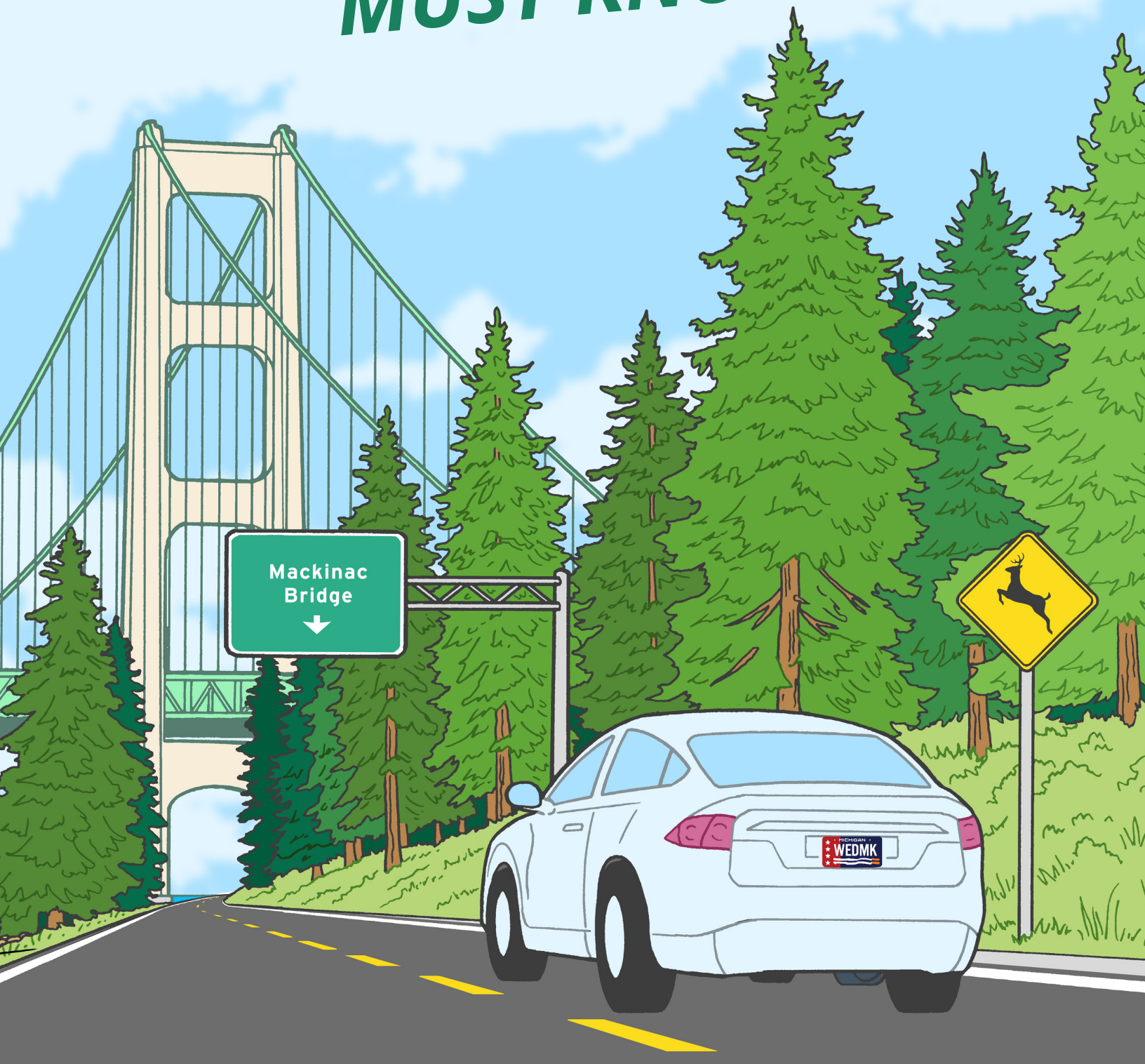
WHAT EVERY DRIVER MUST KNOW



Michigan Department of State

(Rev. 10/2026)

Disclaimer

What Every Driver Must Know is produced by the Michigan Department of State (MDOS). It summarizes key parts of Michigan law and offers general safety guidance. It is not legal advice and MDOS does not warrant or make any representations that any prospective driver will successfully complete their knowledge and/or skills test by reading this booklet alone. All information is as accurate as possible as of the date of publication. You can find the most current version of the guide on the MDOS website at mi.gov/sos.

Overview

You're reading this guide because you want to drive in Michigan. Whether you're a teenager just starting out, an adult getting your first license, or a licensed driver new to Michigan, *What Every Driver Must Know* will help you prepare.

This guide has three parts:

Part 1: Find your licensing path and identify the steps you need to take to get licensed in Michigan.

Part 2: Learn the rules of the road to drive safely in Michigan, like traffic laws, road signs, and how to handle common driving situations. This is also what's on the written test.

Part 3: Prepare for your driving skills test by learning what to bring, what happens at each stage, and what to do after you pass.

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Part 1

Find your licensing path

This section covers **the step-by-step process for anyone planning to get a Michigan driver's license**, including the documents you need to bring and what to expect during your visit to the Secretary of State office.

Your path at a glance

Path 1: Under 18

Graduated Driver License • Refer to Page 10

Segment 1: *Learn the basics*
Complete the first classroom and behind-the-wheel portion of driver's ed to learn the rules of the road and pass the written test.

Level 1 learner's license: *Get first limited license*
Schedule a Secretary of State office visit at mi.gov/sosapply, pass the vision test, and receive your first physical license, which allows supervised driving. Log 30 hours of driving (two hours at night) and hold your Level 1 license for three consecutive months before starting Segment 2.

Segment 2: *More classroom learning*
Complete the second classroom portion of driver's ed. Log 20 additional hours of driving (eight at night) before your driving skills test.

Driving skills test: *Test your skills on the road*
After 50 hours total of driving, demonstrate basic vehicle control and road safety skills to a certified examiner. Refer to Page 75.

Level 2 intermediate license: *Start driving alone*
Use your current license, upgraded to a Level 2 license, and begin driving alone with some restrictions.

Level 3 full license
Full driving privileges

Use your current license, upgraded to a Level 3 license with no state-imposed restrictions once you turn 17 years old and have held your Level 2 license for six month.

Good to know

Pre-apply and schedule your visit to the Secretary of State at mi.gov/sosapply.

Good to know

Go to Page 13 for a list of commonly accepted documents or refer to form SOS-428 at mi.gov/sos428.

Path 2: Over 18

Never licensed • Refer to Page 11

- **Test prep:** *Independent study*
  Review Michigan laws, road signs, and safe driving practices to prepare for your written test.
- **Written test:** *Test your driving knowledge*
  Schedule a Secretary of State office visit at mi.gov/sosapply, pass the written and vision tests, and receive a temporary instruction permit (TIP). Practice driving for at least 30 days before taking the driving skills test.
- **Driving skills test:** *Test your skills on the road*
  Demonstrate basic vehicle control and road safety skills to an examiner. Refer to Page 75.

Michigan driver's license
Mailed automatically

Path 3: New to Michigan

Already licensed • Refer to Page 12

- **From another U.S. state, Canada, Germany, or South Korea**
  Schedule a visit to the Secretary of State office at mi.gov/sosapply. No driving skills or written test is required.
- **From another country**
  Schedule a visit to the Secretary of State office at mi.gov/sosapply to pass the written and vision tests. You may have to practice driving for at least 30 days. Next, pass your driving skills test and receive your Michigan license.

Michigan driver's license
Mailed automatically

Path 1

Under 18: Graduated Driver Licensing (GDL)

Michigan teens earn their license in stages to safely and gradually build driving skills. Each stage builds upon the last.

1. **Complete Segment 1 of driver's ed:** Must be 14 years and 8 months to start. Learn about driving in both the classroom (24 hours) and behind-the-wheel (six hours), and pass a written test.
2. **Get your Level 1 learner's license:** Must be 14 years and 9 months. Visit a Secretary of State office to take a vision test and apply for your Level 1 physical license, which will be mailed to you. Begin driving with a licensed parent, guardian, or adult age 21 or older designated by a parent or guardian.
3. **Complete Segment 2 of driver's ed:** After three months with your Level 1 license and 30 hours behind the wheel, including two at night, complete the final segment of classroom instruction and pass another written test.
4. **Pass your driving skills test:** After a total of 50 hours behind the wheel, including 10 at night, take your road test. You must be 15, have held a Level 1 license for six months, and have had no tickets or crashes. Refer to Page 75 for details.
5. **Upgrade to your Level 2 intermediate license:** Once you are 16 and pass your driving skills test, you can now drive alone with some restrictions. Your Level 1 license automatically updates to a Level 2 license. You cannot drive with more than one passenger under age 21 (except immediate family members) and between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. Some exceptions are allowed by law.
6. **Upgrade to your Level 3 full license:** Your Level 2 license automatically updates to a Level 3 license, and you now have full driving privileges with no restrictions. You must be 17 and have held a Level 2 intermediate license for six months.

Good to know

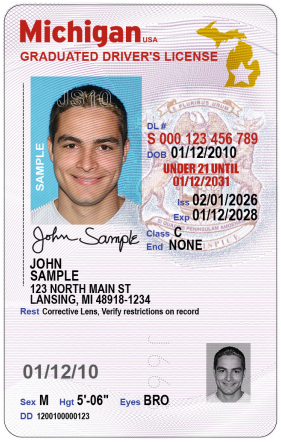
To find a list of driver's ed providers, visit mi.gov/driverproviders.

Good to know

For more information on the GDL process and Level 2 license restriction exceptions, visit mi.gov/driversunder18.

Parents and guardians: You're a critical part of this process. You'll supervise driving, sign license applications, and decide when your teen advances. You can also request to hold your teen at their current licensing level or cancel their GDL license.

Teens with disabilities: Driver education programs must provide reasonable accommodations at no cost (as long as the disability does not prevent safe driving, and the accommodations do not create an undue burden). Talk to your driver education provider about what support is available.



Path 2

18 or older and never had a license

Driver's education classes are not required for Michigan residents age 18 and older who wish to learn to drive and apply for a driver's license. Your path is shorter, but you'll still need to pass a written test and the driving skills test.

1. **Study for the written test:** Use Part 2 of this guide to learn core driving concepts. Take the written test online or in person at a Secretary of State office.
2. **Get a temporary instruction permit (TIP):** Schedule a visit to a Secretary of State office at mi.gov/sosapply. Take a vision screening test and, unless you already did so online, pass your written test.

What is a TIP? A temporary instruction permit (TIP) allows an unlicensed adult to practice driving only with a licensed adult. TIPs are valid for 180 days; if you don't pass the driving skills test in that time, you must apply for another TIP. It is not an official form of identification.

3. **Practice driving:** Spend at least 30 days practicing with a licensed adult. Consider taking lessons from a driver education instructor. To find a list of providers, visit mi.gov/driverproviders.
4. **Pass your driving skills test:** Take your test at an approved testing business. Refer to Page 75 for details.

Good to know

Find more information and take the written test online at mi.gov/driversover18.

Good to know

The written test is available in over 15 languages.



5. **Receive your license:** After passing your driving skills test, you can print a temporary license from your account at mi.gov/sosonline. Your license will be mailed automatically. It may take up to 60 days for you to receive it.

Expired TIP/license holders: If you have had prior driving privileges in Michigan, you may not need to retest. This depends on how long your license or TIP has been expired.

Path 3

New to Michigan and already have a license

If you're moving to Michigan from another U.S. state, Canada, Germany, or South Korea, you may complete the license and application process in one office visit. If you're coming from another country, your license application process may take longer. Here is what you can expect:

1. **Establish Michigan residency:** Gather documents that show your name and home address. Refer to Page 13 for a list of commonly accepted documents.
2. **Schedule a visit to the Secretary of State office:** Schedule a visit at mi.gov/sosapply. Bring your current license (if applicable) and required documents.
3. **Complete the vision and any other required tests:** Coming from another U.S. state, Canada, Germany, or South Korea? No driving skills or written test needed. From another country? You'll need to pass the written test during your Secretary of State visit (or online) and pass the driving skills test. Refer to Page 17 to study for the written test and Page 75 to help you prepare for the driving skills test.
4. **Receive your Michigan license:** After meeting all of the above requirements, you can print a temporary license from your account at mi.gov/sosonline. Your license will be mailed automatically. It may take up to 60 days for you to receive it.

Good to know

Michigan only allows one valid driver's license at a time. When you get your Michigan license, your old one will be canceled and returned to you.

Good to know

For more information about your process, visit mi.gov/newmiresidents.

What to bring to the Secretary of State Office

Every path to a Michigan driver's license starts with scheduling a visit to a Secretary of State office. Before you go, gather the following documents. You'll need originals; no photocopies and no faxes.

Pre-apply and schedule your visit to the Secretary of State at mi.gov/sosapply. The following list covers the most commonly presented documents. For a full list of accepted documents, refer to form SOS-428 at mi.gov/sos428.

Everyone must bring:

- [ ] **Proof of Social Security number** (bring one):
  - Social Security card
  - W-2
  - Pay stub with the last four digits of your SSN
- [ ] **Proof of legal presence** (bring one):
  - Certified birth certificate with a raised seal
  - Valid U.S. passport
  - Valid Permanent Resident Card
- [ ] **Proof of identity** (bring one):
  - Michigan, out-of-state or Canadian driver's license or ID card (expired less than four years)
  - Marriage license or divorce decree
  - School transcript, ID card, or yearbook
- [ ] **Proof of Michigan Residency** (bring at least two of the following, dated within the last 90 days):
  - Utility bill
  - Credit card or bank statement
  - Lease agreement

Good to know

If your name is different from your birth certificate, bring proof of the name change (such as marriage certificate, divorce decree, or court order).

Path 1

If you're under 18, bring:

- ☐ Segment 1 Certificate of Completion (for your Level 1 license)
- ☐ A parent or guardian

Path 2

If you're 18 or older and never licensed:

No other documents needed. You'll get your TIP at the office after passing the written test and vision screening.

Path 3

If you're new to Michigan, bring:

- ☐ Your current out-of-state or foreign driver's license with English translation.

During your visit, you'll also:

Take a vision screening. If you need glasses or contacts to pass the screening, your license will note that you must wear them while driving. If you can't pass the vision test with or without glasses, we provide a Vision Specialist's Statement of Examination form, which you and a vision specialist must complete.

Answer general health questions. Staff will ask you a few questions about your physical and mental health as part of the screening process. If there are concerns about your ability to drive safely, your application may be denied.

Be asked about organ donation. You'll have the option to join Michigan's Organ Donor Registry. This is voluntary. You can decide and inform staff during your visit or later at mi.gov/organdonation.

Good to know

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, a sign language interpreter can be arranged at no cost. For disability accommodations at any Secretary of State office, call (888) SOS-MICH (767-6424) or visit mi.gov/sosaccess.

Your driving record

Michigan's point system: When you're convicted of a moving violation in Michigan, points are added to your driving record based on the offense, and they stay there for two years.

Building up too many points (12 or more points within a two-year period) means you'll have to take a driver assessment reexamination, which can put your license at risk. Ignoring a ticket can get your license suspended.

Points	Examples
6	Drunk or drugged driving; reckless driving; leaving the scene of a crash; fleeing police; causing injury or death
4	Drag racing; going 16+ mph over the speed limit; any alcohol if under 21
3	Careless driving; running a red light or stop sign; going 11 to 15 mph over the speed limit; not stopping for a school bus
2	Going 6 to 10 mph over the speed limit; open alcohol container; other moving violations
1	Going 1 to 5 mph over the speed limit

Reexamination: The Secretary of State can require a reexamination if there is reason to believe you are unable to drive safely. This includes health concerns (which may require documentation from your medical provider), crash involvement, license restriction violations, probationary violations, or an unsatisfactory driving record.

Good to know

For more information on driver reexaminations, visit: mi.gov/sosda.

Probation: All new drivers are placed on probation for at least three years. Probation means your driving record will be monitored by the Secretary of State. This isn't a penalty. To end your probationary period, you must drive the last 10 months of your probation without having an "at fault" or "had-been drinking" crash, a driver's license suspension, or a traffic conviction. Your probationary period will continue until you can drive 10 consecutive months without a ticket, crash or license suspension.

