

The following text provides guidelines for changing lanes and passing safely on the road. It emphasizes the importance of signaling, checking for hazards including blind spots, and ensuring there's enough space to pass, especially when overtaking bicyclists. It also outlines illegal passing behaviors and cautions against passing near intersections, railroad crossings, or obstructions.

CHANGING LANES Changing lanes includes: changing from one lane to another, passing another vehicle, merging onto a roadway from an entrance ramp and entering the roadway from the curb or shoulder. You must check for hazards or vehicles in the lane you want to enter. This means you must check for Downhill parking No Curb parking Uphill parking 15 Colorado Driver Handbook traffic ahead, to the side and behind your vehicle before you change lanes. Be aware of any blind spots, which are areas you cannot see in your rear view or side view mirrors and are located slightly to the sides and the rear of your vehicle. When changing lanes, you should: ● Activate your turn signal. Leave it active for a minimum of 3 seconds or 200 feet before leaving your lane. ● Check for possible hazards or vehicles in the lane you want to enter. ○ Check traffic ahead. ○ Use your mirrors to check for traffic behind your vehicle. ○ Look over your shoulder to check your blind spot, which is the area slightly to the rear and side of your vehicle that you cannot see in your mirrors. ○ When it is safe, move into the new lane. ○ After you are centered in the new lane check the mirror for traffic behind you. ● Deactivate your turn signal within 3 seconds of completing the lane change. **PASSING** Signs and road markings indicate areas where you are and are not allowed to pass another vehicle. Typically, you should pass on the left. You are only allowed to pass on the right on one way streets and on roadways with two or more lanes of travel in each direction. You are not allowed to pass another vehicle by driving off of the pavement or on the shoulder of a roadway. Before deciding to pass another vehicle, including bicyclists, judge whether you will have enough time and room to pass safely by observing the traffic ahead, beside and behind you. If you have enough time and space to pass, begin by making a lane change, as directed above. Accelerate past the vehicle you wish to pass. When you can see both headlights of the vehicle you passed in the rearview mirror, change one lane to get back into your previous lane. If passing a bicyclist, you must have a minimum of three feet of space between the outermost part of your vehicle, including any projections such as mirrors or trailers, and the bicyclist. You can briefly cross a solid yellow line when there is no oncoming traffic and you have a clear view ahead. Be aware of wind blasts that can knock a bicyclist off their bike and safely pass by giving them more space on rural roadways, when operating a large vehicle or driving in windy conditions. Do not count on being able to pass several vehicles at once. To be safe, only pass one vehicle at a time. Do not pass: ● If you cannot safely return to the right-hand side before coming within 200 feet of an oncoming vehicle, including a bicyclist in the oncoming lane or shoulder. ● If you cannot safely return to the right-hand side before a solid yellow line begins. ● On a curve or hill where your view is obstructed. ● Within 100 feet of an intersection or railroad crossing. ● Within 100 feet of any bridge, viaduct or tunnel when your view is obstructed. ● A bicyclist unless you can allow a minimum three foot buffer zone between the bicyclist and your vehicle, including any projections such as mirrors. If passing a bicyclist, you may briefly cross a solid yellow when there is no oncoming traffic and you have a clear view ahead. Please note, the following behaviors are illegal when passing: ● Pass in any marked no-passing zones. ● Exceed the posted speed limit when passing. ● Pass a school bus with flashing red lights and its stop arm extended. ● Pass within 100 feet of any intersection. ● Pass within 100 feet of any railroad crossing. ● Pass on any hill, curve or bridge where vision is obstructed.