

# 10

## Signs, Signals and Road Markings



This chapter is a handy reference section that gives examples of the most common signs, signals and road markings that keep traffic organized and flowing smoothly.

### Fast Fact

Signs specific to commercial drivers are shown in other chapters of this guide.

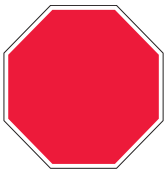
### What You'll Learn

After studying this chapter you will be able to:

- describe the various shapes and colours used to identify different types of signs
- identify a wide variety of signs, signals and road markings that may be seen on the roads throughout British Columbia

## Signs

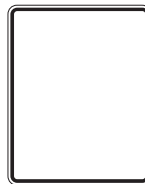
There are three ways to read signs: by their shape, by their colour and by the messages printed on them. Understanding these three ways of classifying signs will help you figure out the meaning of signs that are new to you.



Stop



Yield the right-of-way



Shows driving regulations



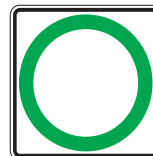
Explains lane use



School zone — signs are fluorescent yellow-green



Tells about motorist services



Shows a permitted action



Shows an action that is not permitted



Warns of hazards ahead



Warns of construction zones



Railway crossing



Shows distance and direction

## Regulatory signs

These signs tell you about driving laws and regulations. It is an offence under the B.C. *Motor Vehicle Act* to disregard them. Drivers who do not follow the instructions on these signs may receive penalties.



Stop completely — continue only when safe



Give the right-of-way to other vehicles and crossing pedestrians



The fastest you may drive in good conditions



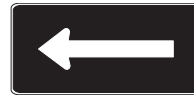
Indicates a lower speed limit ahead



Do not enter



Do not go this way — usually mounted on exit ramps



One way — gives direction of traffic on cross street



DISASTER RESPONSE ROUTE

Stay off this road during major disasters — road may be used only by emergency vehicles



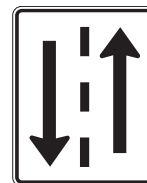
Move into right lane if driving slower than regular traffic



Keep right unless passing



Do not pass



Two-way traffic — keep right unless passing



Keep right of the divider



No stopping between here and the next no-stopping sign



No stopping during posted times between here and the next sign



No bicycle riding beyond this point



No right turn on red light

## School, playground and crosswalk signs

These signs tell you the rules to follow in areas where you need to be extra cautious.



School zone — reduce speed when children are present



30 km/h

School zone — if the tab underneath only indicates the speed limit, that limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days



30 km/h  
8 AM - 5 PM  
SCHOOL DAYS

School zone — the tab underneath indicates the speed limit and the hours that it is in effect (in this case, the 30 km/h limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days)



50 km/h  
WHEN  
CHILDREN  
ON HIGHWAY

School zone — 50 km/h limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on school days when children are on the roadway or shoulder



School crosswalk — yield to pedestrians — if there is a crossing guard, follow directions



Playground nearby — be prepared to slow down



30 km/h

Playground zone — 30 km/h limit is in effect every day from dawn to dusk



Pedestrian crosswalk — yield to people crossing



Pedestrian activated crosswalk — prepare to stop if the light is flashing

## Lane use signs

Signs showing which lanes may be used to turn or go straight are mounted above the lane or at the side of the lane before the intersection. If you are in a designated lane, you must follow the direction indicated by the arrows. You may not move into or out of a designated lane while you are in an intersection.



Turn left only



Continue straight only



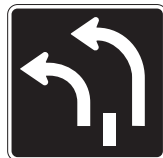
Go through or turn left



Go through or turn right



Vehicles from both directions must turn left, no through traffic allowed



Vehicles in both these lanes must turn left

### Turn control signs

Turn control signs are mounted directly above the intersection. You must follow the direction of the arrow.



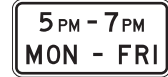
Left turn only



Go straight only — no turns



Turn right or left only



No right turns during posted times

### Parking signs

Parking signs let you know where and when you are allowed to park. You may receive fines or your vehicle may be towed (or both) if you park illegally.