Part 2

Learn the rules of the road

This part covers important driving rules and common situations you'll encounter on the road. This is useful information for any driver, but especially for those who will need to take a written test and road test, including **new drivers under 18**, **new adult drivers**, and **some drivers new to Michigan**.

If that's you, **use Part 2 as a study guide**. Each section includes a helpful quiz to check your knowledge.

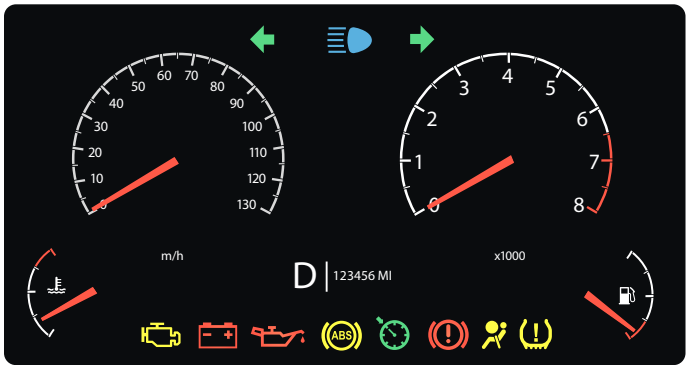
Before you drive

A few minutes of preparation before each drive can prevent problems on the road. Make vehicle safety a priority every day.

Get your vehicle ready

Keep your vehicle in good working condition. Before each drive, make sure:

- Your headlights, taillights, brake lights, and turn signals all work.
- Your tires have sufficient tread and are properly inflated.
- You understand all the dashboard symbols and lights. Consult your owner's manual if there are specific lights that you don't recognize or understand.



Check engine

Check battery

Check oil

Anti-lock braking system

Cruise control

Brake system alert

Air bag warning

Low tire pressure

Left and right turn signals

High beams

Adjust your seat, mirrors, and seatbelt

Get comfortable and make sure you can reach all controls. You should be able to put one hand on either side of the steering wheel comfortably, with your elbows slightly bent.

Check your mirrors. Most vehicles have at least two blind spots (areas to the left and right that sideview mirrors can't fully cover). Adjust your left side mirror until you can barely see the left side of your vehicle. Do the same with the right. Then set your rearview mirror to show the center of the road behind you.

Buckle up and make sure all passengers are using either seat belts or booster seats appropriate for their ages. Michigan law requires drivers, front-seat passengers, and all passengers under 16 to be buckled in all seating positions.

Child restraint requirements

Although ages are listed, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends basing transitions between seat types on the manufacturer's height and weight requirements rather than the child's age.

- **Infant to 2 years:** Use a rear-facing car seat. Keep using it until your child reaches the maximum weight or height the car seat allows, or turns 2.
- **Ages 2 to 5 years:** Switch to a forward-facing car seat. Keep using it until your child reaches the seat's maximum weight or height limit, or turns 5.
- **Ages 5 to 8 years:** Move to a belt-positioning booster seat with a lap and shoulder belt. Keep using it until your child is four feet nine inches tall, or turns 8.
- **Under 13 years:** Children must ride in the rear seat whenever one is available.

Driving dangers and distractions

Children left in vehicles

In Michigan, it is illegal to leave children under 6 alone in a vehicle if there is any risk of harm. No matter the age, leaving a child alone in a car is never safe. A child is not

considered unattended if being watched by someone at least 13 years old who is capable of providing care.

Be aware

If you drink, don't drive. If you do drink, wait at least one hour per drink before getting behind the wheel. Only time lowers your blood alcohol content (BAC). Coffee, food, and water will not help.

Impaired driving

Driving while impaired is dangerous and illegal. Even one alcoholic drink affects both your judgment and your driving skills. It makes you more likely to take risks while slowing your reaction time and reducing coordination. Mixing alcohol with medication can make things worse, so know how any medication might affect your driving beforehand. Even cold medicine combined with alcohol can increase drowsiness and slow your reactions.

Michigan's Zero Tolerance Law prohibits anyone under 21 from driving after consuming alcohol. For adults 21 and older, the legal limit is a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .08%. You can be pulled over and charged with an OWI (Operating While Intoxicated) offense if you show signs of visible impairment.

Similarly, driving while impaired by marijuana is both illegal and dangerous. Although adults 21 and older may legally transport up to 2.5 ounces of marijuana, operating a vehicle under the influence of any amount of marijuana is illegal.

Cell phones and distracted driving

Distracted driving is one of the leading causes of crashes. A distraction is anything that takes your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel, or your mind off driving. Eating, adjusting the radio, reaching for something, or having a conversation can all pull your attention from the road. Distracted driving crashes, including those involving cell phones, are most likely to be rear-end crashes.

Michigan's Hands-Free Law

In Michigan, drivers are not allowed to hold a phone or other mobile device, even at a stoplight. That includes texting, calling, scrolling, watching videos, or using apps. To use a phone legally, it must be mounted or built into the vehicle, and the driver must operate it hands-free, through voice commands or a single tap or swipe.

Drivers who use a cell phone while driving are four times more likely to crash than drivers who don't. The risk of using a cell phone while driving is the same as the risk of having a BAC limit of 0.08%. Inexperience behind the wheel and risk-taking behaviors increase the crash danger for teen drivers.

The fine for violating violating Michigan's Hands-Free Law is $100 and/or 16 hours of community service for the first offense, and $250 and/or 24 hours of community service for each violation after.

The only exception for violating Michigan's Hands-Free Law is in an emergency, where drivers may use a handheld device to contact 911 or emergency services to report a medical crisis, crash, road hazard, dangerous driving, or crime in progress.

Minimize distractions before and while you're driving:

- Before you leave, put your phone out of reach or turn your notifications off. Set navigation or ask a front-seat passenger to handle the phone.
- If something needs your attention, like a dropped object, a text, a child in the back seat, pull over first.
- If you notice a driver nearby is distracted, increase your distance from them.

Be aware

In Michigan, Kelsey's Law prohibits teens with a Level 1 or Level 2 license from using a phone at all while driving (even hands-free), except to report an emergency.

Aggressive driving and road rage

Aggressive drivers speed, tailgate, weave through traffic, run red lights, and may honk, gesture, or flash headlights. If you respond the same way, it can escalate into road rage. This can result in a vehicle or weapon being used to threaten or harm another driver.

If you encounter an aggressive driver, don't engage, and don't make eye contact or respond to gestures. Slow down and create space. If necessary, switch lanes or pull off the road and let them pass. If you feel threatened, drive to a police station or a public place.

Check your own habits. Aggressive driving usually starts with impatience. Do you tailgate? Force your way into a merge? Speed up when someone tries to pass? Getting angry behind the wheel doesn't get you there faster, and it puts everyone at risk.

Before you drive

Check your knowledge

Test yourself with these scenarios, then check the answers on Page 72.

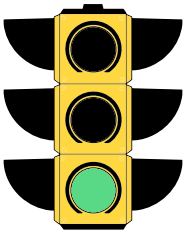
1. You've had a few drinks. Will coffee or food help lower your blood alcohol content?
2. Using a cell phone while driving is dangerous because it is a _____.
3. Which mirror helps you see the middle of the road behind you: your left and right side mirrors or your rearview mirror?

Signals, signs, and pavement markings

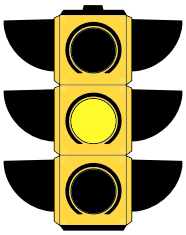
Safe driving is about noticing what's around you. Every road gives you information through its signals, signs, and pavement markings. Signals tell you when to go, stop, and yield. Signs warn you, guide you, and tell you the law. Pavement markings show you where to drive, stop, and cross. You'll soon be able to read and react to them without thinking. Use this section to start getting familiar with the road.

Traffic signals

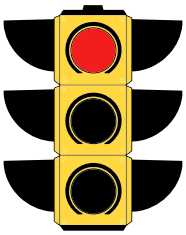
Traffic signals are lights placed above the roadway to organize the flow and direction of traffic.



Steady green light: You can go. If you're at an intersection, check to make sure it's clear, as vehicles may still be finishing their turns from the previous light. Yield to any pedestrians crossing.



Steady yellow light: The light is about to turn red. Stop if you can do so safely. If you're already in the intersection, continue through.

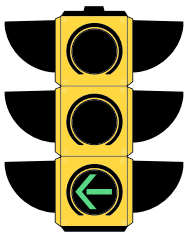


Steady red light: Stop completely behind the stop line or crosswalk. Stay stopped until the light turns green.

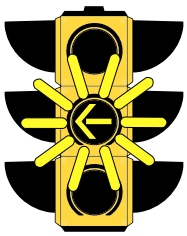
The exception: Right turns (or left turns onto a one-way street) are allowed on solid red arrow and steady red light unless there is a sign indicating otherwise. Come to a complete stop and turn only if there's no oncoming traffic.

On the road test

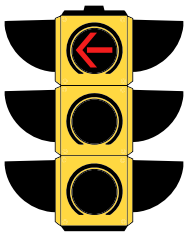
Don't stop at a green light unless you're yielding to someone. Stopping unnecessarily at a green light can be dangerous.



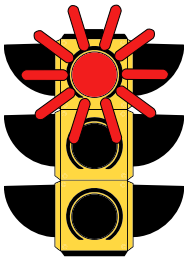
Green arrow: You have a protected turn because oncoming traffic has a red light. Proceed in the direction the arrow points but still yield to pedestrians.



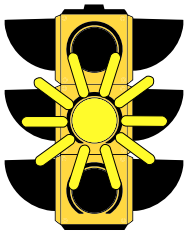
Flashing yellow arrow: You may turn in the direction of the arrow, but you must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians first.



Solid red arrow: Stop. You cannot turn until the signal changes.



Flashing red light: Treat it like a stop sign. Come to a full stop, check for traffic in all directions, and go when it's safe.



Flashing yellow light: Slow down, scan for traffic and pedestrians in both directions, and proceed carefully through the intersection.

Be aware

If a traffic signal is not working, come to a complete stop and yield to vehicles already in the intersection. If you and another vehicle arrive at the light at the same time, the vehicle on the right goes first.

Traffic signs

Shapes

A sign's shape tells you what type of message it carries even before you read the words.

Octagon



Stop

Triangle



Yield

Diamond



Warning

Pentagon



School

Pennant



Warning / no passing

Rectangle



Directions

Rectangle



Law / regulation

Round



Railroad crossing ahead

X-shaped



Railroad crossing

Colors

A sign's color also carries meaning:

Red:
Stop or prohibited

Yellow:
Caution or general warning

Orange:
Caution for construction or maintenance zone

Green:
Directions and guidance

Blue:
Service and hospitality (gas, food, hospitals)

Black on white / white on black:
Regulatory information (what is legally allowed)

Brown:
Recreational and cultural information

Fluorescent yellow/green:
School, pedestrian, and bicycle warning

Fluorescent pink:
Emergency or unplanned incident

Route markers

Route markers identify the road you're on. Four common examples of the many route markers you'll see in Michigan are:



Interstate freeway signs are shield-shaped with red, white, and blue



U.S. highway signs are badge-shaped with black text on a white background



State highway signs are diamond-shaped with black text on a white background



County route markers are pentagonal with yellow text on a blue background

Regulatory signs

Regulatory signs tell you about specific laws, like speed limits, turn restrictions, one-way streets, or no parking. They regulate the speed and movement of traffic. They are usually rectangular and colored white and black, red and white, or red, white, and black.







Traffic sign challenge

Test your sign recognition. Can you identify the following signs by their shape and color? Answers are on Page 73.



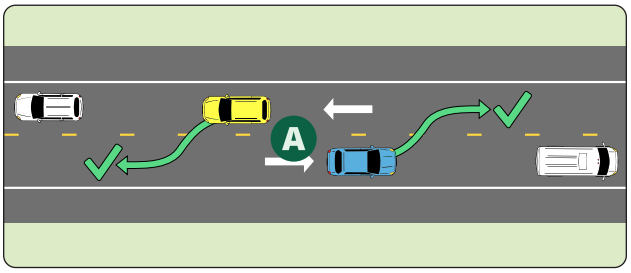
Pavement markings

Pavement markings are white or yellow and serve three purposes: warn, regulate, and guide.

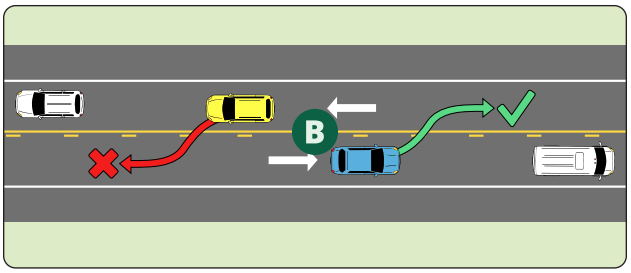
Yellow lines

Yellow lines separate traffic lanes moving in opposite directions.

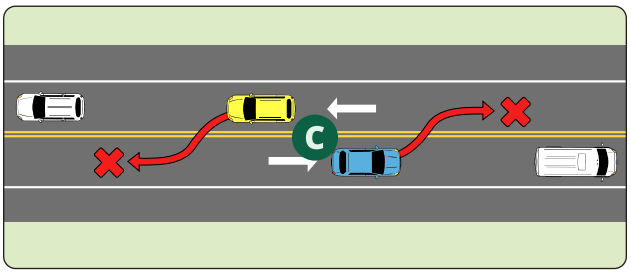
A **Broken yellow lines:** Mark the center of a two-lane road. You can cross the lines to pass other cars if it is safe to do so.



B **Solid yellow lines:** If a solid yellow line is on your side of the center line, do not cross the line to pass. On a divided roadway or one-way road, a solid yellow line usually marks the left edge of the pavement.

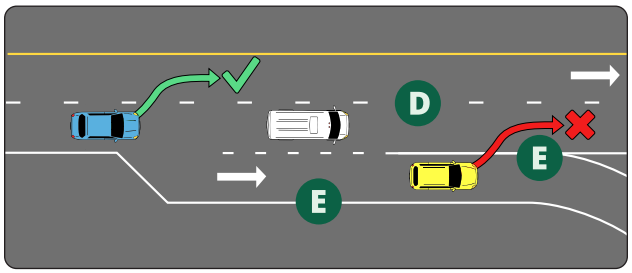


C **Double solid yellow lines:** No passing allowed for traffic in either direction.



White lines

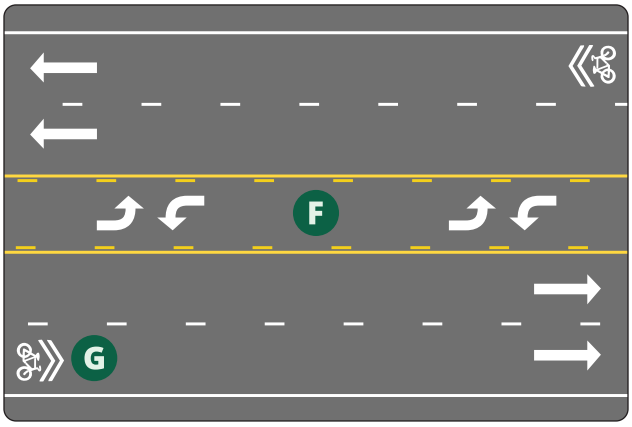
White lines separate traffic lanes moving in the same direction.



D **Broken white lines:** Separate lanes on multi-lane roads going in the same direction. You can cross a broken white line to change lanes.

E **Solid white lines** do two things: First, they mark the right edge of the road. It is illegal to cross this line when it marks the edge of the road. Second, they separate lanes where changing lanes is discouraged but not illegal, such as sharp curves and freeway on- and off-ramps.

