

Stop & Yield Signs

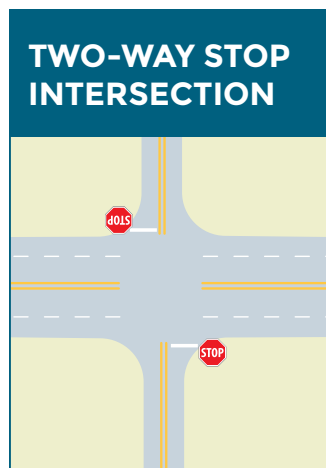
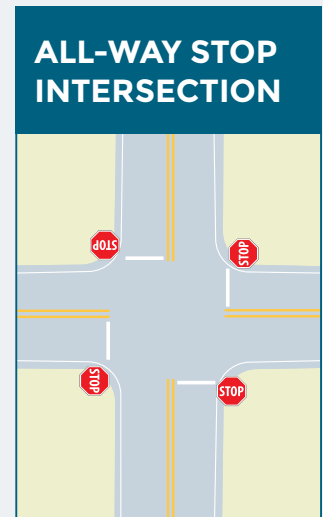
Stop and yield signs assign right-of-way to vehicles entering or crossing a roadway at an intersection. Stop signs alert drivers that they must come to a complete stop to ensure an intersection is clear of vehicles and pedestrians before proceeding through it. Yield signs alert drivers that they must prepare to slow down or stop to let vehicles on another approach proceed through an intersection.

All-way stops

An all-way stop requires vehicles approaching from all directions to come to a complete stop at the intersection before proceeding through it.

When approaching an all-way stop intersection, the vehicle that arrives first goes through the intersection first. If two vehicles come to a stop at the same time side-by-side, right-of-way goes to the vehicle on the right. If two vehicles come to a stop at the same time from opposite directions, both vehicles can proceed through the intersection at the same time, unless one vehicle is signaling to turn left, in which case the vehicle going straight through the intersection proceeds first, and then the vehicle turning left may proceed.

An all-way stop is for intersections with moderate and relatively balanced traffic volume levels. If these conditions don't exist, all-way stops may cause unnecessary delay and driver disobedience or disregard of stop signs.



Two-way stops

A two-way stop only requires vehicles on the approach with the stop sign, usually a lower-volume, minor roadway, to come to a complete stop at the intersection.

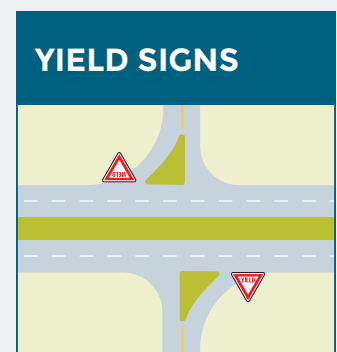
When approaching a two-way stop intersection, vehicles on the street without stop signs do not stop or yield. Vehicles on the street with the stop sign should come to a complete stop and wait for a gap in traffic before proceeding through the intersection.

A two-way stop is used at most highway intersections when a minor or side road intersects with a major road.

Yield signs

Yield signs require vehicles to reduce their speed for vehicles with the right-of-way. When approaching a yield sign, vehicles must slow or stop to let vehicles on another approach proceed through the intersection.

Yield signs are traditionally used on roundabouts, minor roads to allow traffic to continuously flow on major roads, or ramps.



When does NDOT decide to use stop or yield signs at intersections?

All-way stops, two-way stops and yield signs are used when other traffic control measures are not warranted. When the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) considers installing stop or yield signs, a variety of factors are evaluated, including:

- Sight distances
- Traffic volumes
- Crash history
- Nearby existing traffic signals or traffic control
- Adjacent land use
- Vehicle speeds

It is a misconception that stop signs can be used to control speeds on a roadway. Stop signs used with the intention of controlling speeds can lead to excessive midblock acceleration and speeding to “make up” for time lost due to a stop sign.



Benefits

Stop and yield signs, when properly installed, can be a valuable tool to control vehicle traffic. Benefits of stop and yield signs can include:

Safety. Stop or yield signs can be used in conjunction with most other strategies for improving safety at unsignalized intersections. These signs can also reduce the frequency and severity of right-angle (T-bone) crashes and turning collisions, when compared to uncontrolled intersections. Stop or yield signs provide for more orderly movements of vehicles at an intersection and can increase safety when sight distance challenges are present.

Efficiency. Primary traffic flows without stop or yield signs do not have to stop, minimizing or eliminating delays at the intersection.

Low Cost. Signs are low-cost intersection treatments to both construct and maintain.

Timely Deliverability. Installation of signs can be completed quickly with minimal disruption and impact.

Low Impact. Stop and yield signs require minimal or no right-of-way or permanent easements.

Trade-Offs

When stop or yield signs are improperly installed or not necessary, conditions at an intersection can actually worsen and become less safe. Trade-offs of stop and yield signs can include:

Excessive Delay or Congestion. Vehicles idling at intersections leads to increased fuel consumption and air pollution.

Disobedience or Disregard for Stop and Yield Signs. If a stop or yield sign is improperly installed or unnecessary, drivers may not comply with signs.

For more information about the laws for stop and yield signs, visit dmv.nebraska.gov/manuals.