Time-limited parking during posted times



Do not park here



Parking is not allowed during posted times



Parking only for vehicles displaying the disabled parking sign and carrying a person with disabilities

### Reserved lane signs

A white diamond painted on the road surface marks reserved lanes. Reserved lane signs are also placed over or beside lanes that are reserved for certain vehicles such as buses or high occupancy vehicles (HOVs). Other HOV signs may give additional information on who may use the HOV lane.



Only buses in this lane



Only buses and HOVs in this lane — may show how many people must be in the HOV



Curb lane of cross street ahead is a reserved lane

## Warning signs

Most warning signs are yellow and diamond-shaped. They warn of possible hazards ahead.



Winding road ahead



Hidden side road ahead



Sharp curve ahead — slow to suggested speed



Curve ahead — trucks and buses slow to suggested speed to avoid tipping over



Merging traffic ahead



Curve ahead — slow down



Right lane ends ahead



Divided highway ends ahead — keep right



Two-way traffic ahead



Road narrows ahead



Narrow structure ahead — often a bridge



Bump or rough road ahead



Road may be slippery ahead



Steep hill ahead — slow down.



Stop sign ahead



Roundabout ahead



Signal lights ahead



Signal lights ahead — prepare to stop when lights are flashing



Pedestrian crosswalk ahead



School crosswalk ahead  
— this sign is fluorescent yellow-green



School bus stop ahead



Cyclists may be on roadway



Fire truck entrance ahead



Truck crossing ahead



Recommended exit speed  
— drive slower in poor conditions



Pavement ends ahead



Hazard or danger ahead  
— turn right or left



Watch for deer ahead



Opening bridge ahead



Watch for rocks on the road ahead

## Object markers

Pay special attention to object markers – they are mounted on obstructions.



Obstruction — keep right or left



Obstruction — keep right



Obstruction — keep left

### Construction signs

These signs warn of construction and maintenance work. You must pay attention to the warnings and obey the instructions on these signs. Obey traffic-control persons, travel within the posted speed, stay well back from all equipment and pass only when it is safe.



Detour ahead



Soft shoulder ahead  
— stay off



Construction ahead



Traffic-control person  
ahead



Crew working — obey  
posted speed limit



Survey crew — obey  
posted speed limit



End of construction  
zone speed limit



Follow the lighted arrow



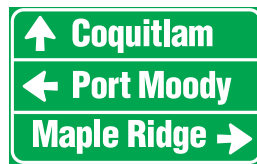
Blasting ahead — follow  
instructions on sign

### Information and destination signs

These signs give information about destinations, route numbers and facilities. Here are a few samples.



Destination sign —  
distances are in kilometres



Directional sign



Trans-Canada Highway  
route marker



Primary highway marker sign



Hospital nearby



Gas available ahead



Accommodation ahead



Travel information ahead

## Railway signs

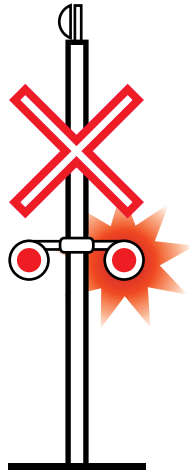
Public railway and highway crossings are indicated with signs or pavement markings and may also have mechanical or electrical warning devices for your protection. Watch for them and remember you must always yield to trains.



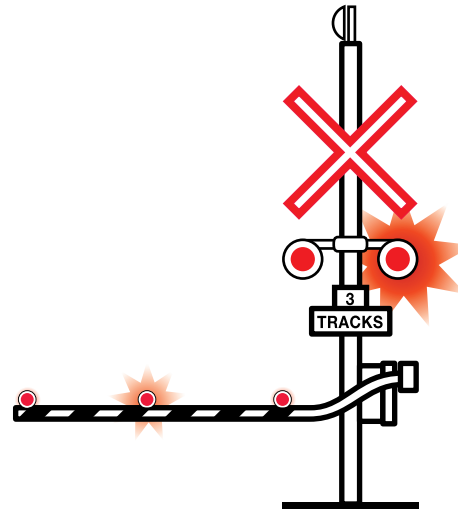
Railway crossing ahead — be prepared to stop



Railway crossing on side road ahead — be prepared to stop



Railway crossing — stop, then proceed when it is safe



Railway crossing — stay stopped until the gate is fully raised

## Signals

Lighted signals are a way of controlling traffic flow.