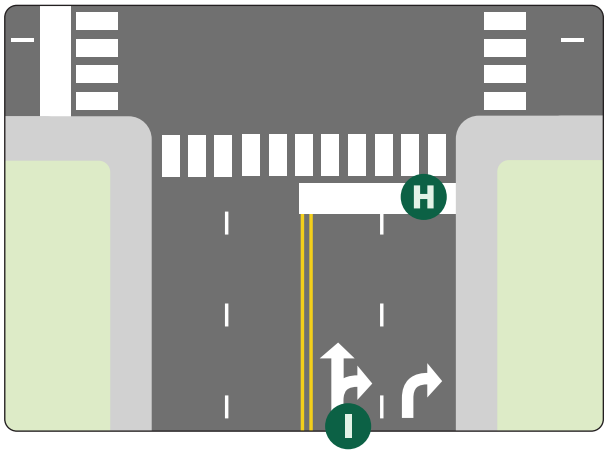
Special markings



F **Left turn only center lane:** A center lane marked with solid yellow lines on the outside edges and broken yellow lines on the inside edges. Left turns may be made from either direction. Use this lane only for turning and not for passing.

G **Shared-lane marking (sharrow):** A bicycle symbol with two arrows above it. It indicates that bicyclists and motorists share the lane. Expect bicyclists in your lane and give them space.

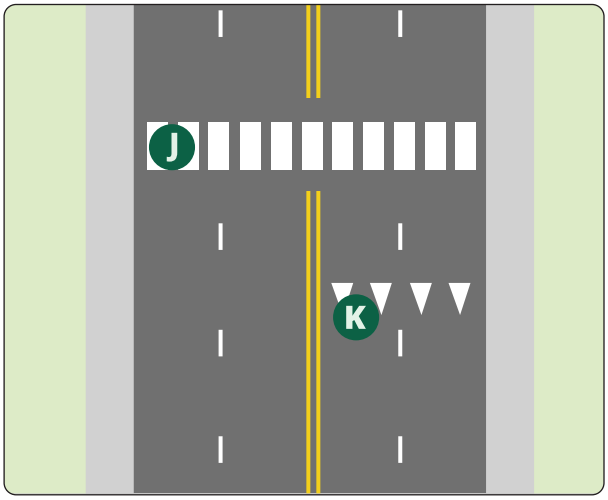
Pavement markings at intersections



H **Stop lines:** Wide white lines painted across your lane. Stop your vehicle behind these lines. If there's no stop line (and no crosswalk), stop before the intersection.

I **Directional arrows:** White arrows painted in the center of your lane. They show which way you can go from that lane: straight, left, right, or a combination. Get into the correct lane before you reach the intersection. Some lanes that you can turn from will not have arrows painted on them.

Pavement markings between intersections



J **Crosswalks:** Solid white lines or white stripes painted across the road. Some are at intersections; others are between intersections. Always look out for pedestrians and stop behind the crosswalk, not on top of it.

At intersections with crosswalks (whether marked or unmarked) but no stop lines, you must stop before entering the intersection. Not all crosswalks are marked. Make sure you can see traffic from all directions.

K **Yield lines:** Row of triangles or dashed white lines across your lane. You'll see them at roundabouts and some crosswalks. Stop behind them when yielding.

Railroad crossings



Railroad crossings have their own set of signs, signals, and markings. It is illegal to race a train, bypass lowered gates, or ignore warning signals at a train crossing.

Warning signs:

A round yellow sign with a black X and "RR" warns of a railroad crossing ahead. When you see this sign, slow down and be prepared to stop.

Passive crossings:

Some railroad crossings do not have flashing lights or gates. At these crossings, always slow down and look both ways before crossing.

Active crossings:

Active crossings have flashing lights, gates, bells, or other warning devices that activate when a train is approaching. When these are active, stop and wait. Do not cross until the lights stop flashing, the gates are fully raised, and you can see that no train is coming from either direction. Never stop on railroad tracks.

On the road test

At railroad crossings, look both ways, slow down, and don't shift gears on the tracks. Never stop on railroad tracks.

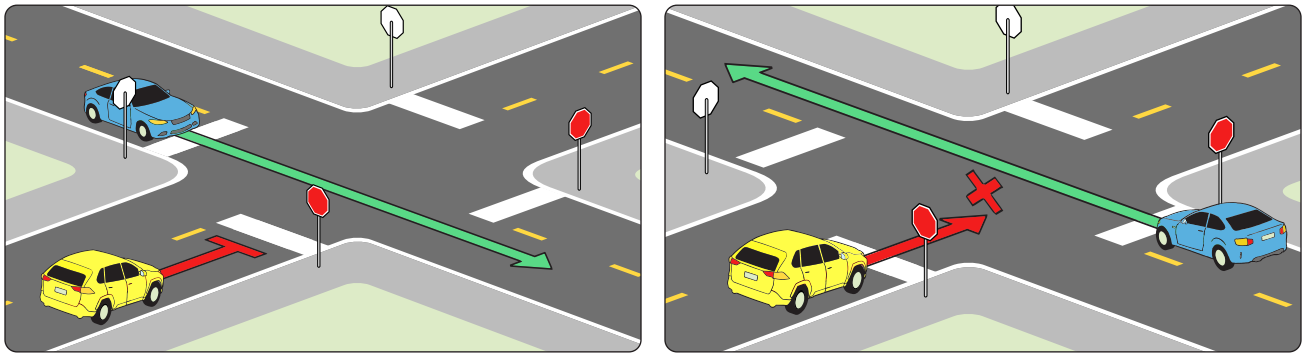
Intersections

More crashes happen at intersections than anywhere else on the road. They're where paths cross, drivers make turns, and mistakes are most likely to happen. Even experienced drivers get into trouble at intersections, and many crash-involved drivers say they never saw the other vehicle coming. Motorcyclists are especially at risk of being hit at intersections because their smaller size makes them hard to see in traffic. Every time you approach an intersection, slow down and check in all directions. This section covers everything you need to know, from making turns to navigating roundabouts.

Right of way at intersections

Right of way is the legal right for one vehicle or pedestrian to go before another. You give the right of way by yielding and letting someone else go first. This means slowing down and being prepared to stop. In some cases, you are legally required to give the right of way. But you should always be ready to yield if someone else doesn't stop.

At a four-way stop: Also known as an all-way stop, these intersections have stop signs at every corner. The vehicle that stopped first goes first. If two vehicles stop at the same time, the vehicle on the right goes first.



At a four-way stop, the first vehicle to arrive goes first. If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the right goes first.

When turning left: Yield to oncoming traffic that's going straight or turning right.

When turning at a green light: Yield to vehicles already in the intersection and to pedestrians.

When entering from a driveway or alley: Come to a complete stop and enter the street when it's clear. If there is a sidewalk across the driveway or alley, stop before that, then roll up to the street, stop again, and enter traffic when clear.

If you can't see clearly: In the situation where your view is blocked by buildings or trees, stop at the intersection and slowly pull forward until you can see and continue through.

Emergency vehicles

If you hear a siren or see flashing lights from a police car, fire truck, or ambulance, pull over to the edge of the roadway or highway and stop. Let them pass before you re-enter the road. If you're in an intersection when you hear them, pass through the intersection first, then pull over.

Pedestrians

Yield to pedestrians and avoid colliding with them:

- In a crosswalk, whether at an intersection or between intersections.
- At an intersection with no marked crosswalk (pedestrians still have the right to cross).
- If your light turns green and a pedestrian is already in the crosswalk.

⚠ Be aware

Watch for children near school zones, people using wheelchairs or mobility devices, and anyone with a visual impairment using a white cane or guide dog. Michigan law requires you to stop for pedestrians with visual impairments in the road, even if they're not in a crosswalk.

If you're going straight

When the light is green:

Check traffic in all directions as you approach the intersection. If the intersection is clear, continue through at a steady speed, don't speed up or slow down unnecessarily. Stay in your lane until you're through, and never change lanes while in an intersection.

Watch for vehicles that may be finishing left turns from the opposite direction, and yield to any pedestrians still crossing.

When there's no signal or stop sign:

Some smaller intersections are "uncontrolled," meaning they have no traffic signals or stop signs. Slow down as you approach and check carefully in all directions. If another vehicle reaches the intersection before you, let them go first. If two vehicles arrive at the same time, the vehicle on the right goes first.

On the road test

At every intersection, scan all directions. Move your head so the scan is obvious.

If you're turning right

Before you turn:

Signal at least 100 feet before the turn (about three to four seconds ahead). Move into the right lane if you're not already there.

As you turn:

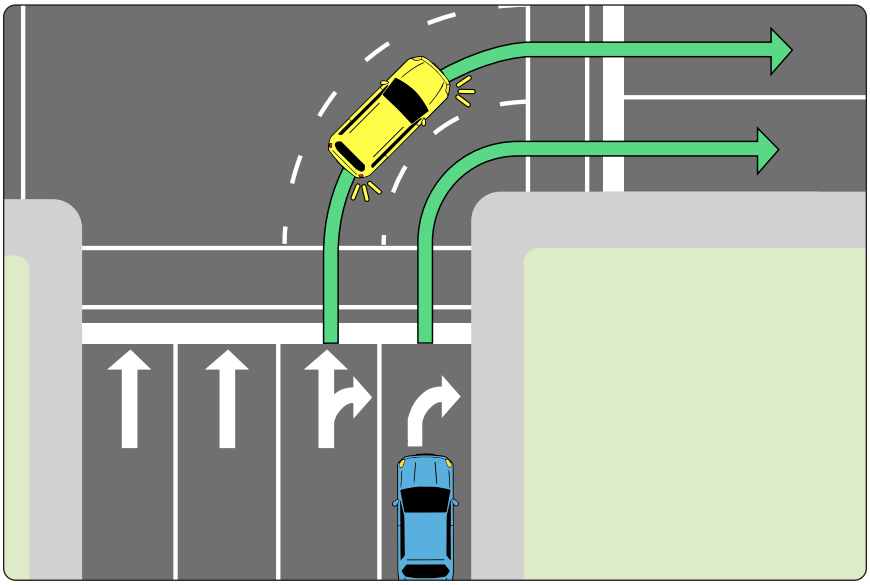
Check for pedestrians and bicyclists on your right; they may be crossing the street you're turning onto or riding along the curb. Follow the curve of the curb as you turn. Don't swing wide into other lanes. You cannot change lanes while turning.

On the road test

Enter the turn lane at a marked opening, not too early and not too late. Don't straddle or cross lane markings. When you complete the turn, enter the correct lane on the new road.

Right turn on red:

You can turn right on a steady red light in Michigan, but only after you come to a complete stop and check that no traffic, pedestrians, or cyclists are coming. If a sign says, "No Turn on Red," you must wait for a green light.



When turning right, stay in your lane through the full turn.

If you're turning left

Left turns are one of the trickiest maneuvers at an intersection. Pay careful attention to traffic. Look especially for motorcyclists, bicyclists, and pedestrians, since they are harder to see and may be hidden from view by larger vehicles. You're crossing oncoming traffic, so timing and positioning matter.

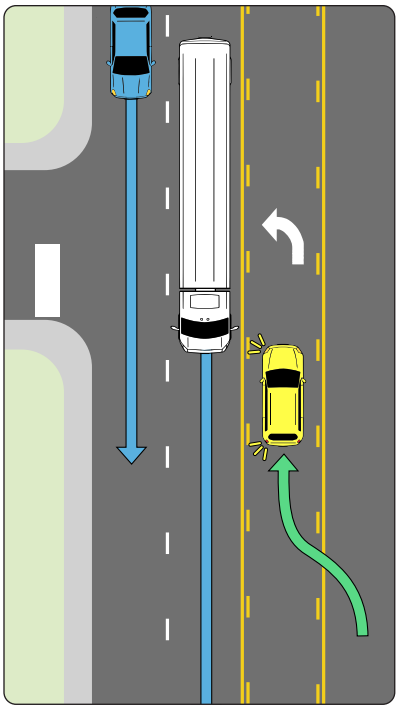
Before you turn:

Signal at least 100 feet ahead. Move into the left-turn lane or the lane closest to the center line. If there's a left-turn-only center lane, use it.

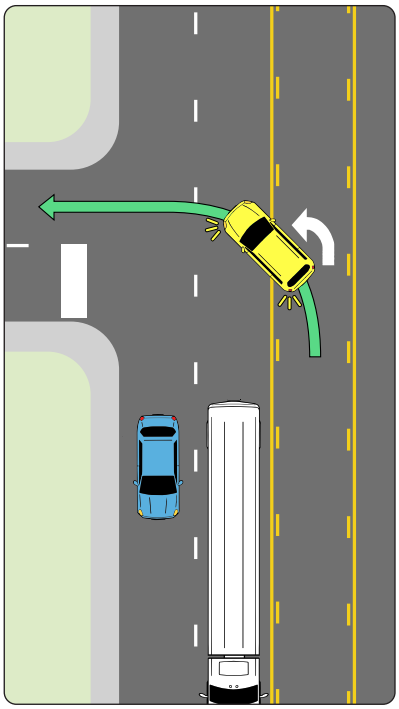
Waiting to turn:

Keep your front wheels pointed straight while you wait. If someone hits you from behind, straight wheels prevent you from being pushed into oncoming traffic.

If the light turns red while you're waiting inside the intersection, complete your turn to clear the intersection.



Step 1: Wait in the left turn lane with your wheels pointed straight and yield to oncoming traffic.



Step 2: Once the road is clear, complete your turn into the correct lane.

As you turn:

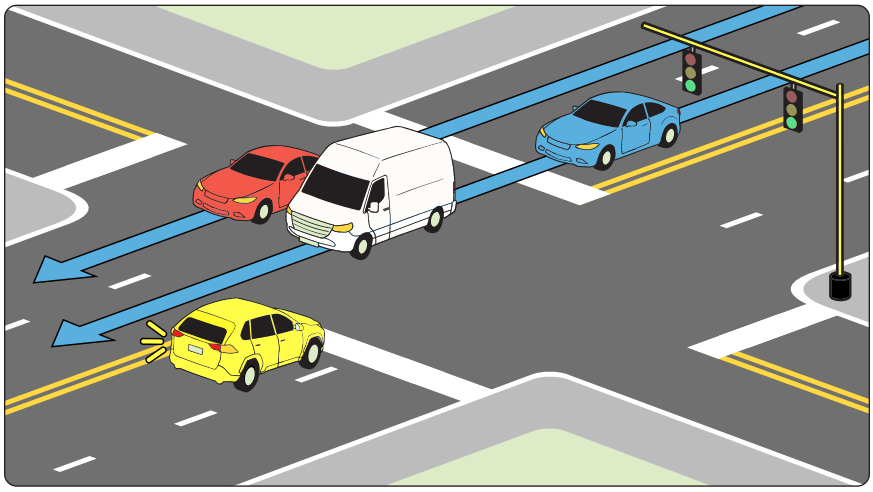
Yield to oncoming vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists. When multiple left-turn lanes are present, complete your turn by entering the lane that lines up with the turn lane you started in. You should not change lanes while turning.

Left turn on red:

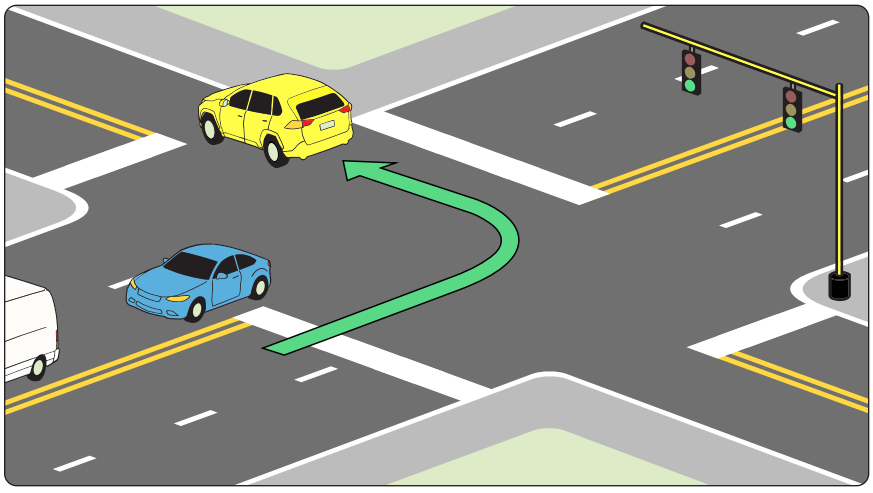
In Michigan, you may only turn left on a red light when turning onto a one-way street. Come to a complete stop first and check for traffic.

