

Getting Around in Surrey

Driving in BC

British Columbia has an excellent road and highway system, with distances and speed limits clearly posted along roads and highways. Speed limits are posted in kilometers/hour. In Canada, drivers drive on the right-hand side of the road.

Getting Your Driver's License

Drivers' licenses from other countries are all valid in Canada for the first three months after you arrive. To get a Canadian driver's license, visit any motor vehicle branch. The locations can be found at:

<http://www.icbc.com/driver-licensing/visit-dl-office/Pages/default.aspx>

Did you know that all motorcycle riders, in BC, must wear a helmet.

Did you know that people who practice the Sikh religion wear a turban of 5 or more square meters of cloth. Therefore, they do not have to wear a helmet.

What is the process of getting your driver's license?

There are two parts involved in getting your driver's license in BC:

Knowledge Test: This test assesses your knowledge of the driving rules and road signs. It consists of 50 questions, of which you must get at least 40 correct. Practice tests can be found on www.ICBC.com. At the ICBC office you can pick up the free *Learn to Drive Smart* guide. If you pass this test you will be given a Learner's License, which will allow you to practice driving. There are certain regulations that you must abide while driving with your Learner's License. The regulations can be found in the Driver's Guide.

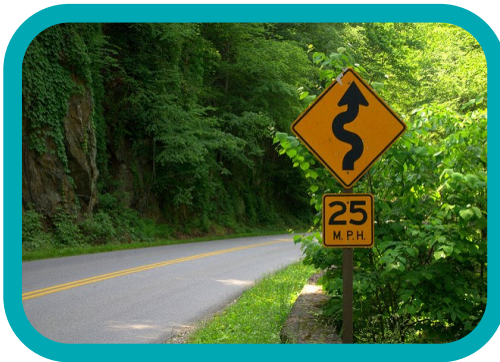
Road Test: This test is used to assess a person's ability to drive. You must take this test to get your license. Once you have passed your road test, once again there are a set of regulations that will be explained to you.

If you would like to take driving classes with a professional instructor before taking your road test simply look up 'driving schools' in the phone book. Make sure that the school that you select is ICBC-approved.

Insurance

Every car that is driven in British Columbia must be insured. The car insurance that you purchase is used to pay for any damages caused to any people or other cars that may result from an accident.

The Insurance Corporation of British Columbia (ICBC) insures vehicles. To determine the cost you can contact your nearest ICBC office and have them help you pick out the level of insurance that best suits your needs.



How can I find an ICBC office in my neighborhood?

- 1) You can find this information on the internet at www.icbc.com
- 2) On the bottom of the page type in your location, for a list of the closest offices in your area.



Getting Around in Surrey



Seat Belts and Car Seats

All drivers and passengers in BC **must** wear a seatbelt.

- Children weighing less than 9kg (20 pounds) have to be in a rear-facing car seat.
- Children that are over 12 months of age and weigh 9-18kg (20-40 pounds) must be in a forward-facing car seat. Children that are over 18 kg (40 pounds) have to be placed in a booster seat until they are 9 years old or until they are at least 145cm (4 ft. 9 in.) tall.
- After that children must use regular car seat belts.

Where can I find some information on how to keep my child safe while travelling?

The Transport Canada website offers helpful information and programs on how to keep your child safe.

Please visit the following website:

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/roadsafety/safedrivers-childsafety-index-53.htm>

Drinking & Driving

It is a criminal offence to drive a vehicle, whether it is in motion or not, with a blood alcohol content of more than 0.05 milligrams. Never drink alcohol and drive.

Accidents

If you are involved in an automobile accident, you should immediately drive towards the side of the road away from traffic.

- Check to see that everyone involved in the accident is OK. If anybody is injured call 9-1-1 immediately.
- If everyone is OK, exchange vehicle registration information with the driver of the other vehicle.

Do not argue with the other driver. ICBC (Insurance Corporation of BC) will investigate the accident and determine who was at fault.

Riding Your Bicycle

Biking is a low cost alternative to car use. When riding your bike it is mandatory that you wear a helmet and use the bike lane whenever it is available. Sikh's alone are not subject to the helmet use law, as they wear turbans as a religious discipline. Bikers should follow the same regulations as drivers. It is important to check your tire pressure and reflective lights regularly, in order to ensure they are working properly.