









# 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 or road condition ahead	 <b>Orange</b> Work zone, construction, or temporary detour	 <b>Green</b> Permitted movement or directional guidance
 <b>Blue</b> Driver services, hospitals, rest areas	 <b>Brown</b> Recreation areas, parks, and scenic routes	 <b>White</b> Regulatory — must obey the posted instruction	 <b>Yellow-green</b> Pedestrian, school zone, or bicycle crossing

## Wisconsin signs you will see on the test

 <b>Stop</b> Eight-sided red sign. Full stop; check all traffic before going.	 <b>Yield</b> Red-edged triangle. Slow and give right-of-way; stop if needed.	 <b>One-way arrow</b> Drive only in the direction the arrow points.	 <b>No-pass pennant</b> Yellow pennant on LEFT marks start of no-passing zone.	 <b>Do not pass</b> White rectangle. Must not pass another vehicle for any reason.	 <b>Wrong way / Do not enter</b> Red and white. Entering from the wrong direction is prohibited.
 <b>Advisory speed</b> Yellow square. Maximum safe speed for the exit or curve shown.	 <b>Traffic signal ahead</b> Yellow diamond. Signal at next intersection — slow and be ready.	 <b>Railroad crossing (advance)</b> Round yellow sign. Slow, look, listen, be ready to stop.	 <b>Railroad crossing (X)</b> Round yellow with RR crossbuck symbol. Crossing is just ahead.	 <b>Railroad crossing (pass)</b> No active gates — look both ways; prepare to stop for any train.	 <b>School zone (pentagon)</b> Five-sided yellow sign. Stop if children are in the crosswalk.
 <b>School zone ahead</b> Pentagonal sign. Slow down; watch for children near crossings.	 <b>School crossing</b> Slow down, drive with caution, and watch for children crossing.	 <b>Work zone (orange)</b> Orange sign means roadwork ahead. Slow down and proceed carefully.	 <b>Workers on road</b> Workers may be on or very close to the roadway ahead.	 <b>Right lane ends / merge</b> Right lane ends ahead. Traffic must merge into the left lane.	 <b>Slippery when wet</b> Yellow diamond. Road ahead may be slippery; reduce speed in wet.

## Sign shape shortcuts

- Octagon** — Always means STOP. The only 8-sided sign.
- Downward triangle** — Always means YIELD. Red and white border.
- Diamond** — Warning of a road condition or hazard ahead.
- Vertical rectangle** — Regulatory — speed limits, lane use, turn rules.
- Horizontal rectangle** — Guide sign — route markers, distances, exits.
- Pennant** — Yellow pennant on LEFT side = no-passing zone begins.
- Round** — Yellow circle = railroad crossing advance warning.
- Pentagon** — School zone or school crossing — children may be present.

# Rules of the road

## Right of way

**Uncontrolled intersection** — Yield to vehicles approaching from your right.

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

**Pedestrian** — Always yield in any crosswalk, even if pedestrian is at fault.

**Traffic circle** — Yield to vehicles already inside the roundabout.

**Emergency vehicle** — Pull to right edge and stop until it passes.

**Stopped school bus** — Stop at least 20 ft away when red lights flash.

**Blind person (white cane/guide dog)** — Stop at least 10 feet away until person clears road.

**Transit bus re-entering traffic** — Must yield to a transit bus signaling back into the lane.

**Flashing red light** — Treat as a stop sign — full stop before proceeding.

**Flashing yellow light** — Slow down and proceed with caution.

## Wisconsin speed limits

Residential / business (no sign)	25 mph	School zone (children/guards present)	15 mph
Outlying city/semi-urban (no sign)	35 mph	Hydroplaning risk begins	35 mph on wet roads