On the road test

Make sure you're in the correct lane when turning. You should yield properly and keep your wheels straight while waiting.



Step 1: Move into the left-turn lane and yield to oncoming traffic.



Step 2: Once oncoming traffic has cleared, complete your left turn.

Michigan Lefts

If you drive in Michigan, you'll encounter Michigan Lefts, also called indirect left turns. They've been part of Michigan roads since the late 1960s, and they're at intersections all over the state.

At an intersection with a Michigan Left, a direct left turn is not allowed. Instead, you'll make a U-turn at a median crossover just past the intersection. Here's how it works for the two most common situations.

Turning left from the main road:

Drive straight through the intersection. Just past it, you'll see a median crossover (a gap in the center divider). Signal, move into the crossover, and wait for a gap in oncoming traffic (or a green arrow, if there's a signal). Make your U-turn, then turn right onto the cross street into the nearest lane.

Turning left from a side street:

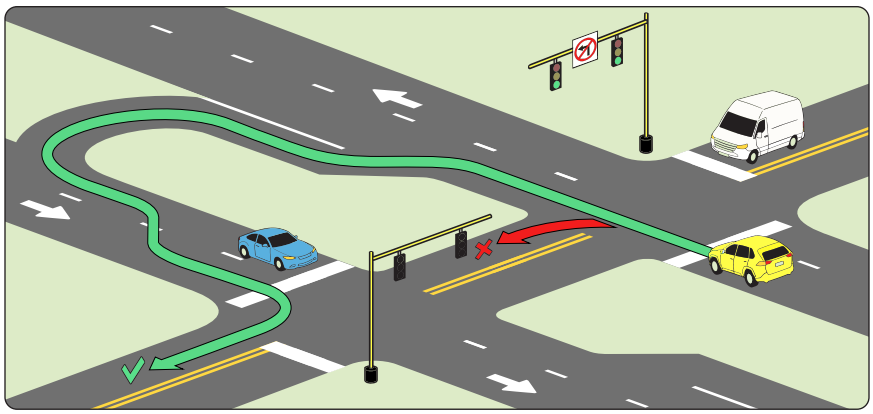
Turn right onto the main road first. Drive to the median crossover, make a U-turn, and now you're heading in the direction you originally wanted.

How to spot them:



Look for "No Left Turn" signs at the intersection, with arrows directing you to the crossover. The crossover itself will have signs and lane markings guiding you through.

Michigan Lefts may feel unusual if you're new to the state, but they keep traffic moving safely and efficiently at busy intersections. Once you've done a few, they feel natural.



At a Michigan Left intersection, drive straight through, make a U-turn at the median crossover just ahead, then turn right onto your street.

Roundabouts

A roundabout is a circular intersection where traffic flows in one direction counterclockwise around a center island. There are no traffic lights. Instead, cars entering the roundabout yield to traffic approaching from the left.



Approaching a roundabout:

Enter the roundabout using the lane you will need to exit out of. Slow down and look both ways when entering. Yield to any vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians crossing at the entry point and turn right. Never make a left turn.

Inside the roundabout:

Stay in your lane and keep moving with the flow of traffic. Don't stop inside the roundabout unless it's to avoid a collision. When you reach your exit, signal right and leave the roundabout.

On the road test

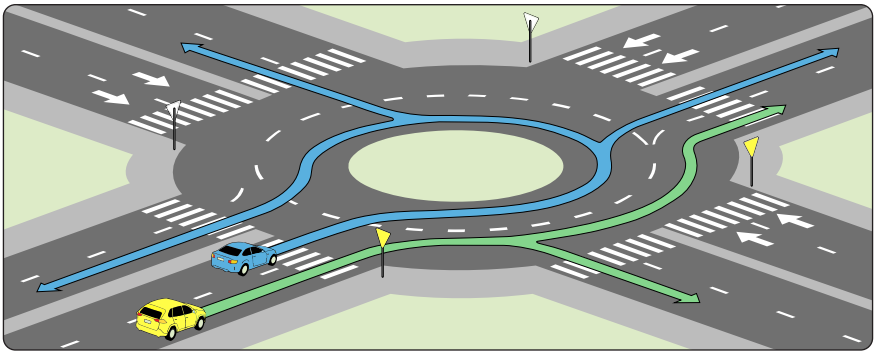
Yield at the entry, stay in your lane, and signal before exiting. Don't stop inside the roundabout.

Multi-lane roundabouts:

If the roundabout has more than one lane, choose the correct lane before you enter:

- **Going straight?** Use any lane.
- **Turning right?** Use the right lane.
- **Turning left?** Use the left lane.
- **Going all the way around to make a U-turn?** Use the left lane.

Follow the lane markings through the roundabout and don't switch lanes while inside it.



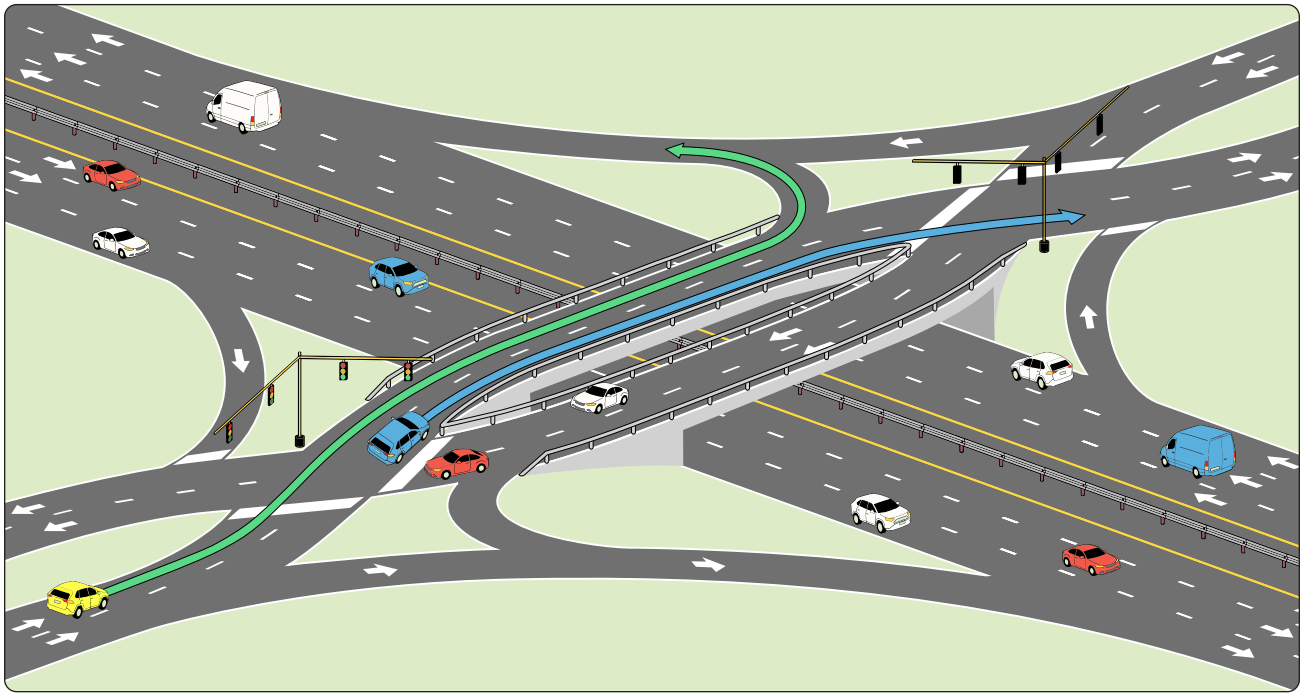
Choose your lane before entering a roundabout. Yield to traffic already in the circle.

Emergency vehicles: If you are already inside the roundabout and an emergency vehicle approaches, do not stop. Continue to the nearest exit and exit the roundabout completely, then pull over and wait for the vehicle to pass.

Diverging diamond interchange

A diverging diamond interchange (DDI) is a different type of interchange used successfully in several Michigan locations. They're designed to reduce collisions, traffic congestion, and backups and eliminate the need for drivers to stop at a signal when entering or exiting the highway or freeway.

Stay alert and drive at a safe speed. Even though traffic flow has improved, it's important to remain aware of your surroundings.



Pay close attention to signs and pavement markings at DDIs. They will guide you through the lane shift and turns.

What to expect

- **Lane shifts:** If you see the road crossing over to the left at an intersection with a freeway, you'll be entering a DDI. At the entrance and exit of this crossover, you'll notice signs and pavement markings that will guide you through the lane shift to the left side of the roadway safely.
- **If you're turning left onto the freeway:** Don't worry about oncoming traffic. The design eliminates conflicts with oncoming vehicles.
- **If you're going straight:** After crossing the overpass or underpass, you'll be directed to cross back over to the right side of the road.

Intersections

Check your knowledge

Test yourself with these scenarios, then check the answers on Page 72.

1. Two cars reach a four-way stop at the same time. The other car is to your left. Who goes first?
2. You're turning left at a green light with no arrow. The light turns red while you're still in the intersection. Should you stop or finish your turn?
3. You're approaching an intersection with a stop sign and see pedestrians waiting to cross on the street corner. What should you do?

Sharing the road

You won't be the only one out there. In addition to cars, Michigan roads carry pedestrians, bicyclists, motorcyclists, trucks, buses, farm equipment, and emergency vehicles, all at the same time. Each vehicle moves differently, has different visibility, and needs different space.

This section covers what to watch for and how to drive safely no matter who or what you encounter.

Pedestrians

On the road test

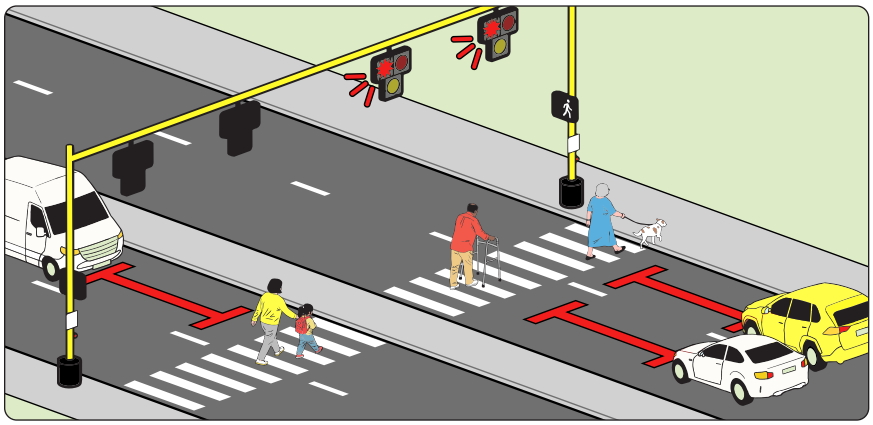
Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and at intersections. Make your traffic checks obvious. Move your head to scan for pedestrians, especially when turning.

Always look out for pedestrians whether or not they are in a crosswalk. This includes people walking, jogging, skateboarding, pushing a stroller, or using a wheelchair.. Take every precaution to avoid a collision with a pedestrian.

By law you must yield to pedestrians who are blind or visually impaired. If you see a person using a white cane or a guide dog, stop and wait while they cross.

Some crosswalks use a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon. This is a set of lights above the crosswalk that turn on when a pedestrian presses a button.

- Flashing yellow: Slow down.
- Yellow: Stop if safe to do so.
- Red: Stop.
- Flashing red: Stop; continue when crosswalk is clear.
- No light: Traffic continues normally.



When a pedestrian pushes a button at a crosswalk with a Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon, a series of yellow and red lights turn on telling drivers what to do.

Children

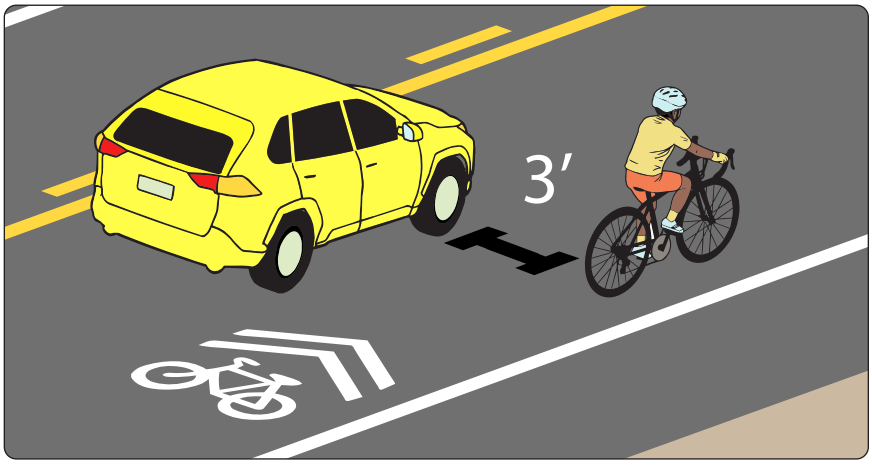
Pay close attention around parked cars, in residential neighborhoods, near school zones, playgrounds, and parks where children are likely to be present. Children are unpredictable and can dart out into the street unexpectedly. Be especially cautious near school zone crosswalks when school is in session.

Bicyclists

Bicyclists may legally ride on Michigan roads, except freeways, as long as they are riding with traffic.

Passing a bicyclist:

When passing a bicyclist, Michigan law requires a minimum distance of three feet. It's a good idea to give bicyclists as much room as you would give another vehicle. Pass in an adjacent lane when it is legal and safe to do so.



When passing a bicyclist, give them at least three feet of space.

At intersections and driveways:

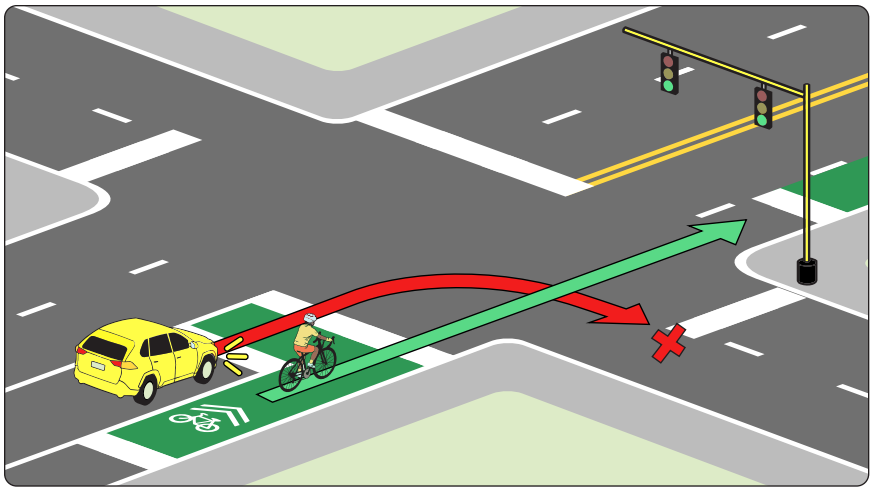
Before turning right, check for bicyclists who may be coming up in a bike lane or the road shoulder. Yield before turning.

Be aware

It is illegal to use bike lanes for driving, passing, or making right turns unless you are within 200 feet of a corner or driveway. Never park in a bike lane.

Bike lanes:

A bike lane is marked with special pavement markings and signs. Green markings indicate points of potential conflict between cars and bicycles, usually at intersections and driveways.



Before turning right, check for bicyclists in the bike lane and yield to them. Never cross a bike lane without checking first.

Motorcyclists

Motorcycles are smaller than cars, which makes them harder to see and harder to judge for speed and distance. Any crash between a car and one of these vehicles is likely to result in serious injury or death for the rider.

Watch for them at intersections:

Most vehicle-motorcyclist crashes occur at intersections and on busy city streets. Always check twice for motorcycles before turning or pulling out.

Give them a full lane:

It is illegal to drive beside a motorcyclist or pass them within the same lane. Pass using an adjacent lane when it is legal and safe to do so. Motorcyclists are entitled to use the full width of their lane.

Don't tailgate:

Motorcyclists can stop more quickly than cars. Increase your following distance compared to normal cars for the safety of the motorcyclist and yourself.

