



The Institute of Transportation Engineers  
Traffic Engineering Council  
presents TIPS on



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## Traffic Sign Types

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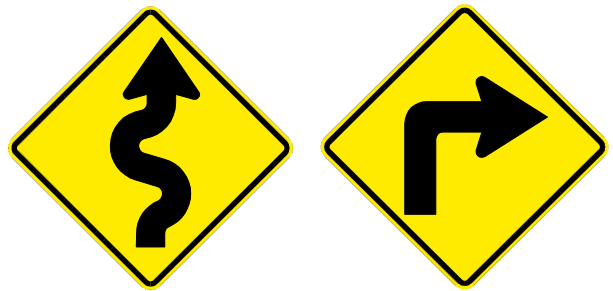
*Traffic signs are classified as:*

- regulatory signs
- warning signs, and
- guide signs.

Regulatory signs give notice of traffic laws or regulations. Regulatory signs (except of STOP and YIELD signs) are typically rectangular in shape with the long dimension vertical. The standard color scheme is black lettering on a white background. A red circle with a white diagonal line may be used in conjunction with a black diagram to indicate a prohibited maneuver. Red is used as a predominant color for STOP, YIELD, DO NOT ENTER, and WRONG WAY signs.



Warning signs call attention to conditions on, or adjacent to, a highway or street that are potentially hazardous to traffic operations. These signs are used particularly when the hazard is not obvious or cannot be seen by the motorist. Warning signs are typically diamond-shaped and have a black legend on a yellow background.



Guide signs show route designations, destinations, directions, distances, services, points of interest, and other geographical, recreational, or cultural information. Destination guide signs typically have white lettering on a green background. Service and recreational

signs have blue and brown backgrounds, respectively. Other guide signs such as route designations may use a variety of colors depending on the type of road and state or local practice.

