









Signs you must recognize

■ Sign colors

 Red Stop, yield, or prohibited	 Yellow Warning — slow down	 Orange Work zone or detour ahead	 White Regulatory — must obey
 Green Guide — directions, distances	 Blue Motorist services nearby	 Brown Recreation or scenic area	 Fluorescent yellow-green Pedestrian or school crossing

■ Signs you must know

 Stop Red octagon — stop completely, then yield	 No Passing Zone Yellow pennant — no passing from this point	 Merging Traffic Traffic entering from the right ahead	 Slippery When Wet Reduce speed on wet pavement	 Curve Ahead Road curves right — reduce speed	 Sharp Curve Left Chevron — road curves sharply left
 Railroad Crossing Yellow circle — stop if train visible or within 1,500 ft	 T-Intersection Ahead Road ends — prepare to turn left or right	 Traffic Signal Ahead Signal-light ahead — prepare to stop	 Right Lane Ends Right lane merges left ahead	 Exit Only Lane Yellow panel — your lane exits; stay right to exit	 Low Shoulder Shoulder lower than road — drifting off is dangerous
 Steep Hill Ahead Downgrade ahead — use lower gear, check brakes	 Winding Road Three or more curves ahead — slow down	 Road Work Ahead Orange diamond — workers on or near roadway	 Detour Orange rectangle — follow arrow to detour route	 Do Not Enter Red circle — wrong way; do not enter this road	 Do Not Pass White rectangle — passing prohibited here

■ Shape shortcuts

Octagon — Always a stop sign — always red

Triangle (pennant) — No-passing zone — always yellow, points right

Diamond — Warning — slow down and be alert

Rectangle (vertical) — Regulatory — must obey

Rectangle (horizontal) — Guide or information sign

Circle — Railroad advance warning

Pentagon — School zone or school crossing

Orange background (any) — Work zone or detour — obey posted limits

Rules of the road

Right-of-way

- Yield sign** — Slow down; yield to all vehicles and pedestrians
- Four-way stop — arrived first** — Driver who stops first goes first
- Four-way stop — simultaneous** — Yield to driver on your right
- Roundabout entry** — Keep right; yield to traffic already in circle

- Driveway or private road** — Yield to all traffic on the public road
- Emergency vehicle** — Pull right and stop until it passes
- Pedestrians in crosswalk** — Always yield — even without a crossing guard
- Green light with pedestrians** — Stop and let pedestrians cross safely first

Speed limits (where no sign posted)

Residential / urban	Obey posted sign — no default set
Work zone	Set by project organization — obey posted sign
Reduced speed sign	New limit begins AT the sign
Speed Zone Ahead sign	Lower limit coming — start slowing now

Look-ahead rule	Scan at least 10 seconds ahead on open road
Slow-moving vehicle	Triangular orange emblem — 25 mph or less
Railroad crossing	Stop if train visible or within 1,500 ft
Advisory speed (EXIT sign)	Maximum safe speed for that exit — heed it

Turning and signaling

- Signal before turning or lane change** — Required by law — signal even with no visible traffic
- Timing** — Signal at least 100 feet before the turn
- Left turn signal while waiting** — Keep wheels straight until you begin turning
- Right turn** — Check left, right, left; yield to pedestrians crossing
- U-turn** — Obey posted signs; never on curve or crest

- Lane change on highway** — Check mirrors, signal, check blind spot, then move
- Bicycle passing — 2-lane road** — Wait for clear gap; leave at least 3 feet clearance
- Yellow signal** — Stop if safe to do so — not a race to beat it

Following distance and passing

- Default following distance** — Maintain safe cushion; increase in bad conditions
- Slippery roads** — Increase following distance — braking takes longer
- Large vehicles** — Double your following distance behind trucks/buses
- Stopping on incline** — Allow larger space cushion than usual
- No-passing zone signs** — Do Not Pass sign or yellow pennant — no passing

- Passing safely** — Check ahead is clear; return when you can see the front of the passed vehicle in your rearview mirror.
- Highway breakdown** — Use four-way flashers; pull off as far right as possible
- Lookout distance** — Look at least 10 seconds ahead to avoid last-minute braking