School buses

Use extra care around buses and in school zones. Children may dart into the street or out from around parked vehicles. You will have to pay a steep fine for failing to stop for a school bus.

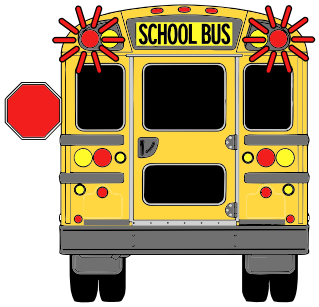
School bus signals



When a bus's yellow hazard lights are flashing (near the taillights), proceed with caution.



When the yellow overhead lights are flashing, be prepared to stop.



When the red overhead lights are flashing or the stop sign is deployed, stop at least 20 feet from the bus and remain stopped until the lights are turned off.

On the road test

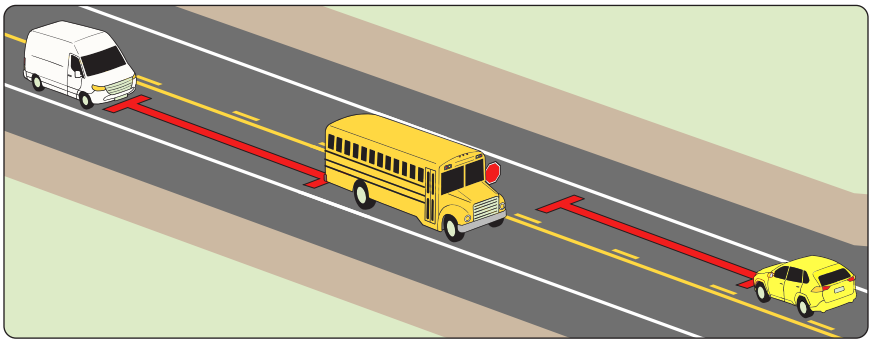
Always stop for a school bus with its red lights flashing.

When a school bus stops

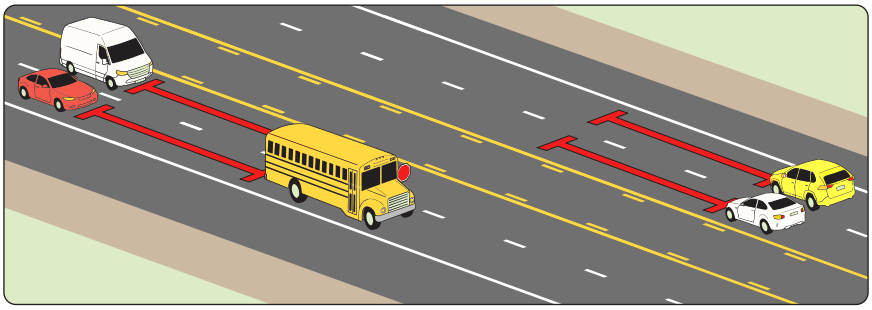
Stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that has its red overhead lights flashing. Remain stopped until the flashing red lights are turned off or the bus resumes traveling. It doesn't matter which direction you're coming from, you must stop.

The exception: If you're on a road with a physical barrier or unpaved median separating the directions of traffic, like a concrete or grass island, you only need to stop if you're traveling in the same direction as the bus.

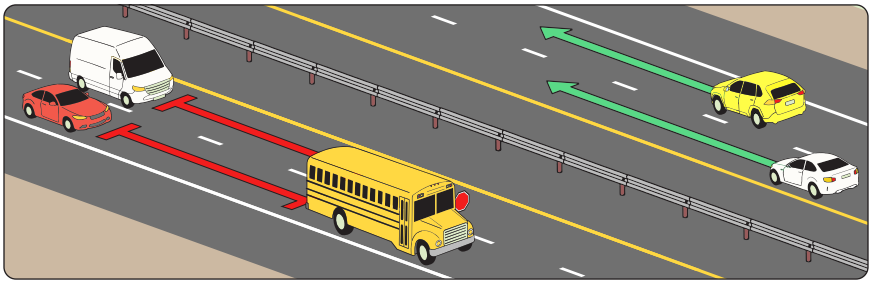
When a school bus stops with red lights flashing on a two-lane road, all traffic in both directions must stop at least 20 feet from the bus.



On a multi-lane road without a physical barrier, all traffic in both directions must stop when a school bus has its red lights flashing.



On a divided road with a physical barrier, only traffic traveling in the same direction as the bus must stop. Traffic on the other side of the barrier can continue.



Commercial vehicles

Large trucks and other commercial vehicles have bigger blind spots, need more room to stop, and make wider turns than passenger vehicles. Understanding how they move helps you drive safely around them.

Blind spots:

Commercial vehicles have large blind spots (areas around the vehicle that the driver cannot see, even with mirrors). If you can't see the driver's face in their mirror, they can't see you. Avoid driving alongside a truck for extended periods, especially on the right side.

Passing a truck:

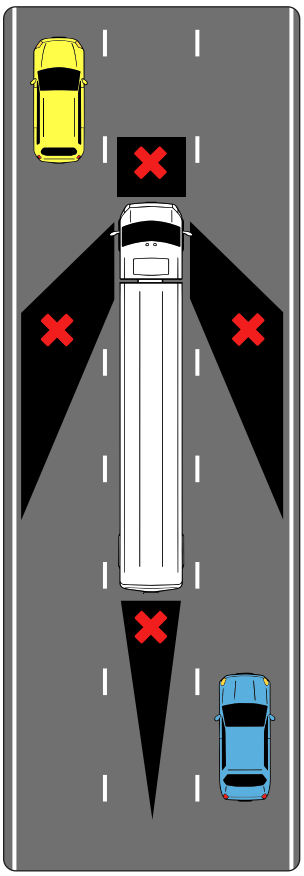
When passing a commercial vehicle on a highway or freeway, always pass on the left and maintain a steady speed. Once you've passed, don't cut back in front of the truck too soon. Wait until you can see the entire front of the truck (the cab) in your rearview mirror before merging back in front. Always signal your lane changes early so the truck driver has plenty of time to react and never has to brake suddenly. Avoid passing a truck when you are within a mile of your exit.

Following a truck:

Stay far enough behind a truck that you can see its mirrors. If you're too close, the truck driver can't see you, and you can't see the road ahead. Keep at least a four-second following distance.

Trucks making turns:

Large trucks often need to swing wide to make right turns. Don't try to squeeze between a turning truck and the curb. The truck may need that space to complete the turn.



Stay out of a truck's blind spots, indicated by the areas in black. If you can't see the driver's face in their mirror, they can't see you.

Emergency and maintenance vehicles

On the road test

Make sure to respond properly to a stationary emergency or maintenance vehicle with its lights flashing.

Authorized emergency vehicles include ambulances, fire department vehicles, police vehicles, and privately owned vehicles of volunteer firefighters. When you see or hear an emergency vehicle approaching, pull over to the edge of the roadway or highway, clear of intersections, and stop. If the way to the right is blocked, stay in your lane and pull as far to the right as possible and stop. Wait for the vehicle to pass before you re-enter the road.

Do not follow within 500 feet of a moving emergency vehicle with its lights flashing. Do not drive over fire hoses unless you have permission from the fire department. If you see an emergency vehicle stopped on the side of the road, try to change your lane and/or reduce your speed.

Michigan's Move Over Law

When you approach an emergency vehicle with its lights flashing stopped on the side of the road, you must slow down at least 10 mph below the speed limit and move over a lane if traffic and conditions allow. This does not mean only police, firefighters, or ambulances; it includes other vehicles with oscillating lights like solid waste haulers, utility service vehicles, and road maintenance vehicles.

Slow-moving vehicles

Slow-moving vehicles are those that cannot travel faster than 25 mph. Examples include horse-drawn carriages used by Amish communities, farm machinery such as combines and tractors pulling trailers or wagons, and industrial and construction equipment.

A slow-moving vehicle will often have an orange triangle mounted on the back to warn motorists of the vehicle's limited speed. Be patient; the driver will pull over to let you pass when it's safe.

When following a slow-moving vehicle, increase your following distance. Their movement can be unpredictable. Farm equipment, for example, may turn suddenly into a field entrance. Pass only when it is safe and legal to do so.

Funeral processions

Funeral processions have the right of way over all other vehicles, except for fire trucks, ambulances, and police vehicles. Vehicles in funeral processions should be marked with orange flags. It is a civil infraction to cut through a funeral procession.

Construction zones

Construction zones use orange signs, barricades, cones, plastic drums, and workers directing traffic to guide you through areas where road work is happening. Speed limits are lower (45 mph unless posted differently), so pay attention to signs, lane markings, and any workers directing traffic. Watch carefully for construction workers or moving equipment.

Construction workers have the authority to direct traffic, even if their directions conflict with existing signs or signals. Follow their instructions. Drive defensively to avoid problems. Be patient and everyone will travel through the construction zone safely.

Be aware

Fines are doubled for all moving violations in work zones. If you injure or kill anyone in a work zone, you can face fines up to $7,500 and up to 15 years in prison.

Sharing the road

Check your knowledge

Test yourself with these scenarios, then check the answers on Page 72.

1. A school bus in front of you stops with its red overhead lights flashing. How far behind the bus should you stop?
2. You're driving behind a large truck and can't see the truck's mirrors. What does that mean?
3. You're driving through a construction zone on a highway and there is no posted speed limit. How fast should you be driving?

Highway and freeway driving

Highways and freeways move faster than city streets, and they work differently. Once you're on a freeway, your attention shifts from busy, stop-and-go traffic to a steady, fast-moving pace that is free from the many distractions of city streets.

A **highway** is a higher-speed road, typically outside city centers, where you'll drive faster than on regular streets, but may still encounter intersections, traffic signals, or stop signs.

A **freeway** (like an interstate) is a higher-speed road where there is no cross-traffic, no stop signs or signals, and where you enter and exit using dedicated ramps.

This section walks you through getting on highways and freeways, driving at full speed, passing other vehicles, and getting off safely.

Who's not allowed on freeways

Pedestrians, bicycles, mopeds, scooters under 125cc, all-terrain vehicles, and other slow-moving vehicles are not allowed on freeways. If you're driving one of these, use regular streets instead.

Getting on: Entering and merging

Entering a freeway is a big moment for a new driver. It takes practice, but the process is the same every time.

On the entrance ramp:

As you drive onto the entrance ramp, start looking for a gap in traffic. Watch the vehicles already on the freeway. Their speed and spacing will tell you where your opening is.

In the acceleration lane:

The entrance ramp feeds into an acceleration lane, a short lane that runs alongside the freeway. This

is your runway to match the speed of traffic before you merge. Don't stop in the acceleration lane unless traffic is completely backed up. Merging at low speed is dangerous.

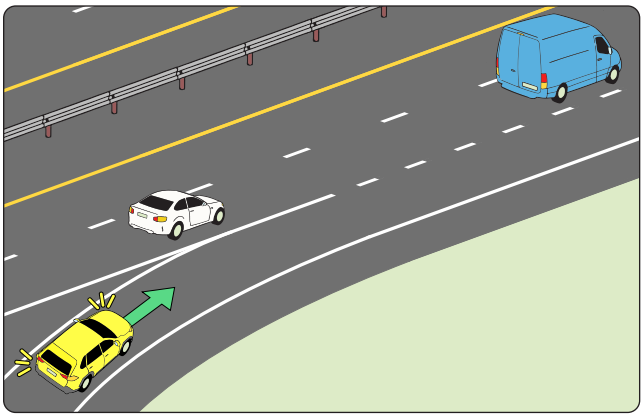
The merge itself:

Turn on your signal. Then:

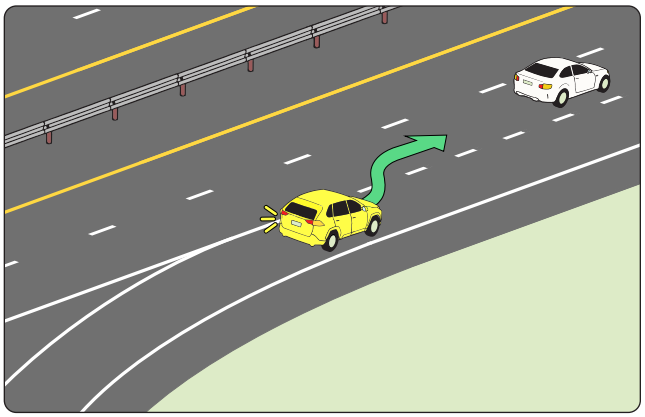
1. Look early for a gap in traffic to merge into.
2. Check your rearview mirror and side mirror (on the side you're merging into).
3. Briefly check over your shoulder to see your blind spot. Choose a safe space to enter.
4. Merge smoothly into the nearest lane. Keep your speed steady as you merge. Don't slow down.
5. Once you're fully in the lane, turn off your signal.

On the road test

Check your blind spot by looking quickly over your shoulder before merging. A mirror check alone is not enough. Adjust your speed to match traffic. Don't force other vehicles to brake for you.



Step 1: Build up your speed to match freeway traffic and look for a gap.



Step 2: Check your blind spot. Maintain speed as you merge.

When you're already on the freeway

If you're entering a freeway, you must yield to traffic already on it. If you're already on the freeway, you're not required to move over for a driver merging onto the freeway but it's safer to change lanes if you can, to give them room.

Driving at full speed

Once you're on the highway or freeway, the rhythm changes. You're moving faster, so everything requires more space and earlier decision making.

Lane choice

On a freeway with two lanes going in the same direction, stay in the right lane unless you're passing another vehicle or the right lane is blocked. The left lane is for passing. If a faster vehicle comes up behind you in the left lane, move right when it's safe to do so.

On a freeway with three or more lanes, you may use any lane, but staying right is still the safest choice. The left lane is best used for passing, the center for through traffic, and the right lane for entering and exiting. If you're driving slower than surrounding traffic, move to the right.

Speed

Michigan's Basic Speed Law says you must drive at a "careful and prudent" speed in all weather conditions. That means two things: Don't exceed the posted speed limit, and don't drive so slowly that you disrupt the flow of traffic. Some common speed limits you will see, unless posted differently:

- Freeways: 70 mph
- Two-lane highways outside cities: 55 mph
- Cities and towns: 25 mph

When you see a curve, slow down before you enter. Once you're in it, it's difficult to brake safely. Your car will naturally want to pull toward the outside of the curve, so keep both hands on the wheel and maintain a steady speed until you're through. If no advisory speed limit is posted, slow down based on how sharp the curve is.

Be aware

In bad weather, heavy traffic, or poor visibility, the safe speed may be well below the posted limit. Slow down when conditions demand it.

Following distance

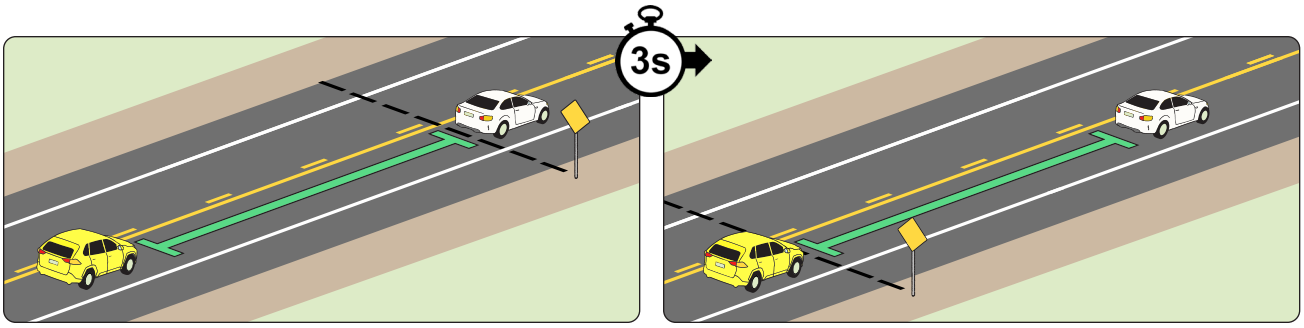
When driving an average speed (i.e., not on the highway and not at low speed), always maintain a reasonable distance from the car ahead of you, at least a three-to four-second gap between your vehicle and the one ahead of you. As a general rule, scan at least 12 seconds ahead on city streets and 20–30 seconds ahead on highways and freeways. This gives you time to spot hazards early and react.