### Lane control signals

Lane control signals are placed over lanes to indicate which ones are open for driving.



Do not drive in this lane



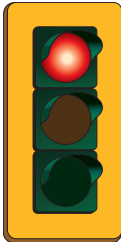
Move out of this lane and into a lane with a green arrow. If the lane control signals over all of the lanes are flashing yellow, slow down and proceed with caution.



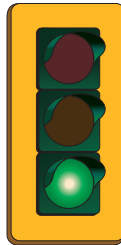
Drive in this lane

## Traffic lights

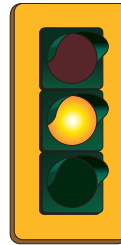
Traffic lights are used to help organize the flow of traffic. Generally, a red light means “stop,” a yellow light means “caution” and a green light means “go.” These signals can have slightly different meanings if they are flashing or if they are shaped as arrows rather than circles. In some places green arrows may flash; in others they may not.



Steady red — stop — after coming to a full stop, you may turn right or turn left onto a one-way street unless a sign forbids it



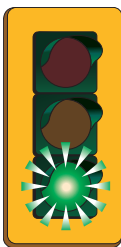
Steady green — continue if the intersection is clear



Steady yellow — slow down and stop before the intersection unless you can't safely stop in time



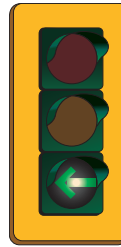
Flashing red — stop, then continue only when it is safe



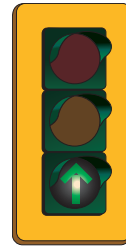
Flashing green — pedestrian-controlled light — go only if the intersection is clear



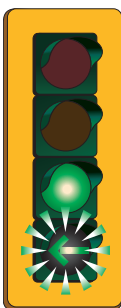
Flashing yellow — slow down and proceed with caution



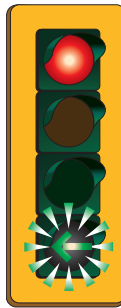
Green arrow — turn in the direction of the arrow



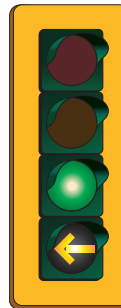
Green arrow — no turn permitted; go straight through only



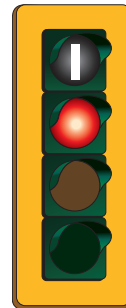
Flashing green arrow with a steady green light — may turn left or go straight



Flashing green arrow with a steady red light — left turn allowed; through traffic must stop for red light



Yellow arrow — left turn signals are about to change, slow down and stop before the intersection unless you can't safely stop in time



Transit priority signal — steady white rectangular light — only buses may go on this signal

## Road Markings

Road markings give you warnings or direction. They are painted on the roadway, curbs or other surfaces. It is illegal to drive over freshly painted, wet pavement markings.

### Yellow lines

Yellow lines divide traffic moving in opposite directions. If there is a yellow line to your left, there will be traffic coming towards you on the other side of that yellow line.



Broken line — passing is allowed when safe



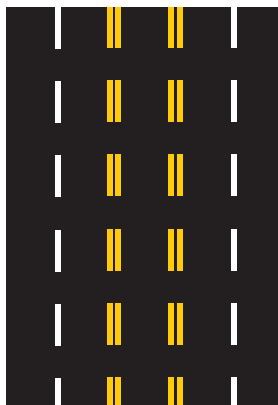
Broken line and solid line — you may pass only when it is safe and the broken line is on your side



