



This information serves only to assist you in preparing for your test. You should also read and be familiar with the information in the [Maryland Driver's Manual](#). The *Maryland Driver's Manual* and other key information can be found at <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/>

## How to Prepare for Your Skills / “Behind-the-Wheel” Test for a Non-commercial Class C Driver’s License

A licensed driver must accompany you for your driving test. The licensed driver may drive you to the test location and remain behind the wheel until the examiner checks their license. No one other than the applicant, the examiner(s) and an MVA approved interpreter are allowed in the vehicle during the test.

MVA allows the use of approved foreign language interpreters during the driving test at the applicant’s expense. Please see the list of MVA approved interpreters on our website at [www.mva.maryland.gov](http://www.mva.maryland.gov)

Customers who are deaf or hard of hearing may request a sign language interpreter by emailing [MVACS@mdot.state.md.us](mailto:MVACS@mdot.state.md.us) or by calling the following TDD telephone number: 1-800-492-4575. The MVA will schedule a sign language interpreter for the driving test at no cost to the customer.

You must present your current proof of insurance (policy, card, or FR-19) and your valid vehicle registration card for testing. If the vehicle you are using is a rental vehicle, your name must appear on the rental agreement as an authorized driver.

New drivers must have successfully completed an approved driver education course. The Maryland driving school will electronically submit verification of completion. New drivers must also present the completed skills practice log and completed certification page along with your unexpired Maryland learner’s instructional permit. Out of country license holders must present a 3-hour drug and alcohol certificate.

All driving tests require an appointment. To Schedule an appointment go online to the MVA website at [www.mva.maryland.gov](http://www.mva.maryland.gov) and click on the [Schedule Law/Driver Skills](#) Test, then click on Non-Commercial Driver’s Skills Test. For additional assistance, contact the Customer Service Center at 410-768-7000 or toll-free assistance 1-800-950-1682.

Because the vehicle you provide for your driving test will be driven on public roads, it will be required to pass an inspection prior to the test. You will also be required to demonstrate various controls on your vehicle to ensure they are safe and operable. Please be sure that you know how to operate all vehicle controls.

*The vehicle you are using to take the test MUST meet ALL safety standards as described in this guide, and you MUST have proof of insurance for the vehicle with you at the time of the test.*

*See checklist below for all safety regulations!*

## **Vehicle Check List**

Please use the check list below to determine if your vehicle is safe for testing purposes. Your **vehicle will be disqualified** for testing if it is deemed to be unsafe in accordance with the list below. If this occurs, you will need to reschedule your driving test for another time.

- Front and rear tags, as required, with valid registration
- Windshield - unobstructed view, no cracks
- Driver and passenger doors- must open/close
- Seat belt- secure, fastens properly (shoulder and lap if equipped)
- Tires- properly inflated with adequate tread and no missing lug nuts on wheels
- Lights and lenses- none broken all operate (head, brake, signals, hazards) Lens repair tape permitted if proper color
- Gas gauge reads at least ½ tank and cap is present
- Rearview and outside left side mirror- secure, not broken
- Front seats- free of debris (oil, food, wetness) operational, not broken
- Glove box -closed, no loose articles that may create a hazard
- Exhaust system-secure, no leaks, smelled, seen or heard
- Brake and accelerator pedal- secure, properly adjusted, operable
- Dashboard warning lights- none activated, no safety concerns
- Fluid leaks- no dripping oil, coolant, transmission fluid etc.
- Horn operational
- Speedometer operational

If weather conditions are wet and/or cold

- windows must roll up
- heater and defroster must be operable
- windshield wipers and washers must be operable and have washer fluid

If weather conditions are extremely hot, front windows must operate properly.

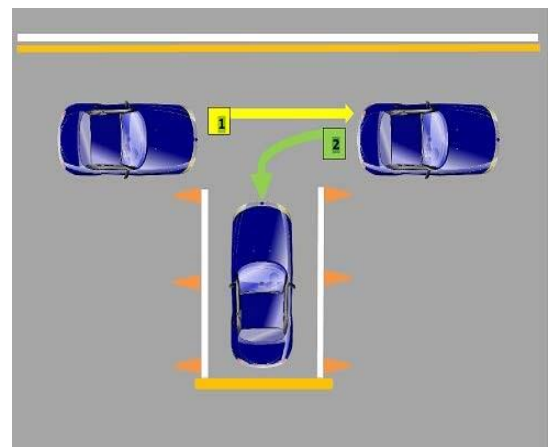
**Dangerous Acts / Automatic Failure** – Your driving test will be **terminated immediately** if you commit any unsafe action. Examples of some unsafe actions are listed below:

- Failure to wear glasses or contact lenses, if required.
- Failure to properly fasten safety belt (shoulder & lap belt, if equipped with both).
- Exceeding three minutes to complete the closed course exercise.
- Making contact and moving a Cone or Flag on the course.
- Failure to come to a complete stop at a stop sign.
- Failure to obey signs, signals, any other traffic law.
- If you are involved in an avoidable crash or if your vehicle makes contact with other vehicles, objects or pedestrians.
- If you commit any unsafe act or if another driver is forced to take evasive action in order to prevent a crash.
- If you put the vehicle over sidewalks or curbs.
- If you do not follow the examiner's verbal instructions.
- If you impede the flow of traffic unnecessarily.
- If you remove both hands from the steering wheel while the vehicle is in motion.
- If the examiner is forced to intervene; either physically or verbally to avoid a collision or unsafe act.

