









# Signs you must recognize

40-question test — 32 correct to pass

## Sign color decoder

 <b>Red</b> Stop, yield, or prohibition	 <b>Yellow</b> Warning — hazard ahead	 <b>Orange</b> Work zone / construction	 <b>Green</b> Guide, direction, mileage
 <b>Blue</b> Motorist services (gas, food)	 <b>Brown</b> Recreational or scenic area	 <b>White</b> Regulatory (speed, turns)	 <b>Black &amp; White</b> Regulatory (no pass, speed)

## Washington signs you will see on the test

 <b>Winding road</b> Series of curves ahead — reduce speed.	 <b>Four-way intersection</b> Cross street ahead — watch all directions.	 <b>Railroad crossing (advance)</b> Railroad crossing ahead — slow and prepare to yield to trains.	 <b>Railroad crossing (at grade)</b> Slow down and yield for trains at this crossing.	 <b>Do not pass</b> No passing zone — must not pass another vehicle here.	 <b>Sharp curve left</b> Road curves sharply left — slow before the curve.
 <b>Work zone (flagging worker)</b> Workers on or near road ahead — slow and obey flaggers.	 <b>No passing zone (pennant)</b> Yellow pennant shape marks the start of a no-passing zone.	 <b>Soft shoulder</b> Shoulder is soft — drifting off risks losing control.	 <b>Right lane ends / merge</b> Right lane drops — traffic must merge left.	 <b>Do not enter</b> Wrong-way entry prohibited — one-way street or ramp.	 <b>Detour right</b> Orange rectangular sign — follow detour to the right.
 <b>Exit only (freeway)</b> Lane leads to exit only — must exit if staying in lane.	 <b>Extreme angle curve</b> Yellow rectangle with arrow: road curves at an extreme angle — slow as much as for an intersection turn.				

## Sign shape shortcuts

**Octagon** — Stop — only shape meaning full stop.

**Triangle (point down)** — Yield — slow, be prepared to stop.

**Diamond** — Warning — hazard or condition ahead.

**Pennant** — No passing zone begins here.

**Rectangle (vertical)** — Regulatory (speed limits, turn rules).

**Rectangle (horizontal)** — Guide or informational sign.

**Circle (yellow/black)** — Railroad crossing advance warning.

**Pentagon (school)** — School zone or school crossing ahead.

## Pavement markings quick guide

# Rules of the road

## Right of way

**Uncontrolled intersection** — Yield to vehicle on your right — arrived simultaneously.

**Left turn on green** — Yield to oncoming traffic, then turn when safe.

**Green light + pedestrians** — Stop and let pedestrians finish crossing.

**Right turn on red** — Stop, signal, yield to all traffic, then turn if clear.

**Private driveway** — Yield to all pedestrians and road traffic before entering.

**Freeway entry ramp** — Signal, yield to existing traffic, match freeway speed.

**Merging into traffic** — Allow a gap of about four seconds before merging.

**Emergency vehicles** — Pull over and stop when red or blue lights or siren active.

**Transit bus re-entering** — Yield when the transit bus signals to re-enter traffic.

**Pedestrians — always** — Always yield even if pedestrian crossed carelessly.

## Washington speed limits (default — unless posted)

City / town streets	25 mph
School zone (when active)	20 mph (posted)
Shared center turn lane	No more than 300 feet before turning left

Following distance (high speed)	Four seconds behind vehicle ahead
Merge gap recommended	About four seconds
Turn signal distance	At least 100 feet before turning or changing direction