On the road test

Don't drive too close to the car ahead of you.

Here's how to check:

Pick a fixed point on the side of the road, like a sign, post, or tree. When the vehicle ahead passes it, count "one-thousand-and-one, one-thousand-and-two, one-thousand-and-three." If you reach the point before you finish counting, you're too close.



Keep a three to four second gap between your vehicle and the one ahead of you.

The space it takes to bring your vehicle to a complete stop depends on more than just how hard you press the brake. Your speed, reaction time, the condition of your tires and brakes, the road surface, and the weather all affect how long it takes to stop. This is why maintaining a safe following distance matters so much.

In bad conditions or at faster speeds, increase your distance. The faster you go, the more distance you need. At highway speed, even a small increase in speed means a significantly longer stopping distance.

In rain, snow, fog, or heavy traffic, increase your following distance. On wet roads, double it. On ice or snow, allow even more space. Stopping distances in icy conditions can be three to 10 times longer than on dry pavement.

Long drives

Long drives on highways and freeways come with a risk that city driving doesn't: fatigue. The monotony of highway and freeway driving, the constant hum of tires, wind, and engine can make you drowsy or disengaged, sometimes without realizing it. On long trips, you may find yourself staring at the road without really processing what you see.

To stay alert:

- Take a break at least every two hours. Pull off at a rest area, get out of the vehicle, and move around for at least 10 minutes.
- Shift your eyes regularly. Don't stare at one point. Scan the road, mirrors, and surroundings in a pattern.
- Keep your vehicle's interior climate a little cool. A warm car can make you drowsier.
- If you feel drowsy, stop driving. Coffee and "stay awake" pills are not reliable substitutes for rest. Find a safe place to stop, let someone else drive, or take a break.

Cruise control:

Cruise control holds your vehicle at a set speed without the need to press the gas pedal. It's useful on long, straight stretches of highway with light traffic. Don't use cruise control in heavy traffic, near congested interchanges, while drowsy, or on wet, icy, or winding roads. You need full control of your speed in those conditions.

Changing lanes

Lane changes on highways and freeways happen at higher speeds than on city streets, so you need to check your mirrors and blind spots more frequently and signal earlier.

To change lanes:

Turn on your signal for the direction you're intending to move. Check your rearview mirror, then your side mirror on the side you're moving toward. Then look over your shoulder to check the blind spot (the area your mirrors can't cover). If the lane is clear, move over smoothly. Turn off your signal once you've completed the lane change.

To change left:

Check behind you and to your left. Signal left. Look over your left shoulder. Move over.

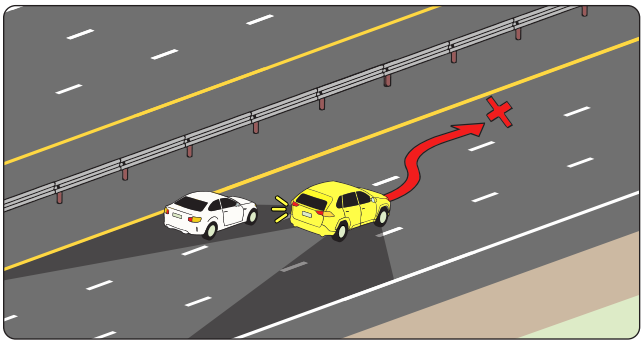
To change right:

Check behind you and to your right. Signal right. Look over your right shoulder. Move over.

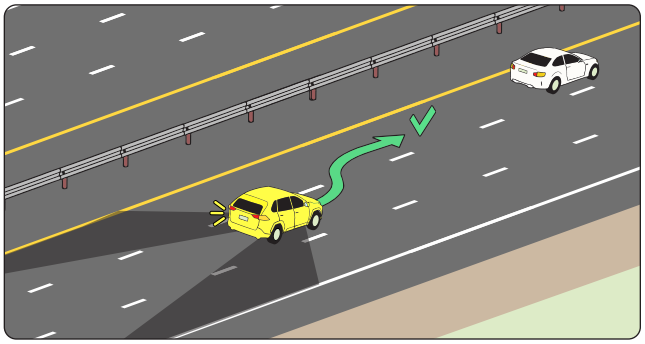
Don't weave between lanes. If you need to move across multiple lanes, make one lane change at a time. Signal, check, move, settle, then repeat.

On the road test

When changing lanes, signal at least 100 feet ahead (about three to four seconds). Check your mirrors and blind spots. Stay within lane markings during the change. Don't drift or straddle the line.



Step 1: Always check your mirrors and look over your shoulder before changing lanes. If a vehicle is in your blind spot, do not move over.



Step 2: Once you've confirmed your blind spot is clear, signal and move over smoothly.

Passing other vehicles

Passing means changing lanes to get around a slower vehicle, then returning to your original lane. How you pass will depend on the road you're on and the cars around you. When passing a vehicle, exceeding the posted speed limit is illegal.

Passing on a two-lane highway

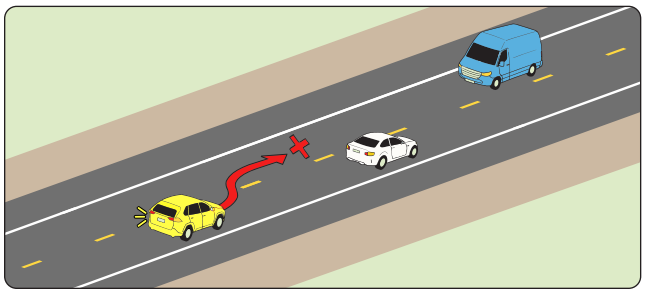
On a two-lane highway (one lane in each direction), passing puts you briefly in the oncoming traffic lane, so the risk is greater.

Before you pass, make sure the road ahead is clear and you have enough distance to complete the pass safely. Never pass on hills or curves when sight distance is limited. It is difficult to predict the speed of oncoming traffic.

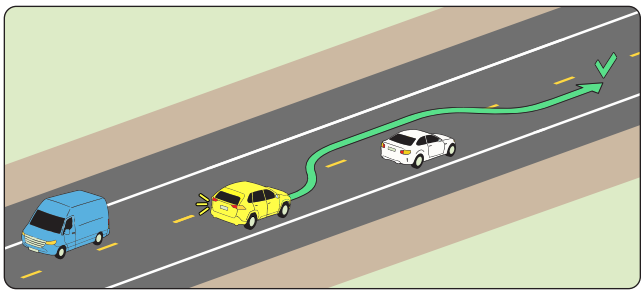
To pass:

Check your mirrors and blind spot. Signal left. Move into the oncoming lane. Accelerate past the vehicle. Once you can see the entire vehicle you passed in your rearview mirror, signal right and move back into the right lane.

You must return to your lane before any oncoming vehicle is within 200 feet.



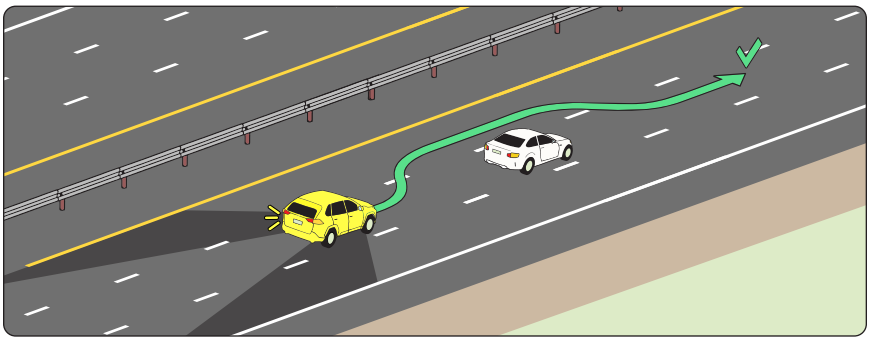
Step 1: Never pass on a two-lane highway if there is oncoming traffic.



Step 2: When the road ahead is completely clear, signal, check your mirrors and blind spot, pass efficiently, and return to your lane safely.

Passing on a multi-lane highway or freeway

On highways with two or more lanes in each direction, pass by moving into the middle or left lane. Check mirrors, signal, check your blind spot, and change lanes. Once you can see the entire vehicle you passed in your rearview mirror, signal right and return to the lane you were in.



On a multi-lane highway, use the middle or left lane to pass. After clearing the vehicle, signal and return to the lane you were in.

Passing on the right

Passing on the right is allowed in Michigan, but only in certain situations:

- At an intersection, the vehicle ahead is turning left and there's room to pass safely on the right without crossing the solid white line marking the edge of the road.
- You're on a one-way street with more than one lane.
- You're on a road with two or more lanes going your direction.

When you can't pass

Don't pass when:

- A solid yellow line is on your side of the center line.
- "No Passing Zone" signs are posted.
- You're approaching a hill or curve and can't see oncoming traffic clearly.
- You're within 100 feet of an intersection or railroad crossing.
- Your view is blocked within 100 feet of a bridge, viaduct, or tunnel.
- A school bus is stopped with its red lights flashing.

- A vehicle has stopped at a crosswalk or intersection to allow a pedestrian to cross.
- Oncoming traffic is close enough that trying to pass would place vehicles in danger.

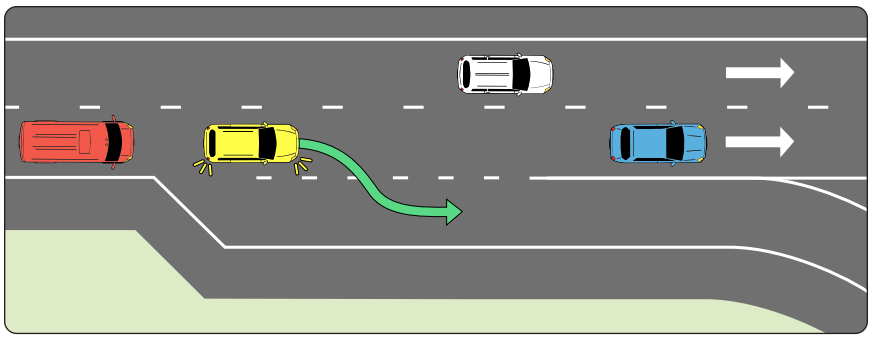
Never drive on the shoulder to pass.

Getting off: Exiting the freeway

Planning your exit:

Watch for exit signs. They usually appear about a mile-and-a-half before the exit, then again at one mile, and a half mile. When you see the first sign, that's your signal to start moving into the right lane toward the exit. Maintain the speed of traffic while you do. Don't wait until you're almost there. Merging at the last minute is stressful and dangerous.

Signal early and then enter the deceleration lane before reducing your speed.



In the deceleration lane:

Signal early and move into the deceleration lane (this is the short extra lane that appears on the right just before the exit ramp). Once you're fully in that lane, ease off the gas to begin slowing down. Braking before you get there can force traffic behind you to brake unexpectedly.

On the exit ramp:

Freeway exit ramps have posted advisory speed limits (yellow rectangular signs), which are lower than freeway speed limits. It is important to pay attention to these warning signs. This is because ramps curve and taking a curve too fast can cause you to lose control. Check the advisory speed and make sure you've slowed to that speed before you reach the curve.

On the road test

Signal before moving into the exit lane, slow down in the deceleration lane (not in the freeway lane), and adjust to the ramp speed. New drivers often wait too long to slow down.

Exiting the freeway:

Watch for stop signs or traffic signals at the end of the ramp. After driving at freeway speeds, it's easy to underestimate how fast you're still going. Check your speedometer.

Highway and freeway driving

Check your knowledge

Test yourself with these scenarios, then check the answers on Page 72.

1. You're driving in the right lane of a freeway and notice a car trying to merge from an on-ramp. How can you help make this safer?
2. You're driving on the freeway and see a sharp curve up ahead. When and how much should you slow down?
3. You're exiting the freeway. When should you start slowing down? In the freeway lane or the deceleration lane?

Bad weather, hazards, and emergencies

Michigan weather changes quickly. You might start a drive in the sunshine and finish it in a snowstorm. And even in perfect conditions, emergencies happen. Being a safe driver means knowing how to respond to unexpected situations on the road and when things go wrong.

This section covers how to drive in rain, fog, snow, ice, and darkness; how to handle slippery roads and stop safely in bad conditions; and what to do if your brakes fail, your car breaks down, you're pulled over, or you're involved in a crash.

The core rule for bad weather, hazards, and other unexpected conditions is simple: Slow down, increase your following distance, and give yourself time to react.

Rain

Roads are most slippery during the first half hour of rain. Oil dropped from passing vehicles hasn't been washed away yet and creates a slick surface. Be especially cautious at intersections, where oil deposits may be heavier.

How to adjust:

Slow down and allow at least twice your normal following distance, six to eight seconds. Turn on your headlights; Michigan law requires headlights whenever it's difficult to see more than 500 feet away. In rain, use your low beams, not high beams.

Be aware

Wet brakes: Your brakes may become less effective after driving through deep water or during heavy rain. If your brakes feel different, like they're pulling to one side or not gripping as well, slow down and press the brake pedal gently several times to dry them out.

Fog

Fog reduces how far ahead you can see, and it can get bad enough that a vehicle in front of you may be completely hidden from view.

How to adjust:

Slow down and use your low-beam headlights. Do not use high beams in fog; the light reflects off the water droplets

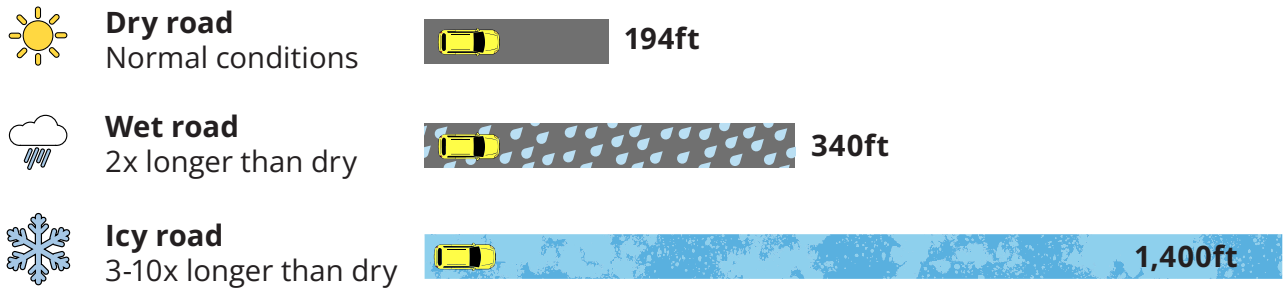
and actually makes it harder to see. If the fog is very thick, use fog lights if your vehicle has them.

Increase your following distance. Watch for the taillights of the vehicle ahead of you and use the right edge line of the road as a guide to stay in your lane.

If visibility drops so low that you can't drive safely, pull completely off the road, turn on your hazard lights, and wait for conditions to improve.

Snow and ice

Driving in snow and ice requires extra attention. You will not have the same stopping power in slippery conditions as you do when the road is dry and clear.



How to adjust:

Slow down gradually and use your low-beam headlights. Avoid sudden acceleration, sudden braking, and sharp turns. All of these can cause your vehicle to lose traction.

Test your brakes lightly to get a feel for how slippery the road is. If the vehicle slides easily, slow down even more. Your following distance should be at least six seconds. Be alert for thin, nearly invisible layers of ice that form on the road surface, especially on bridges, overpasses, and shaded areas, commonly known as black ice. The road can look wet but may actually be frozen.

In cold weather, be alert for snowmobiles. Watch for snowmobile trails or crosswalk signs along the roadway and be prepared to stop.

Skidding

If your vehicle begins to skid on a slippery road, do not slam on the brakes. That will make the skid worse.

How to adjust:

First, take your foot off the accelerator. Turn the front wheels in the direction you want to go, but don't overcorrect; a small turn of the wheel is enough. The car may then skid the other way; this is normal. If it does, turn the wheels again in the direction you want to go, then straighten them to bring the vehicle under control.