The test will include **both a closed course portion** to test basic control of the vehicle and a **public road portion** to further evaluate your driving skills. You must pass the closed course portion before you will be permitted to continue to the public road portion of the test. If you do not pass the test, you will need to make another appointment to take the entire test again.

The **closed course portion** will assess your general driving ability, and includes the Reverse Two-Point Turnabout:

You will be asked to drive past an area that represents a driveway or alley. You will be required to back your vehicle into the designated area on your right until the front of your vehicle clears the front set of cones. You will have 3 minutes to complete this exercise. You will then be asked to exit the area to the right. You will be evaluated on your backing skills, visual skills, judgment of space, use of mirrors and turn signals, steering, braking, acceleration control and general driving skills.



**Public Road Portion:** After successful completion of the closed course portion, you will drive on a pre-determined public road route that will have a variety of traffic situations. The vehicle must be operated in a safe manner at all times.

***If your test is terminated for any reason, you will be asked to pull over to a safe location, and the examiner will drive the vehicle back to the MVA.***

**General Driving Practices:** You will be evaluated on general driving practices in order to determine your ability to safely operate the vehicle. Whether on the closed course or on the public road, you must obey all traffic laws and signs and operate the vehicle in a safe manner at all times. For instance, you may not use your left foot to operate the brake pedal and you may not palm the steering wheel. Below are some tips to assist you with safe driving practices.

**Braking:**

- Brake smoothly using steady pressure.
- Come to a complete stop at stop signs and red lights.

**Steering:**

- Keep both hands gripped on the outside of the steering wheel at all times unless using other controls.
- You may not use the open palm of your hand to turn the wheel.

**Stops:**

- When stopping at a stop sign or traffic signal, do not stop over a marked stop line, pedestrian crosswalk, sidewalk or other marker.
- Do not stop your vehicle in an intersection. If there is no stop line or crosswalk; stop before your vehicle enters the intersection or roadway.

**Traffic Signs:**

- Always observe traffic signs and signals as they are located throughout roadways. You will be required to identify various road signs throughout your driving test.

**Lane Usage:**

- Do not put vehicle over curbs, sidewalks or lane markings.
- Complete turns in the proper lane on a multiple lane road.
- Never change lanes at intersections.

**Head/Traffic Check(s):**

- Always check your surroundings to ensure it is safe to proceed. Check traffic and mirrors regularly, especially approaching, during, and after driving in intersections, making turns or lane changes.
- Watch for hazards by searching left and right at intersections, driveways, store entrances, railroad tracks or other areas where traffic intersects.
- Scan ahead, observe traffic and look for pedestrians in high volume areas where pedestrians are expected to be present.
- Check for traffic in your “blind spots” by looking over your shoulder when necessary, such as when making lane changes, merging, etc.

**Gear / Clutch Control:**

- When operating your vehicle, you must ensure it is in the proper gear.

### **Turns:**

- You must use the correct turn signal when preparing to make a turn or to enter or exit a designated area.
- As you approach the turn, check traffic in all directions and activate the correct turn signal at the appropriate time.
- Brake smoothly, evenly and safely, when necessary, to get into the correct lane needed for the turn.
- If you must stop before making the turn because of traffic, signals or signs, smoothly come to a complete stop behind the stop line, crosswalk, or stop sign. If stopping behind another vehicle, leave a safe gap. You should be able to see the rear tires of the vehicle ahead of you touching the ground. You should also keep the front wheels straight.
- When ready to turn, check traffic in all directions. Keep both hands on the steering wheel during the turn. Maintain smooth, even acceleration and yield to pedestrians and other traffic. Keep the vehicle in the proper lane and do not make contact with the curb.
- Make sure you finish completing the turn in the correct lane and that your turn signal has cancelled. Accelerate to the speed of traffic and move into the right lane when safe to do so, if not already there.
- Avoid getting too close to the curbs when making turns or performing an exercise. All tires must maintain contact with the roadway.

### **Lane Changes:**

- In areas where there are multiple lanes going in your direction, you should make necessary traffic checks first by looking in your mirrors and then checking your “blind spots” by looking over your shoulder.
- Use the correct turn signal and smoothly change lanes when it is safe to do so. Cancel your turn signal upon completion of the lane change and check traffic behind you.

### **Intersections:**

- Check traffic thoroughly in all directions when approaching intersections.
- Do not change lanes while proceeding through the intersection.
- Once through the intersection, perform head/traffic checks.

### **Curve:**

- When approaching a curve, check traffic thoroughly in all directions.
- Before entering a curve, reduce your speed so further braking is not required in the curve. Keep your vehicle in the lane while maintaining a safe speed through the curve and follow posted warning signs.

**All tests will be terminated if excessive basic driving errors are accumulated.**