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Know the right of way at intersections.

Right-of-way is an interesting concept. In theory, traffic laws and traffic control devices dictate who has the right-of-way when two vehicles want to occupy the same space on the roadway. The concept works well when all drivers are attentive and understand the rules of the road, but can be disastrous when that does not happen.

Intersections, in particular, pose problems for professional drivers, as others often do not want to wait for a truck to pass and pull out in front of them. Always be cautious when nearing an intersection or pulling onto a roadway from a side road or driveway.

Follow these safe-driving practices.

- Scan ahead to assess traffic conditions in front of you. Watch for intersection warning signs or other indications that vehicles may be entering the roadway from side roads or driveways.
- Be prepared to stop even if you have the right-of-way. Other vehicles may disregard traffic control devices or pull out in front of you so they don't get "stuck" behind you.
- Watch for stale green lights, which are lights that have been green for a long period of time and are likely to turn yellow.



You only get the right-of-way when someone gives it to you. Make sure others are going to stop before proceeding through an intersection.



Patience is a critical trait of a professional driver. Do not take someone else's right-of-way from them by pulling out in front of them. Wait for an adequate space.

- Maintain an adequate following distance so you can safely stop if the vehicle in front of you decides to slow or stop unexpectedly. Motorists do crazy things when they see a yellow light, including speeding up and then slamming on their brakes when they don't think they will make it.
- When required to stop, make sure you come to a complete stop so you can adequately assess cross-traffic before proceeding through the intersection.
- When the light turns green, ensure all cross-traffic has stopped, or is going to stop, prior to proceeding through the intersection. Look left, right, and left again.
- When making a left turn, make sure there is enough time to complete your turn without oncoming traffic having to slow down. If possible, make left turns at intersections with a green arrow. Many left-turn collisions occur when drivers misjudge oncoming traffic.
- Signal your turn well in advance so others know what your intentions are.
- Ensure adequate space is provided before pulling onto a roadway from a stop, side road or driveway. Many severe right-of-way accidents occur then. If cars from either direction need to slow down or change lanes to compensate for you entering the roadway, then you have made an unsafe driving action.

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

Left-turn arrows: Know when to stop or go.

Many states have begun using a flashing yellow arrow over the left turn lane. Left turns are permitted with this light but drivers must yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians (oncoming traffic has a green light). Many accidents have occurred when drivers confuse the flashing yellow light with a solid yellow light, which is used to transition a green arrow to a red arrow. With a yellow arrow, the oncoming traffic is stopped, as opposed to the flashing yellow light where oncoming traffic is not stopped.



Be cautious at intersections with flashing yellow left-turn signals, as they are new and other drivers might not understand them.

When drivers approach a flashing yellow light, they should not enter the intersection until there is an adequate space in oncoming traffic. They should be prepared to stay stopped if the light turns red. Don't get stuck in the intersection. Drivers should also be cautious at intersections with flashing yellow left-turn signals, as oncoming traffic turning left might not yield.

Signal	Meaning
	Stop.
	Prepare to stop.
	(flashing) Proceed with left turn after yielding to any oncoming traffic and pedestrians.
	Proceed with left turn.

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