Hydroplaning

Hydroplaning happens when your tires ride on top of water on the road instead of gripping the pavement. When this happens, you lose the ability to steer or brake.

Worn tires, low tire pressure, and driving too fast all make hydroplaning more likely. To reduce the risk, slow down on wet roads and make sure your tires are in good condition.

How to adjust:

If you start to hydroplane, take your foot off the accelerator. Do not brake hard or make sudden turns. Let the vehicle slow down on its own until your tires make contact with the road again.

Braking in bad conditions

How you brake depends on road conditions and the type of brakes your vehicle has. Under normal conditions, you'll apply a steady, firm push on the brake pedal to slow and stop your vehicle.

On snow, ice, or in an emergency stop:

If your vehicle has anti-lock brakes (ABS), steer, firmly press on the brake pedal and keep that pressure steady until the car stops. Do not pump the pedal, ABS does the pumping for you. You may feel the pedal vibrate or pulse under your foot. That's normal. Most vehicles manufactured in recent years have ABS (check your owner's manual if you're not sure.)

Be aware

If your vehicle does not have ABS, pump the brake pedal gently. Hard braking can lock your wheels and make a skid worse.

Driving at night

Nighttime driving is hazardous because visibility is reduced. At night, your headlights light up the road ahead but leave everything else in the dark.

Headlight rules:

Michigan law requires headlights to be on from a half hour after sunset until a half hour before sunrise, and at any other time when visibility is reduced. If you're having trouble seeing other vehicles, turn on your headlights. If you can't see them, they can't see you.

Don't drive so fast that you can't stop within the distance your headlights illuminate. This is called "overdriving your headlights." If you can't see far enough ahead to stop safely, slow down.

If an oncoming vehicle's headlights are making it hard to see, look toward the right edge of the road to avoid the glare. Don't look directly at the headlights.

High beams and low beams:

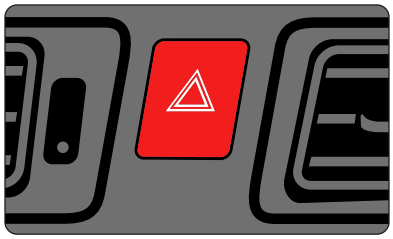
High beams (brights) help you see farther when driving at night. But their brightness can temporarily blind other drivers. Use high beams sparingly and when there isn't much traffic on the road. Switch to low beams within 500 feet of an oncoming vehicle. It is illegal to use or flash high beams any closer than that. Always use low beams when passing pedestrians or cyclists.

Roadside emergencies

If your car becomes disabled

Pull as far off the road as possible. Turn on your hazard lights and stay inside with your seat belt fastened. Call roadside assistance, your insurance provider, or a towing company. If you must leave your car, be extremely aware of passing traffic and walk directly to a safe location away from the road. It is illegal to walk on interstates and freeways.

In the unlikely situation where your vehicle's hood flies open and blocks your view, look under it or out a side window to find a safe place to pull over.



Be aware

About 10 percent of all pedestrian-related traffic crash fatalities involve people getting out of their vehicles during emergencies and being struck by traffic.

If your brakes fail or gas pedal sticks

If your brakes fail while driving, pump the pedal rapidly. If that fails, ease on the parking brake while downshifting. As a last resort, use a guardrail or an uphill slope to stop the vehicle, and turn on your hazard lights.

If your gas pedal sticks, shift into neutral, steer smoothly toward an escape path, and brake firmly. Pull off the road, turn off the vehicle, turn on your hazards, and have the car repaired before driving it again.

If a vehicle is heading toward you in your lane

Tap the horn to warn the other driver if there is time. Steer your car toward the right edge of the road to avoid a crash. Try not to steer left into the other lane, since the other driver may return to that lane. If you must steer off the road, try to hit something soft, like a bush, and side-swipe the object rather than hit it head-on. If you can't pull off the road, stop if there is enough room.

If you cannot stop or steer off the road before a crash, steer so the vehicles do not hit head-on. A collision at an angle is less dangerous.

Be aware

If a crash with a deer is unavoidable, do not veer for deer (or any large animal). Stay in your lane, hold the steering wheel with both hands, brake firmly and come to a controlled stop, then move your vehicle off the road.

If there's a deer on the road

About 60,000 vehicle-deer crashes happen in Michigan each year. Your best defense is to stay aware, awake, alert, and sober. Always wear your seat belt. Vehicle-deer crashes can happen at any time, but be especially alert in fall and spring, and at dawn and dusk. If you see one deer, slow down as others are likely nearby.

If you are pulled over

If a law enforcement officer signals you to pull over, pull to the right side of the road as soon as it is safe. Stay in your car with your seat belt on. Turn on your interior lights if it's dark. Keep your hands visible (on the steering wheel is best) and don't make any sudden movements. Wait for the officer to approach and follow their instructions. Stay calm and speak respectfully with the officer. Do not appear angry, confrontational or accusatory.

Be aware

You should always have your driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance in the car. If the officer asks to see it, tell them where it is and ask them if you can retrieve it before reaching into a glove box, purse, or pocket.

Crashes

If you're involved in a crash, the safest thing to do is stay in your car with your seat belt buckled until help arrives.

Do not leave the scene. Leaving the scene of a crash you're involved in is against the law and is punishable by fines, jail time, or both (unless you believe that remaining at the scene will result in further harm). Penalties increase if alcohol is involved or if there are injuries or fatalities.

Help the injured. Help get medical aid for anyone who is hurt.

Move vehicles if possible. If there are no injuries or fatalities and the vehicles can be moved safely, move them out of the road. If vehicles cannot be moved, turn on hazard lights.

Report the crash. Contact local law enforcement or call 911. Exchange information with the other driver, including name, contact information, insurance, and vehicle details.

Stay at the scene until law enforcement arrives or tells you it is okay to leave.

Bad weather, hazards, and emergencies

Check your knowledge

Test yourself with these scenarios, then check the answers on Page 72.

1. How can you reduce your risk of hydroplaning?
2. You see a vehicle coming from the opposite direction into your lane. What should you do?
3. A deer steps into your lane. What should you do?

Parking

Be aware

When getting out, watch for bicycles, motorcycles, mopeds, and other vehicles before opening your door. Opening a door into the path of a passing cyclist or vehicle is dangerous.

Whether you're pulling into a lot or squeezing into a street spot, parking is a crucial part of safe driving. Every time you park, turn off the engine and set the parking brake. Take the keys and lock your vehicle.

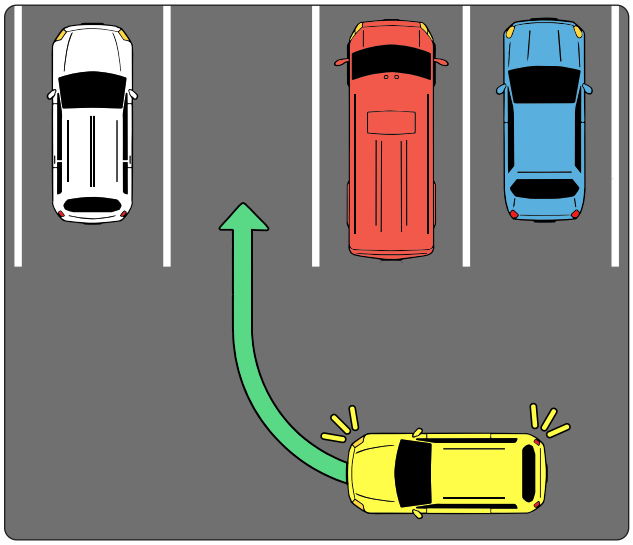
How to park your vehicle

Pull smoothly into the space, centered between boundary lines. If parking on the street, make sure your car is not more than 12 inches from the curb.

Pull-in parking

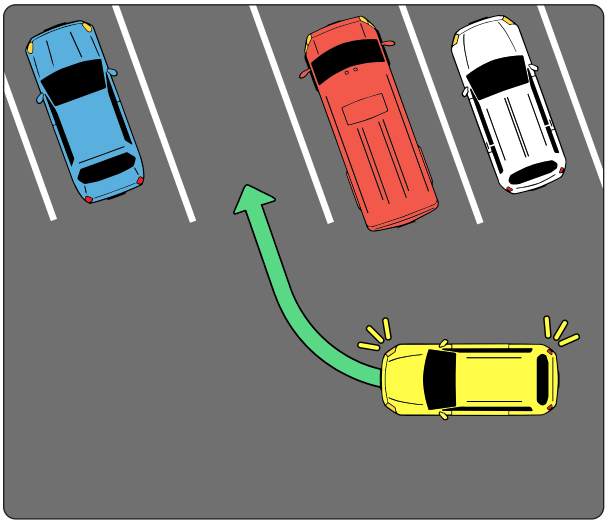
Pull-in parking is the most common type of parking you'll encounter in parking lots, parking garages, and along some streets. Spaces are either set at a 90-degree angle (perpendicular) or a shallower angle, usually 45 to 60 degrees (angled). Drive slowly through the lot and signal before turning into your space.

When leaving a perpendicular space, you'll need to back out. Before reversing, check your mirrors and look over both shoulders, as other drivers and pedestrians may not see you backing out. Pull out slowly.



Pull into a perpendicular space smoothly, centered between the boundary lines.

Angled spaces are designed to be entered from one direction only. Don't pull into an angled space from the opposite direction. When leaving, back straight out slowly and watch carefully, as your view of passing traffic and pedestrians will be limited until you're clear of the space.

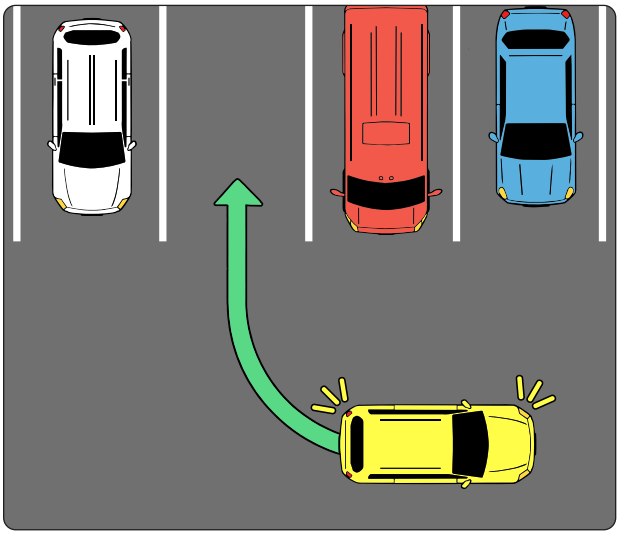


Pull into an angled space from the correct direction by following the space's angle.

Back-up parking

Backing into a parking space takes more effort going in but makes pulling out safer.

Use your mirrors and look over your shoulder as you reverse in slowly. Use the lines to center the vehicle. Be sure to stop close to the rear line so the front of the vehicle does not extend out of the space. When you're ready to leave, you can see traffic and pedestrians clearly.



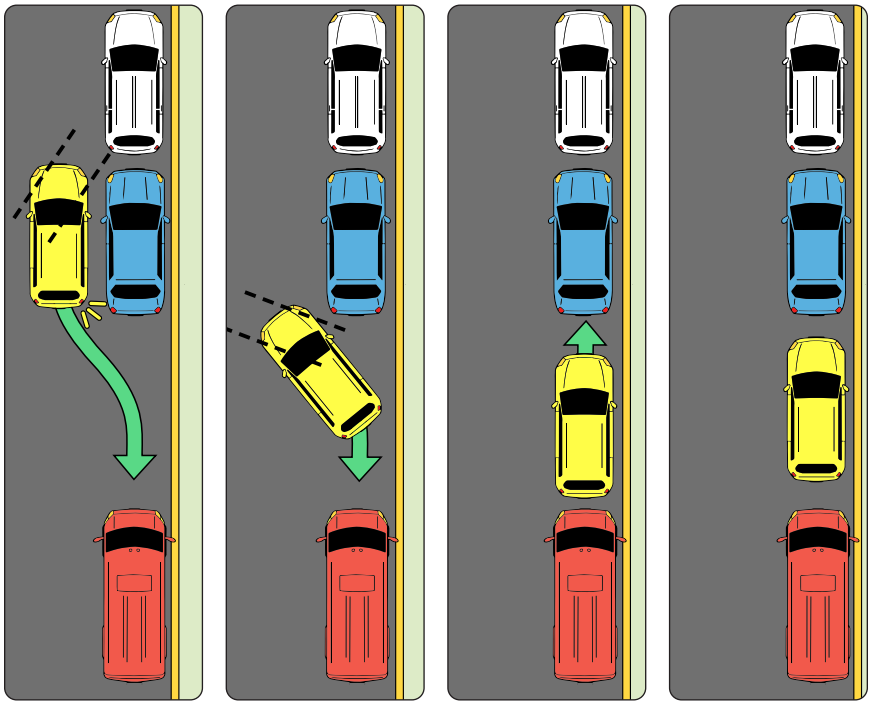
Back into a parking space so your car faces out. Use your mirrors and look over your shoulder as you reverse in.

Be aware

Before leaving a parking spot, check your mirrors and over your shoulder to make sure the path is clear of other cars, pedestrians, and bicyclists. If something is blocking your view, ease out slowly until you can see oncoming traffic.

Parallel parking

1. **Pull alongside.** Signal then stop next to the vehicle parked ahead of your space. Leave two to five feet between the two cars, with your rear bumper roughly even with theirs.
2. **Reverse and turn toward the curb.** Shift into reverse, check for traffic behind and around you, and back slowly while turning the wheel toward the curb. Continue until your car is at about a 45° angle and the front of your vehicle clears the rear of the car ahead.
3. **Straighten and finish backing in.** Turn the wheel away from the curb and continue backing slowly until you're parallel.
4. **Pull forward.** Shift to drive and pull forward until you're centered in the space.



Drive past the space, then reverse in using an S-turn. Adjust as needed once your car is fully inside the space.

Parking on a hill

Turn your wheels so that if your car rolls, it rolls toward the curb, not into traffic.

- **Parking downhill:** Turn your wheels toward the curb.
- **Parking uphill:** Turn your wheels away from the curb.
- **No curb:** Turn your wheels to the right so the vehicle would roll off the road and away from traffic.

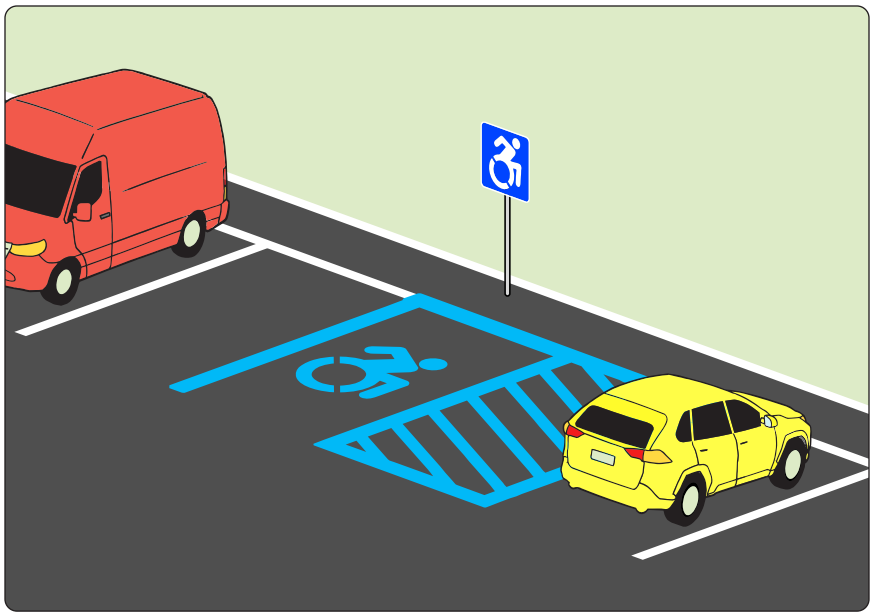
Be aware

Always use your parking brake on a hill. It's critical.

Disability parking

Disability parking spaces are reserved for people with disabilities. Disabilities are not always visible. Someone who is not using a cane or wheelchair may still be disabled.

