



The Institute of Transportation Engineers
Traffic Engineering Council
presents TIPS on



Sign Shapes

Why are traffic signs different shapes?

Traffic signs convey information to travelers through their shape, color, message, and placement. The standard sign shapes and their respective meanings are:

	Octagon—Exclusively for STOP signs
	Equilateral Triangle, Point Down—Exclusively for YIELD signs
	Circle—Exclusively for Railroad Advance Warning Signs and Civil Defense Evacuation Route Signs
	Pennant—Exclusively for NO PASSING ZONE signs
	Diamond—Used for warning signs
	Rectangle, Longer Dimension Vertical—Used for regulatory signs
	Rectangle, Longer Dimension Horizontal—Used for guide signs
	Trapezoid—Used for recreational area guide signs
	Pentagon—Used for school advance and crossing signs
	Crossbuck—Used for railroad crossing signs
	Other shapes—Used for route marker signs The objective of traffic signs is to convey traffic control information to the driver viewing them on the roadway.