## Passing rules

**Signal before lane change** — Signal at least 100 feet before turning or changing lanes.

**Return to right lane after passing** — Move back only when you see both headlights of passed vehicle in mirror.

**Never pass** — On hills, curves, within 100 ft of intersection, or where marked.

**Double solid yellow** — Neither direction may cross — no passing permitted.

## Following distance

**Ideal conditions** — Minimum 4-second gap between your vehicle and car ahead.

**Motorcycles** — Allow 3–4 seconds; they can stop faster than cars.

**Large trucks / buses** — Increase distance — they block your view and stop slowly.

**Slippery / night / bad weather** — Increase following distance beyond 4 seconds.

**Active snowplow (red/amber lights)** — Stay at least 200 feet behind on roads posted 35+ mph.

## Critical distances to memorize

Signal before turn/lane change	100 feet minimum	Fire hydrant clearance	No parking within 10 feet
Stop from school bus (red lights)	At least 20 feet	Dim headlights (oncoming)	Within 1,000 feet
Stop for blind pedestrian	At least 10 feet	Dim headlights (following vehicle)	Within 500 feet
Parallel park from curb	Within 12 inches	Active snowplow following distance	200 feet (at 35+ mph posted)

## Freeway / expressway rules

**Merging onto freeway** — Use acceleration lane; reach near freeway speed before merging.

**Missed exit** — Never stop or back up — continue to the next exit and return.

**Exit ramp speed** — Slow to a safe speed before the exit curve, not during it.

**Left lane** — Intended for passing; keep right except to pass.

# Safety, alcohol & getting your license

## Alcohol & BAC limits

<b>Legal limit (21+)</b>	BAC 0.08% or higher is illegal
<b>Under 21 (zero tolerance)</b>	Any detectable BAC = suspension
<b>Only way to lower BAC</b>	Time — coffee, exercise, and food do not help

<b>BAC 0.02% effect</b>	Nearly doubles crash risk
<b>Impairment begins</b>	At any amount of alcohol — well below 0.08%

## Crash reporting

**When to report** — Report any crash with injury, death, or \$1,000+ property damage.

**Government property** — Report if damage to government property (signs, etc.) is \$200+.

**If you are involved** — Move off road if possible, call 911 for injuries, wait for police.

## Safe driving habits

### DO

- + Wear seat belt and ensure all passengers buckle up before starting
- + Look 10–15 seconds ahead in city driving to spot hazards early
- + Use low beams in fog, rain, snow, and within 500 ft of other vehicles
- + Stop every 2 hours on long trips to avoid drowsy driving
- + Steer into the skid — turn wheels in the direction you want to go
- + Gradually slow and merge back if wheels drop off the pavement edge

### DON'T

- Don't drive with high beams within 1,000 ft of oncoming traffic
- Don't make a U-turn on or near any curve or hill
- Don't stop or back up on a freeway if you miss your exit
- Don't rely on coffee or exercise to reduce alcohol impairment
- Don't retaliate against aggressive drivers — let it go and move away
- Don't pass a vehicle stopped at a crosswalk — pedestrians may be crossing

## Wisconsin GDL — getting your license

<b>Knowledge test</b>	50 questions, 80% to pass (40 correct)
<b>Permit fee</b>	\$35 (valid 18 months)
<b>Minimum permit hold</b>	6 months violation-free before road test
<b>Supervised hours</b>	50 total hours; 10 must be at night

<b>Supervisor requirement</b>	At least 2 years licensed driving experience
<b>Probationary night curfew</b>	Midnight–5 a.m. (home/school/work only)
<b>Peer passenger limit (probationary)</b>	1 peer passenger daytime (5 a.m.–midnight)
<b>Restrictions lifted</b>	After 9 months violation-free OR at age 18

## Parking & hill rules

**Uphill with curb** — Turn wheels LEFT (away from curb) so vehicle rolls into curb if brakes fail.

**Uphill / downhill — no curb** — Turn wheels RIGHT so vehicle rolls off road, not into traffic.

**Downhill with curb** — Turn wheels RIGHT (toward curb) to catch against it.

**Fire hydrant** — No parking within 10 feet of a fire hydrant.

**Parallel parking** — Must park within 12 inches of the curb.