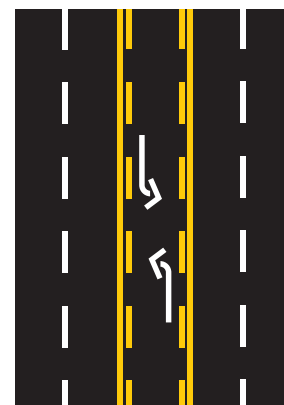
Double solid line — no passing allowed



Single yellow line — vehicles travelling in either direction may pass when it is safe



Double broken yellow line — lane is reversible — lane control signal will show whether you may use this lane



Two-way left-turn lane — drivers travelling in opposite directions share this lane for left turns — markings may be reversed (solid lines inside the broken lines)

## White lines

White lines are used to separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction. White lines also mark crosswalks, stopping positions and the right shoulders of highways.



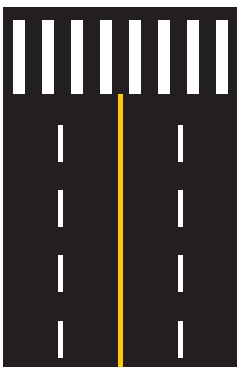
Solid line — do not change lanes



Broken line — lane changing is allowed when safe



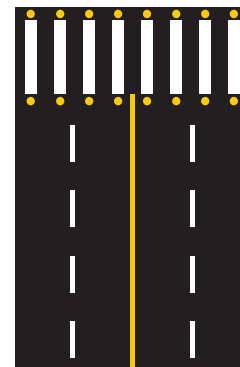
Stop line — stop before this line



Pedestrian crosswalk — stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk



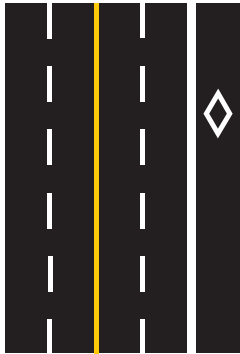
Pedestrian crosswalk — stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk



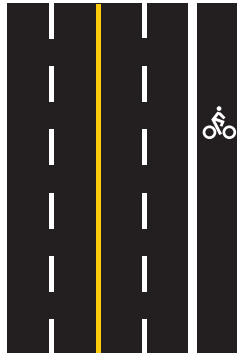
Pedestrian-activated crosswalk with illuminating lights in pavement — stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk

## Reserved lane markings

These markings set off lanes for HOVs, buses and bicycles. HOV lanes are marked with thick solid or broken lines and white diamond symbols.



Reserved lane — additional signs or markings state which vehicles are allowed



Bicycle lane — for cyclists only — cyclists must travel in the same direction as the traffic beside them — the lane is marked with an outline of a bicycle and sometimes with a diamond

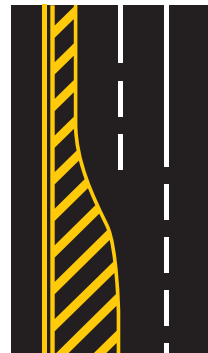
## Other markings



Vehicles in this lane must turn left



Vehicles in this lane must go straight or turn left



Painted island — keep to the right and do not drive on or over



## Review Questions

1. What colour and shape is:
  - a warning sign
  - a stop sign
  - a yield sign
  - a school sign
  - a lane use sign
  - a construction zone sign
  - a railway crossing sign
2. What should you do when approaching:
  - a flashing red light
  - a steady red light
  - a flashing yellow light
  - a steady yellow light
  - a flashing green light
3. What may you do when approaching a flashing green arrow with a steady red light?
4. Name five regulatory signs and five warning signs.
5. What is the difference between a lane use sign and a turn control sign?
6. What must you do when approaching a railway crossing that displays flashing red lights?
7. Over which of the following roadmarkings are you permitted to pass:
  - a broken yellow line
  - a single yellow line
  - a broken line and solid line where the broken line is on your side
  - a broken line and solid line where the broken line is not on your side
  - a double yellow line
8. What colour are the lines that separate lanes of traffic moving in the same direction?
9. What colour are the lines that divide traffic moving in opposite directions?

10. What must you do when approaching a stop sign? What must you do when approaching a yield sign?
11. When a speed limit tab is shown under a school zone sign, when is that speed limit in effect? What if the tab is under a playground zone?