



The Institute of Transportation Engineers
Traffic Engineering Council
presents TIPS on



Traffic Sign Colors

Why are traffic signs different colors?

The objective of traffic signs is to convey traffic control information to the driver. One manner in which signs accomplish this objective is through color. Each color used on a sign has a general meaning attached to it. Thus, the color alerts the driver of what to expect ahead.

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), a document published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, establishes standardized meanings for each color used in traffic signs. It also reserves three other colors for future use. The color code is as follows:

COLOR	MEANING
Yellow	General Warning
Red	Stop or Prohibition
Blue	Motorist Services Guidance
Green	Indicated Movements Permitted, Direction Guidance
Brown	Recreational and Cultural Interest Guidance
Orange	Construction and Maintenance Warning
Black	Regulation
White	Regulation
Strong Yellow-Green	Pedestrian, Bicycle, and School Crossings
Purple	Unassigned
Light Blue	Unassigned
Coral	Unassigned

