

# Signs you must recognize

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

 <b>Red</b> Stop, yield, or do not enter	 <b>Yellow</b> Warning of hazard or road condition 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> Fluorescent — curves, sharp turns, pedestrian/school crossings

 <b>Two-way traffic</b> Two-way traffic ahead. Stay to the right.	 <b>Cross intersection</b> Another road crosses ahead. Be ready to yield.	 <b>Stop</b> Come to a full stop; proceed only when safe.	 <b>Yield</b> Slow down; give right-of-way to cross traffic.	 <b>Sharp right turn</b> Road turns sharply to the right; slow down.	 <b>Slippery road</b> Road ahead may be slippery when wet.
 <b>Railroad crossing (round)</b> Round yellow sign: railroad crossing ahead.	 <b>School zone</b> Five-sided: school zone. Stop if children are present.	 <b>Large arrow — direction</b> Yellow rectangle with arrow: road changes direction at an extreme angle ahead. Slow down.	 <b>Reverse curve</b> Road curves right then left; reduce speed.	 <b>Steep hill</b> Steep hill ahead; check brakes, control speed.	 <b>Lane ends / merge left</b> Right lane ends; traffic must merge left.
 <b>Railroad advance warning</b> Railroad crossing ahead — prepare to stop.	 <b>Merging traffic</b> Traffic merging from the right; allow space.	 <b>Work zone (orange)</b> Orange sign: roadwork ahead. Fines doubled.	 <b>Slow-moving vehicle</b> Orange triangle on rear: vehicle travels ≤25 mph.		

**Octagon** — Always STOP. Only 8-sided sign on the road.

**Downward triangle** — Always YIELD. Red and white edges.

**Diamond** — Warning of a road condition or hazard ahead.

**Pentagon (5-sided)** — School zone or school crossing. Be ready to stop.

**Circle** — Railroad crossing warning. Stop if train is near.

# Rules of the road

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

**4-way stop — same time (tie)** — Yield to the driver on your right.

**Left turn** — Yield to all oncoming vehicles traveling straight or turning right.

**Yield sign** — Slow down; yield to cross traffic close enough to cause conflict.

**White cane or guide dog** — Must yield at all times. Do not honk.

**Emergency vehicle (siren + lights)** — Pull to right edge and stop. Never block intersections.

**Pedestrian in crosswalk** — Yield at all times — marked or unmarked crosswalk.

**Stopped school bus (red flashers)** — Stop regardless of your direction until stop arm retracts.

<b>Urban / business / residential</b>	Check posted sign (basic speed law)	<b>Near school (children present)</b>	Obey posted school zone sign
<b>Maximum posted — drive only</b>	Under ideal conditions	<b>Highway — basic speed law</b>	Never faster than safe for conditions

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

**Solid yellow on your side** — Do not pass.

**Broken yellow beside solid yellow** — Passing permitted only from the broken-line side.

**Broken yellow (center)** — Passing permitted from either direction when safe.

**Single broken white** — May cross to pass or change lanes when safe.

**Yellow lines separate** — Traffic moving in opposite directions on two-way roads.

**Signal before turning** — Signal in advance — especially at high speeds, 4–5 seconds.

**Hand signal — left** — Arm straight out the driver window.

**Hand signal — right** — Arm bent up at the elbow.

**Hand signal — slow / stop** — Arm bent down at the elbow.

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

**Passing — when to return** — When you can see both headlights of passed vehicle in mirror.

**Passing — prohibited** — Never on a hill, curve, or where solid line is on your side.

**Flashing red signal** — Treat as a stop sign — stop, yield, proceed when safe.

**Flashing yellow signal** — Slow down, proceed with caution.

**Following distance — slippery road** — Increase following distance beyond normal baseline.

**Following large trucks** — Increase distance to see around the sides.

**Tailgater behind you** — Move right or slow gradually; let them pass.

**Parallel park to curb** — Park within 1 foot of the curb.

**Fire hydrant clearance** — Do not park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.

**Parked downhill — no curb** — Turn wheels right (toward edge of road).

**Parked uphill — no curb** — Turn wheels right (toward edge of road).

**Parked uphill — with curb** — Turn wheels away from curb (left).

# Safety, alcohol, and test day

Adult BAC limit (21+)	0.08%	Only lowers BAC	Time — not food, coffee, or water
Under-21 zero tolerance	Any amount suspends license	Points — 12-month suspension	15 points
BAC 0.02% effect	Doubles accident risk	Points — 24-month suspension	22 points

Red curb	No stopping, standing, or parking	Uphill with curb	Wheels away from curb (left)
Within 15 ft of fire hydrant	No parking	Downhill with curb	Wheels toward curb (right)
Within 1 ft of curb	Required for parallel parking	Parking brake	Use every time you park
Hill with no curb — any direction	Wheels toward edge of road		

**Children 12 and under —**

**Headlights — fog or rain** — Turn on so others can see you; use low beams.

**Headlights — required hours** — 30 min after sunset to 30 min before sunrise.

**Head restraint** — Adjust to contact the back of the head.

**Disabled on highway** — Park all 4 wheels off the road; turn on flashers.

**After a railroad crossing** — Look and wait for a second train before crossing.

Permit fee	\$28	Supervised hours total	50 hours required
Knowledge test questions	25 questions	Of those: after dark	10 hours minimum
Passing score	20 of 25 (80%)	Of those: inclement weather	10 hours minimum (unique to SD)
Earliest driver ed age	14 (earliest in the US)	Restricted permit curfew	10 PM – 6 AM (exceptions with parent)
Permit hold — no driver ed	275 days	Restricted permit duration	6 months minimum (under 18)
Permit hold — with driver ed	180 days	First 6 months on restricted	No passengers except immediate family