using this guide

This guide is designed for:

- new drivers
- experienced drivers who are:
  - new to British Columbia
  - taking a re-examination
  - brushing up their driving skills.

It contains the basic information you need to know to help you drive safely. It will also help you prepare for the knowledge test and the Class 7 and Class 5 road tests. For your convenience you can also download the online version of this manual or get the app at icbc.com.

New drivers

New drivers are at higher risk of getting in a crash. This guide provides driving strategies to help keep you safe.

When you get a Class 7L licence, you'll be given a copy of *Tuning up for drivers*. It is a step-by-step guide that helps you practise your driving skills. Use this guide together with *Tuning up for drivers* to learn or review safe driving strategies.

Experienced drivers

Use this guide to review B.C.'s driving rules and regulations if you have been licensed to drive in another jurisdiction, if you are taking a re-examination, or if you want to brush up on your skills. This guide also provides information about safe driving practices. Use it along with *Tuning up for drivers* to help you prepare for your road tests.

Getting the most from this guide

This guide is divided into 10 chapters. Depending on what you need to know, and whether you are a new or experienced driver, you may decide to read and study all of it, or just parts of it.

Organization

Each of the 10 chapters provides you with useful information that will help you become a safe, competent driver. The chapters are organized in a way that will help you first learn the basics (**developing your smart driving skills**) and then apply what you've learned (**applying your smart driving skills**). This guide is designed to help you quickly find the information you need. Check the **table of contents** and **index** for a complete listing of topics.

Chapters 1 to 5: developing your smart driving skills

The first five chapters of this guide cover the basics and are designed to help you develop your smart driving skills. They provide important information for driving that will help keep you and others safe on the road.

- **Chapter 1, you in the driver's seat**, presents some of the common choices that every driver makes.
- **Chapter 2, you and your vehicle**, gives an overview of how your vehicle works and how to keep it running well.
- **Chapter 3, signs, signals and road markings**, provides information about the signs, signals and road markings you'll see while driving.
- **Chapter 4, rules of the road**, talks about the rules you need to know to drive safely.
- **Chapter 5, see-think-do**, teaches you a driving strategy that will help you become competent and avoid problems on the road.

Chapters 6 to 8: applying your smart driving skills

Chapters 6 through 8 will help you apply the basic information from the first five chapters.

- **Chapter 6, sharing the road**, shows you how to safely share the road with all road users.
- **Chapter 7, personal strategies**, gives you pointers on how to overcome negative influences that may affect your driving.
- **Chapter 8, emergency strategies**, describes challenging driving conditions and gives strategies on how to deal with them.

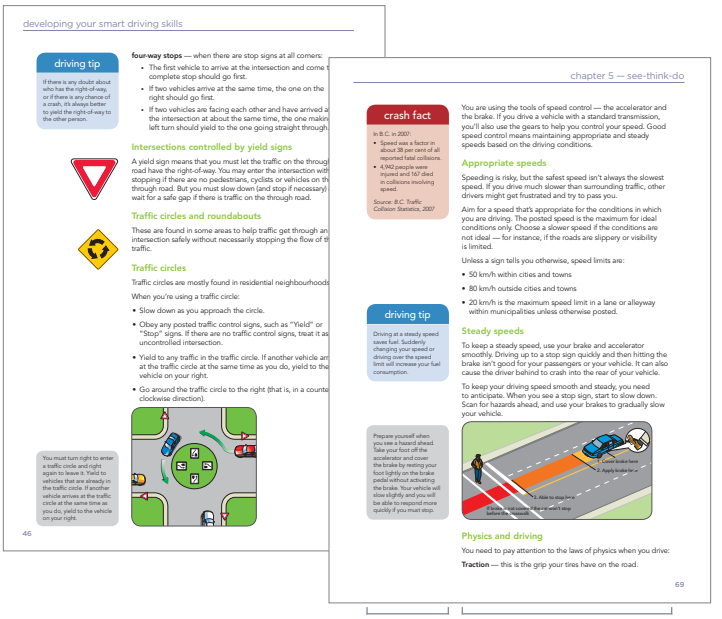
Chapters 9 and 10: references and resources

The final two chapters tell you how to get and keep your driver's licence, and where you can find additional information. These chapters are for your reference only. You will not be tested on this material.

- **Chapter 9, your licence**, outlines the steps you need to take to get your driver's licence.
- **Chapter 10, need to know more?**, lists places to go for more information.

Design features

This guide is designed to be easy to use. Different kinds of information appear in different locations on the page. Understanding the type of information you'll find in each location will help you use this guide most effectively. Here are two sample pages with items you'll find displayed in the sidebar on the left side of the page.



Main column

Most of the information for each chapter is found in the main column on the right side of each page. This main column also includes:

- **pictures** to help illustrate certain points or ideas
- **scenarios** called **put yourself in the driver's seat**, which allow you to think about what you would do if you were faced with a particular driving situation
- **strategies** to help you handle everyday and emergency driving situations.

Sidebar

You will find the following information along the left side of the page:

in this chapter

in this chapter — lists at the beginning of each chapter that let you know what's included in the chapter

crash fact

crash fact — facts and statistics about crashes

driving tip

driving tip — practical hints that will help you keep safe on the road

warning!

warning — important safety information

think about

think about — questions that invite you to think about your driving choices

fast fact

fast fact — important facts on related topics.