

Driving Rules of Canada

This document provides an overview of the main driving rules and road regulations in Canada. It is intended for tourists, residents, and foreign drivers.

1. General Traffic Rules

- Vehicles drive on the **right-hand side** of the road.
- Overtaking is done on the **left**.
- Seat belts must be worn at all times by all occupants.
- Pedestrians have priority at **marked crosswalks**.
- Obey all traffic signs, signals, and road markings.

2. Required Documents

Drivers must carry:

- A valid **driver's licence**
- **International Driving Permit (IDP)** if your licence is not in English or French
- Vehicle registration document
- Proof of valid vehicle insurance
- Passport or national ID (for foreign drivers)

3. Speed Limits (km/h)

Speed limits vary by province. Typical limits are:

- **Urban areas:** 50 km/h (30–50 km/h in school zones)
- **Rural roads:** 80 km/h
- **Highways / Expressways:** 100–110 km/h

Always follow posted speed limits as they may vary by region.

4. Alcohol and Driving

- Legal blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit: **0.08%** for most provinces.
- Zero tolerance applies for drivers under 21 and commercial drivers.
- Penalties include fines, licence suspension, vehicle impoundment, and imprisonment.

5. Seat Belts and Child Safety

- Seat belts are **mandatory for all passengers**, front and rear.
- Children must use age/weight/height-appropriate car seats or booster seats.
- Infants must be in a rear-facing car seat until recommended age/weight.

6. Mobile Phones and Devices

- Use of a **handheld mobile phone** while driving is prohibited in all provinces.
- Hands-free devices are allowed.
- Some provinces have strict fines for texting or using apps while driving.

7. Winter Driving Rules

- Winter tyres or all-season tyres are recommended or mandatory in some provinces (e.g., Quebec).
- Carry chains if driving in mountainous areas during winter.
- Adjust speed for snow and ice conditions.

8. Tolls and Road Fees

- Some highways and bridges require tolls.
- Electronic tolling is common (e.g., E-ZPass, Express Toll Route).
- Follow signage and payment instructions carefully.

9. Parking Rules

- Park only in designated areas.
- Paid parking is common in cities; check signs for restrictions.
- Illegal parking may result in fines, towing, or vehicle immobilization.

10. Traffic Enforcement and Penalties

- Police enforce traffic laws with roadside checks, cameras, and patrols.
- Offences may result in fines, demerit points, licence suspension, or imprisonment.

11. Emergency Numbers

- **911** – Police, fire, ambulance (all provinces)
- Check provincial guidelines for non-emergency numbers.

12. Practical Driving Tips

- Drive defensively, especially in rural or winter conditions.
- Watch for wildlife on rural roads.
- Familiarize yourself with local provincial rules, as they may vary.