

Virginia Driver's Manual

Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles



The Virginia Driver's Manual will help you learn and understand safe driving practices. Study this manual to prepare for the knowledge test, obtain a Virginia driver's license and become a safe driver.

The information contained in this manual should be used as a general guide to the motor vehicle laws but not as a substitute for the Code of Virginia, which contains the laws that govern Virginia drivers and vehicles.

If you are learning to drive, this manual will give you information you need to study for the knowledge exam. If you already have a Virginia driver's license, review this manual for new laws or rules of the road.

Driving is a privilege, not a right. Your driver's license carries with it a great responsibility to be courteous of other drivers on the roadways and follow state and federal motoring laws.

This manual is also available on the DMV website, www.dmvNOW.com.

DMV offers the Virginia Driver's Manual in an audio format for Virginians with special needs. The audio version is available at www.dmvNOW.com.

Virginia Driver's Manual: Table of Contents



Section 1 – Testing

Two-part knowledge exam.....	3
Road skills test	4
Vision screening.....	4
Vision standards	4

Section 2 – Signals, Signs and Pavement Markings

Traffic signals.....	5
Lane use signals.....	6
Traffic signs	6
Sign shapes.....	6
Regulatory or guide signs	7
Warning signs	8
Work zones.....	10
Pavement markings.....	10
Painted curbs.....	12

Section 3 – Safe Driving

Hand position.....	13
Speed limits.....	14
Stopping.....	14
Yielding the right-of-way	15
Roundabouts	15
Changing lanes	16
Passing	16
Over-correcting	17
Turning	17
U-turns	17
Turn signals.....	17
Maintaining a space cushion	18
Following distance.....	18
Searching.....	18

Blind spots.....	19
Sharing the road	19
Pedestrians	19
Bicycles	19
Mopeds.....	19
Motorcycles.....	19
Light rail	20
Low speed vehicles	20
Trucks, tractor-trailers, buses and RVs	20
Light to medium trailers.....	20
Backing	21
Parking	21
Visibility.....	21
Lights.....	21
Hazardous conditions	21
Night driving	21
Fog.....	22
Rain	22
Snow.....	22
Dangerous driving behaviors.....	22
Aggressive driving	22
Distracted driving	22
Drowsy driving	23
Drinking and driving.....	23
Traffic crashes	24
Traffic stops.....	24

Section 4 – Seat Belts, Airbags, and Child Safety Seats

Seat belts.....	25
Air bags	25
Child safety seats	26

Section 5 – Penalties

License suspension	27
License revocation	27
Conviction-related suspensions and revocations	27
Other DMV requirements, suspensions and revocations.....	28
Driver Improvement Program	28
Medical review program.....	28
Insurance monitoring program.....	29
Suspension for failing to satisfy child support-related requirements	29
Alcohol and the law	29
Administrative License Suspension.....	29
Open alcohol containers in vehicles	29
Transporting children while under the influence of alcohol/drugs.....	29
Vehicle impoundment.....	30
Restitution	30
Alcohol related violations and penalties involving persons under age 21	30

Section 6 – License Types

Learner’s permit	31
Driver’s license	31
Commercial driver’s license	32
School bus driver’s license	32
Motorcycle learner’s permit	32
Motorcycle driver’s license.....	32
International driver’s license	32

Section 7 – Other Important Information

Receiving your license by mail	33
Address Changes.....	33
New to Virginia.....	33
Titles, registrations, license plates, decals.....	33
Safety inspections	34
Insurance requirements	34
Applying to register to vote	34
Organ, eye and tissue donation.....	34

Section 8 – Sample Knowledge Exam

Sample exam.....	35
------------------	----