dusk, and when wipers are on</li> <li>+ Remove all snow and ice from all windows before driving</li> <li>+ Use a lower gear on steep downgrades to control speed</li> <li>+ Pull over and stop if visibility drops to a dangerous level</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Use high beams in fog — light reflects back</li> <li>- Use cruise control on wet or icy roads</li> <li>- Brake hard on ice — locks wheels and kills steering</li> <li>- Drive around lowered railroad crossing gates — ever</li> <li>- Use a handheld cell phone for any purpose while driving</li> <li>- Slow down to look at crashes or other roadside events</li> <li>- Let go of the steering wheel if hit from behind</li> </ul>

## Parking rules

<b>Red curb</b>	No stopping, standing, or parking	<b>Uphill no curb</b>	Turn wheels toward road edge (right)
<b>Downhill — any road</b>	Turn wheels toward the curb or road edge	<b>On any hill</b>	Set parking brake AND leave in Park
<b>Uphill with curb</b>	Turn wheels away from curb (left)	<b>Parked vehicle left behind</b>	Leave written notice with name, address, and details

## Equipment and vehicle rules

**Seat belt** — Use both lap and shoulder belts — required for all.

**Child restraints** — Correct seat type required by age and size — all vehicles.

**Headlights — when on** — Rain, snow, fog, dawn, dusk, reduced visibility, or when windshield wipers are in use.

**Handheld phone** — Illegal for any purpose while driving in Iowa.

**Proof of insurance** — Must show at any collision or citation stop.

**Mirrors — adjust** — Adjust rearview and side mirrors before driving.

**Police stop procedure** — Stay in vehicle, hands on wheel, wait for officer.

**Documents at stop** — License, registration, and proof of insurance required.

## Iowa test-day cheat box

<b>Exam length</b>	35 questions	<b>Permit fee</b>	\$6
<b>Passing score</b>	28 of 35 (80 %)	<b>Retake wait</b>	Next calendar day
<b>Minimum permit age</b>	14 years old	<b>Agency</b>	Iowa DOT (not DMV)

## Last-minute test-taking tips

Iowa's bank leans heavily on traffic laws — more than 40% of questions. Read every option before you choose; the test often includes a partially-correct answer to trip you up. Watch for 'All of the above' as a fourth option — it is correct more often than not. When two answers seem right, pick the more cautious one. Remember Iowa's key quirks: signal 100 ft at 45 mph or below, 300 ft above 45 mph; follow 2 sec under 40 mph, 4–5 sec over; BAC 0.08% for adults; DOT not DMV.