Railroad and school bus rules

- Railroad — when to stop** — Train visible OR within 1,500 feet of crossing
- Railroad — crossing signals flashing** — Stop; do not proceed until crossing is clear
- School bus — red lights flashing** — All traffic in both directions must stop
- School bus — when to move** — Not until red lights stop flashing

- School crosswalk** — Yield to pedestrians even without crossing guard
- Seat belts** — Required — FALSE: rear passengers are exempt
- Familiar with vehicle** — Adjust mirrors and controls before driving
- Traffic signs and markings** — Must always be obeyed

Safety, DUI, parking and test-day

DUI and alcohol

Legal BAC limit (21+)	0.08% — illegal at or above this level	Alcohol affects	Concentration, perception, judgment, and memory
Only way to lower BAC	Time — not coffee, food, or cold shower	BAC depends on	Amount consumed, body weight, time — NOT fitness level
Impairment starts	Below legal limit — affects concentration and judgment	Driving after drinking	Serious traffic safety problem — use a sober driver
Lack of sleep effect	Same impairment as alcohol — do not drive drowsy	Coffee / cold shower	No effect on BAC — only time reduces it

Hazardous conditions

DO

- + Increase following distance on slippery or wet roads
- + Use headlights in rain, fog, or low visibility
- + Reduce speed in work zones and school zones
- + Look at least 10 seconds ahead on open roads
- + Use lower gear on steep downgrades
- + Stay calm if an aggressive driver cuts you off — move out of the way

DON'T

- Drive drowsy — same impairment as alcohol
- Use cruise control on wet or icy roads
- Slam brakes on ice — pump gently or use ABS threshold
- Pass on curves, crests, or in no-passing zones
- Stop in a travel lane unless it is an emergency
- Follow trucks or buses too closely — double your distance

Parking rules

Downhill parking	Turn wheels right (toward curb or edge)	Fire hydrant	No parking within required distance of hydrant
Uphill with curb	Turn wheels left (away from curb); set brake	Unattended vehicle	Must follow all applicable rules — see 'All of the above'
Bicycle lane	No parking allowed in a marked bicycle lane	Low shoulder caution	Drifting onto low shoulder risks loss of control
Crosswalk	No parking on or blocking a crosswalk	Steep hill	Engage lower gear before descent; don't rely on brakes alone

Montana MVD test-day cheat box

Questions	33 total — must get 27 correct (82%)	Supervised hours	50 total (including 10 at night) before road test
Miss limit	Miss 6 or fewer to pass; miss 7 = fail	Provisional night curfew	No solo driving 11 PM – 5 AM (first year)
Permit fee	\$5 — lowest in the nation	Passengers — first 6 months	Max 1 non-family passenger under 18
Supervisor age	18+ (not 21+) with at least 1 year of license	Restrictions lift	After 1 year OR on 18th birthday — whichever is FIRST

Vehicle rules and equipment

Seat belts — Required for all occupants — front and rear

Child restraints — Required — see Montana law for age/weight thresholds

Unfamiliar vehicle — Adjust mirrors, seat, and controls before moving

Headlights — Required in rain, fog, or poor visibility conditions

Four-way flashers — Use if broken down; warn other drivers immediately

Hydroplaning — Tires ride on water film — slow down in rain

Tire blowout on highway — Keep wheel straight; coast to safe stop

Traffic signs/markings — Must always be obeyed — no exceptions

Last-minute tips

MT has a 33-Q test with an 82% bar — you can only miss 6. Traffic laws (42%) and safety (30%) dominate the bank; nail those two and you cover 72% of the pool. Road signs add 17%. There is no named default following-distance in seconds — the tested rule is 'increase it whenever conditions are less than ideal.' BAC 0.08% is the legal threshold; impairment begins before that — and only time lowers BAC. Your supervisor must be 18+, not 21+. Restrictions lift after 1 year OR your 18th birthday, whichever comes FIRST. The \$5 permit fee is the cheapest in the country — bring ID and MT residency proof to any MVD office.