## Lane use and passing

**Two-way road default** — Stay in right lane; use left only for legal passing.

**Multilane one-way — left turn** — Turn from the leftmost lane into the closest available lane.

**Changing lanes** — Signal, check mirrors, check blind spot, then move.

**Do not pass when:** — On curves, at hills, in intersections, or in no-pass zones.

**Bicyclists — two-lane road** — Slow, wait for clear oncoming, pass with sufficient space.

**Motorcycles — lane width** — Entitled to full lane width same as other motor vehicles.

**Shared center lane** — Drive no more than 300 feet in lane before turning left.

## Turns, signals, and lights

**Signal how far ahead** — At least 100 feet before turn or direction change.

**Right turn** — Start and finish in lane closest to right curb.

**Left turn — one-way to one-way** — Enter lane closest to previous lane.

**Missed turn on freeway** — Continue to next exit — never reverse or cut across.

**Hand signal — arm up** — Right turn.

**Hand signal — arm straight out** — Left turn.

**Headlights required when:** — At dusk, rain, fog, overcast days; use low beams in rain/fog.

**High beams — dim within** — 500 feet of oncoming vehicle.

## School buses, railroads, and special vehicles

**School bus — same 2-lane road** — Stop when red lights flash; wait for children to clear.

**School bus — divided highway** — Opposite side need not stop unless local rule posted.

**Crossing guard** — Follow all directions given — required by law.

**Flashing red light** — Treat as stop sign — stop, then proceed when clear.

**Railroad crossing (no signals)** — Prepare to yield to any train; look both ways.

**Railroad crossing in traffic line** — Ensure full space to cross before pulling onto tracks.

**Traffic signal out of power** — Treat as four-way stop.

## Parking rules

**Distance from curb** — Within 12 inches of curb to park legally.

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

**No parking ever** — On a crosswalk or in a marked bicycle lane.

**Freeway shoulder** — May stop only if you have an emergency.

**Hill parking — uphill with curb** — Turn wheels away from curb; set parking brake.

**Hill parking — downhill (curb)** — Turn wheels toward curb (right); set parking brake.

**No standing sign** — May stop briefly only to pick up or discharge passengers.

# Safety, DUI, licensing and test-day

## Washington DUI quick-facts

Adult BAC limit (21+)	0.08% or above	Open container law	Illegal to drink from or possess open alcohol in passenger area
Under-21 BAC limit	Zero nanograms (any detectable amount)	First DUI license suspension	One year minimum
THC limit (21+)	Five nanograms per mL	Refuse BAC test — license suspension	At least one year
Under-21 THC limit	Zero nanograms	Body burns off alcohol	About one drink per hour — only time helps

## Hazardous conditions

### DO

- + Use low beam headlights in rain, fog, or low visibility.
- + Increase following distance on slippery or wet roads.
- + Slow before entering curves; accelerate as you exit.
- + Take foot off gas first when wheels slip on ice.
- + Look toward right edge to reduce oncoming glare at night.
- + Stop and rest every two hours on long trips.
- + Quickly glance over shoulder to check blind spot before lane change.

### DON'T

- Don't use cruise control on winter or slippery roads.
- Don't brake suddenly on slick pavement — ease off gas first.
- Don't stare at oncoming headlights — look right to avoid glare.
- Don't follow large trucks or buses closely — wide turns, wind gusts.
- Don't drive in another driver's blind spot — move forward or drop back.
- Don't use a hand-held cell phone while driving — illegal in Washington.
- Don't make eye contact with aggressive drivers — slow and let them pass.

## Vehicle and equipment rules

**Seat belts** — All occupants required by law every time the vehicle moves.

**Child in front seat** — Children under 13 may not ride in the front seat.

**Child restraint (car seat)** — Required under age 8 AND under 4 feet 9 inches tall.

**Seat belt fit** — Buckled snugly across hip bones and lower abdomen.

**Unattended vehicle** — Turn off engine, lock ignition, remove key, set parking brake.

**Bicycle headlight at night** — White headlight visible for at least 500 feet.

**Backing up** — Turn head; look through rear window; yield to all traffic.

## Washington licensing and test-day cheat box

Knowledge test length	40 questions (all applicants)	Supervisor must hold license	At least 3 years; age 25+ for nighttime driving
Passing score	32 of 40 correct (80%)	Night curfew (intermediate)	No driving 1:00 a.m.–5:00 a.m. without 25+ supervisor
Learner permit fee	\$35	Passenger restriction — first 6 months	No passengers under 20 (except immediate family)
Minimum permit hold (under 18)	6 months before road test	Passenger restriction — next 6 months	Max 3 passengers under 20 (non-family)
Supervised driving — day	40 hours required	GDL restrictions expire	After 1 year safe driving, or automatically at age 18
Supervised driving — night	10 hours required	Official handbook	Washington Driver Guide (dol.wa.gov)

## Last-minute test-taking tips

Washington's 40-question test covers road signs, traffic laws, and safe driving. Answer 32 correctly to pass. Watch for trick questions about yellow vs. orange signs — yellow warns of hazards while orange marks work zones. Remember WA uses the DOL (Department of Licensing), not DMV. For DUI questions, the adult BAC limit is 0.08% and the marijuana THC limit is five nanograms — both exact figures appear on the test. Good luck!