

using this guide

This guide is designed for:

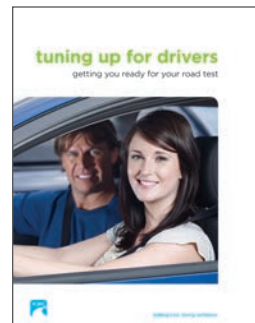
- new drivers
- experienced drivers who are:
 - new to British Columbia
 - taking a re-examination
 - brushing up their driving skills.

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.

developing your smart driving skills

driving tip


If there is any doubt about who has the right-of-way, or if there is any chance of a crash, it's always better to give the right-of-way to the other person.

four-way stops — when there are stop signs at all corners:

- The first vehicle to arrive at the intersection and come to a complete stop should go first.
- If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the one on the right should go first.
- If two vehicles are facing each other and have arrived at the intersection at about the same time, the one making left turn should yield to the one going straight through.

Intersections controlled by yield signs

A yield sign means that you must let the traffic on the through road have the right-of-way. You may enter the intersection without stopping if there are no pedestrians, cyclists or vehicles on the through road. But you must slow down (and stop if necessary) to wait for a safe gap if there is traffic on the through road.



Traffic circles and roundabouts


These are found in some areas to help traffic get through an intersection safely without necessarily stopping the flow of traffic.

Traffic circles

Traffic circles are mostly found in residential neighbourhoods.

When you're using a traffic circle:

- Slow down as you approach the circle.
- Obey any posted traffic control signs, such as "Yield" or "Stop" signs. If there are no traffic control signs, treat it as uncontrolled intersection.
- Yield to any traffic in the traffic circle. If another vehicle arrives at the traffic circle at the same time as you do, yield to the vehicle on your right.
- Go around the traffic circle to the right (that is, in a counter-clockwise direction).



You must turn right to enter a traffic circle and right again to leave it. Yield to vehicles that are already in the traffic circle. If another vehicle arrives at the traffic circle at the same time as you do, yield to the vehicle on your right.

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chapter 5 — see-think-do

crash fact

In B.C. in 2007:

- Speed was a factor in about 88 per cent of all reported fatal collisions.
- 4,162 people were injured and 161 died in collisions involving speed.

Source: B.C. Traffic Collision Statistics, 2007

You are using the tools of speed control — the accelerator and the brake. If you drive a vehicle with a standard transmission, you'll also use the gears to help you control your speed. Good speed control means maintaining appropriate and steady speeds based on the driving conditions.

Appropriate speeds

Speeding is risky, but the safest speed isn't always the slowest speed. If you drive much slower than surrounding traffic, other drivers might get frustrated and try to pass you.

Aim for a speed that's appropriate for the conditions in which you are driving. The posted speed is the maximum for ideal conditions only. Choose a slower speed if the conditions are not ideal — for instance, if the roads are slippery or visibility is limited.

Unless a sign tells you otherwise, speed limits are:

- 50 km/h within cities and towns
- 80 km/h outside cities and towns
- 20 km/h is the maximum speed limit in a lane or alleyway within municipalities unless otherwise posted.


driving tip

Driving at a steady speed saves fuel. Slightly changing your speed or driving over the speed limit will increase your fuel consumption.

Steady speeds

To keep a steady speed, use your brake and accelerator smoothly. Driving up to a stop sign quickly and then hitting the brake isn't good for your passengers or your vehicle. It can also cause the driver behind to crash into the rear of your vehicle.

To keep your driving speed smooth and steady, you need to anticipate. When you see a stop sign, start to slow down. Scan for hazards ahead, and use your brakes to gradually slow your vehicle.



Physics and driving

You need to pay attention to the laws of physics when you drive:

Traction — this is the grip your tires have on the road.

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Sidebar

Main column

in this chapter

crash fact

driving tip

warning!

think about

fast fact

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

crash fact — facts and statistics about crashes

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

warning — important safety information

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

fast fact — important facts on related topics.