To park in a disability space, you or your passenger must have a qualifying disability, defined as blindness or any condition that significantly limits the ability to walk, or that requires a wheelchair, walker, crutch, or other assistive device. The vehicle must display a disability license plate or parking placard.





A disability parking space in a parking lot. The sign may feature either an upright figure seated in a wheelchair or a figure leaning forward in action.

Parking violations



Never park:

- where “no stopping,” “no standing,” “no parking,” or “no parking at any time” signs are posted
- on a sidewalk, crosswalk, or in an intersection
- on the road side of a parked vehicle
- at a bus or train stop
- in a space marked for disability parking (unless you have the proper placard or plate)
- where your vehicle would block a marked bicycle lane
- on a bridge, overpass, or in a tunnel
- within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- within 20 feet of a crosswalk at an intersection, or within 15 feet of an intersection where there is no marked crosswalk
- within 30 feet of a traffic signal, stop sign, or warning sign
- in front of a driveway, alley, emergency exit, or fire escape
- within 50 feet of a railroad crossing
- within 20 feet of a fire station driveway on the same side of the street, or within 75 feet on the opposite side
- within 500 feet of a fire or crash scene

Towns or cities may also have specific parking requirements that are stricter than state law, so look out for signs.

Parking

Check your knowledge

Test yourself with these scenarios, then check the answers on page 72.

1. You're exiting a parallel parking spot off a side street. What should you do before you pull out?
2. How far from a fire hydrant can you park?
3. You're running a quick errand. Can you park in front of a driveway if you'll only be a few minutes?

Check your knowledge answers

Before you drive

1. No, only time lowers BAC.
2. Using a cell phone while driving is a distraction.
3. Your rearview mirror.

Intersections

1. You go first (the vehicle on the right goes first).
2. Finish your turn and clear the intersection.
3. Stop before the crosswalk and let pedestrians cross before continuing.

Sharing the road

1. Stop 20 ft. from the stopped school bus.
2. You're in the blind spot. Increase your following distance.
3. No faster than 45 mph.

Highway and freeway driving

1. When possible, move one lane to the left to create a larger gap for the merging vehicle.
2. Slow down before entering the curve. How much you should slow down depends on the sharpness of the curve; if posted, follow the yellow advisory speed sign.
3. In the deceleration lane, not the freeway lane.

Bad weather, hazards, and emergencies

1. Slow down when roads are slippery and make sure your tires are inflated and have enough tread.
2. Steer to the right. If you must hit something on the side of the road, pick something soft like a bush and try to side-swipe it rather than hit it head-on.
3. Don't swerve. Brake firmly, then steer off the road after you've stopped.

Parking

1. Check your side mirrors and look briefly over your shoulder. Make sure the lane is clear of traffic, bicycles, and pedestrians before pulling out into the road.
2. At least 15 ft.
3. No. Never park in front of a driveway, regardless of how long you'll be there.

Traffic sign challenge answers

1. Lane ends due to incident
2. Gas
3. Exit
4. Bridge ices before road
5. One way
6. Speed limit
7. Cultural or recreational place of interest
8. School
9. Directional information
10. Reserved parking for people with disabilities
11. State route marker
12. Parking permitted
13. Stop sign
14. Yield
15. No turn on red
16. No right turn
17. No U turn
18. Intersection lane control
19. Center lane left turn only
20. Do not pass
21. Pass with care
22. Keep left
23. Do not enter
24. Authorized vehicles only
25. Wrong way
26. No trucks allowed
27. Railroad crossing
28. Rest area
29. School crossing
30. Slow-moving vehicle
31. Road turns left ahead
32. Successive turns ahead
33. Winding curve ahead, limit speed
34. Railroad crossing ahead
35. Bicyclist warning
36. Pedestrian warning
37. Pass obstruction on either side
38. Low overhead clearance
39. Exit with advisory speed
40. No passing zone
41. Intersection ahead
42. Side road ahead
43. Roundabout ahead
44. Road work ahead
45. Stop ahead
46. Yield ahead
47. Merging traffic
48. Lane ends merge left
49. Divided highway ends
50. Two-way traffic
51. Hill
52. Slippery when wet
53. Right lane ends
54. Bicyclist and pedestrian warning

Part 3

Prepare for your driving skills test

This section tells you everything you need to know about preparing for the driving skills test. This is the final step to getting licensed in Michigan. You'll find information on what to bring, what happens at each stage, and what to do after you pass.

Sections of the test

The test has three sections, in this order:

A **Vehicle inspection** (about five minutes)

B **Basic control skills test** (about 10 minutes)

C **Road test** (30 minutes to one hour)

Each section must be passed in sequence. If you fail any section, the test ends. On your next attempt, you'll start over from the beginning.

Before test day

Good to know

To find an authorized testing business, visit mi.gov/drivertestlocations.

Good to know

You can take the driving skills test in most weather conditions unless the testing business says it's unsafe.

Where to take the test

In Michigan, the driving skills test is administered by private testing businesses contracted with the Michigan Department of State.

Watch out for "facilitators" who charge a fee to connect you with an approved tester. Schedule directly to save money. If you're seeking test preparation, only Michigan-certified providers may legally charge for instruction. Always request a written agreement confirming your provider's certification.

What to bring

Everyone must bring:

- [ ] A vehicle in safe working order, preferably one you're familiar with and have used during practice driving (refer to Page 77)
- [ ] Proof of valid insurance
- [ ] The current vehicle registration
- [ ] A valid license plate

Path 1

If you're under 18:

- [ ] A valid Michigan Level 1 learner's license that you've held for at least six months
- [ ] Your Segment 2 driver education completion certificate
- [ ] A driving log documenting at least 50 hours of supervised driving, including at least 10 hours at night
- [ ] A parent or legal guardian (must be present during the test), or a licensed adult, age 21 or older, appointed by the parent or guardian in writing

Path 2 **Path 3**

If you're 18 or older:

- [ ] A valid Michigan temporary instruction permit (TIP) that you've held for at least 30 days (if previously licensed, the 30-day practice period may be waived by Secretary of State office staff)

> If you're missing any required documents, you will not be able to take the test and will need to reschedule. Depending on the testing business, you may still be charged the testing fee.

Don't own a car?

- Some testing businesses have rental vehicles available for an additional fee. Make sure to ask before choosing a driver testing business.
- You can borrow a car from a friend or family member, as long as it meets the vehicle inspection requirements, and you can provide valid insurance, current registration, and a valid license plate for that vehicle.
- Foreign license holders may also be able to rent from a car rental company. Rental policies may vary. Be sure to confirm that you are eligible to rent a vehicle with the company you have chosen.

Who can be in the vehicle

If you are 18 years or older, only you and the examiner will be in the vehicle. If you are under 18, your parent, legal guardian, or designated adult will also ride with you.

If you need an interpreter:

- If you are deaf or hard of hearing, you may use a sign language interpreter during the test. The driver testing business must provide reasonable accommodation for an ASL interpreter, or you can bring your own interpreter approved by the state.
- If English is not a language you are comfortable with, you may bring an interpreter to translate the examiner's instructions. Additional comments are not permitted during the test, except in the case of an emergency. The interpreter must be at least 18 and must present a driver's license or photo ID to the examiner.

Section A

Vehicle inspection

Before the test begins, the examiner will inspect your vehicle with you. If your vehicle fails the inspection, you won't be able to take the test.

The examiner will check the following equipment:

Good to know

Cell phones and other electronic devices may not be used during the examination.

Lights and signals

- Headlights
- Taillights
- Turn signals (front and rear)
- Brake lights (including center-mounted brake light on 1986 or newer vehicles)

Exterior

- Muffler
- Windshield and windshield wipers/washers
- Tires (properly inflated, tread depth higher than 2/32 of an inch and undamaged)
- Lug nuts (only one can be missing per wheel)
- Suspension components

Interior and safety

- Brakes
- Horn
- Speedometer
- Rearview mirror and left sideview mirror
- Heater/defroster
- Doors (must open from inside and outside)
- All safety belts and seats

Advanced safety features

Some vehicle features are allowed during the test and some are not.

Allowed: Features that are on automatically when the engine is running and don't require any action from the driver. Examples: backup camera, blind-spot indicator lights, and lane-departure alarm.

Not allowed: Features that you have to turn on yourself. Examples: parking-assist systems, four-way camera systems, and automated self-driving features.

If you're not sure whether a feature on your vehicle is allowed, ask the examiner before the test begins.

Section B

Basic control skills test

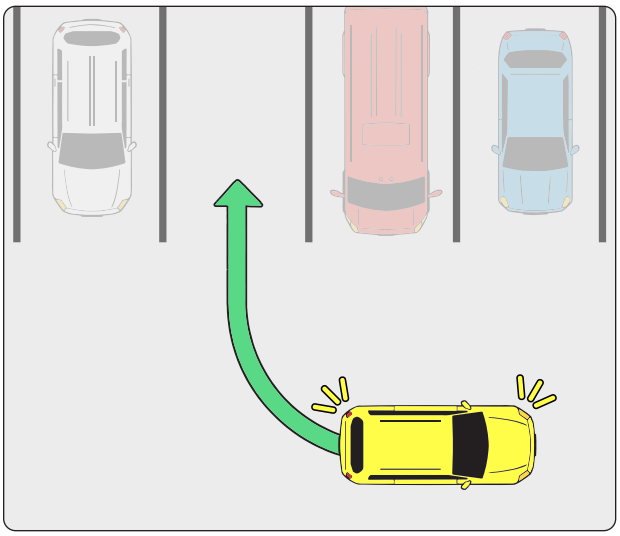
The basic control skills test is a series of driving exercises in a paved area that is not an active roadway (such as a parking lot).

Exercise 1: Stopping smoothly and accurately

You'll be asked to demonstrate your ability to judge distance and stop your vehicle safely and with control.

Exercise 2: Backing into a parking space

You will be asked to demonstrate your ability to back into a parking space while maintaining vehicle control and awareness.



Back your car into the space.

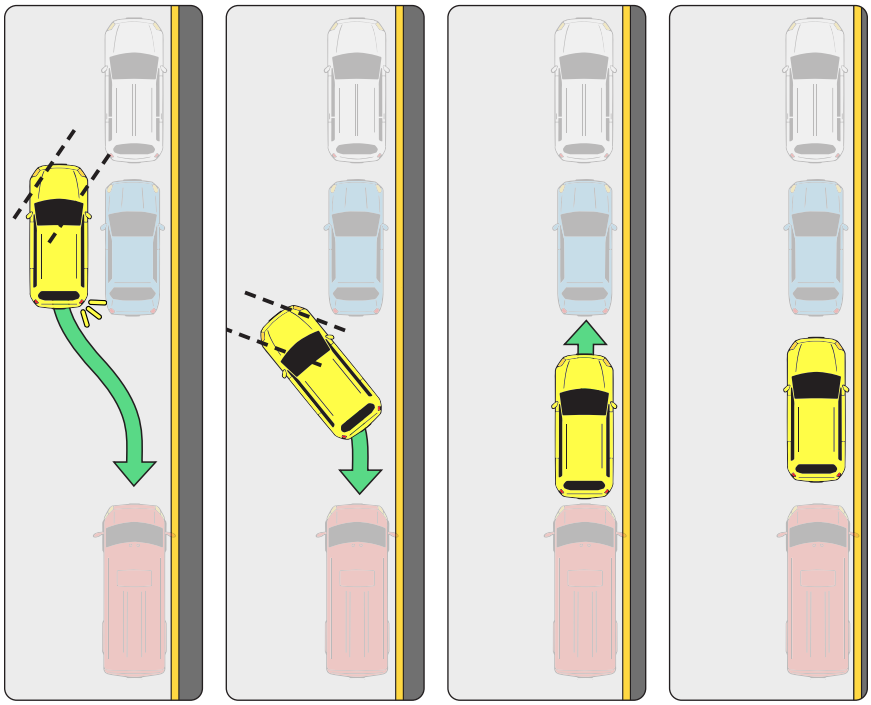
Good to know

Refer to Page 66 for parking guidance.

Exercise 3: Parallel parking

You will be asked to demonstrate your ability to safely parallel park within a designated space while maintaining vehicle control and awareness.

Parallel parking combines many of the skills used in everyday driving, including observation, steering control, speed management, and the ability to judge time, space and distance. Successfully completing this exercise demonstrates vehicle control and awareness of your surroundings.



Parallel park your car into the space.

Section C

Road test

If you successfully complete the basic control skills exercises, you will move on to the road test. During the road test, you will drive on public roads and in common traffic conditions.

The examiner will provide directions in advance and will not ask you to do anything illegal or unsafe. The examiner will evaluate your ability to:

- Obey traffic signs and signals
- Brake, steer, and stop
- Maintain proper lane position
- Make safe turns and lane changes
- Use head and traffic checks
- Control speed, especially around curves
- Demonstrate awareness of traffic conditions and intersections

Good to know

Learn more about these driving maneuvers in Part 2, starting on Page 17.

The goal of the road test is to determine whether you can:

- Operate a vehicle safely and responsibly
- Demonstrate sound judgment and decision making
- Maintain control of your vehicle in a variety of driving situations
- Interact safely with people and drivers on the road

Safe driving habits

You must demonstrate safe driving habits throughout the road test. Make sure to:

- Wear your safety belt and follow traffic laws.
- Scan your surroundings and check mirrors regularly.
- Look in the direction of travel and check blind spots before turning, changing lanes, or merging.

Good to know

The examiner will evaluate your ability to safely control the vehicle and make safe and appropriate driving decisions.

- Maintain a speed that is appropriate for the road, traffic, and conditions.
- Steer, brake, and accelerate smoothly.
- Maintain proper lane position.
- Use turn signals appropriately and complete turns and lane changes safely.

Unsafe actions

The road test may be stopped if you:

- Create an unsafe situation for yourself, the examiner, or others.
- Violate a traffic law in a way that creates a safety risk.
- Require examiner intervention to prevent an unsafe situation.
- Operate a vehicle in a way that endangers people or property.

After the test

Once the test is completed, the examiner will review your results and give you feedback.

If you don't pass:

You can schedule a new appointment after 24 hours. You're only allowed one attempt per 24-hour period. However, if you don't pass because of missing documents or faulty equipment, the 24-hour waiting period does not apply. On your next attempt, you'll start over from the beginning.

If you pass:

Path 1

Under 18: Continue to drive with your graduated driver license, upgraded to a Level 2 intermediate license. Refer to Page 10 for more information.

Path 2 **Path 3**

18 or older: The examiner will issue a driving skills test receipt. This receipt is not a license. Log in to your account at mi.gov/sosonline to print your temporary operator license. You should automatically receive your new license in the mail within 60 days.

Good to know

For more information on the GDL process and Level 2 license restrictions, visit mi.gov/driversunder18.

Good to know

Verify the status of your license online by logging in to the Michigan Secretary of State Online Services portal.

Resources

Websites

Website	URL
Secretary of State website	mi.gov/sos
Pre-apply and schedule a Secretary of State visit	mi.gov/sosapply
Access your Secretary of State Online Services account	mi.gov/sosonline
Under 18 licensing information	mi.gov/driversunder18
18 or older licensing information	mi.gov/driversover18
New to Michigan licensing information	mi.gov/newmiresidents
List of driver education businesses	mi.gov/driverproviders
List of driver testing businesses	mi.gov/drivertestlocations
List of accepted documents (SOS-428)	mi.gov/sos428
Accessibility and accomodation information	mi.gov/sosaccess
Information on reexaminations	mi.gov/sosda
Information on organ donation	mi.gov/organdonation

Additional resources

Resource	URL
The Supervised Driving Guide (SOS-191)	mi.gov/sdg
Michigan Motorcycle Operator Manual (SOS-116)	mi.gov/mmom
Michigan Commercial Driver's License Manual (TS-004)	mi.gov/cdlmanual

Contact us

For questions about this guide and any other information, visit mi.gov/contactsos

If you cannot schedule a Secretary of State visit online, call (888) SOS-MICH (767-6424) for assistance.

Mailing address:
Michigan Department of State
Driver Education and Testing Section
430 W. Allegan St., 3rd Floor
Lansing, MI 48918

Secretary of State
mi.gov/sos

