

# Information on Traffic Signs



## What do the colors and shapes of the signs mean?

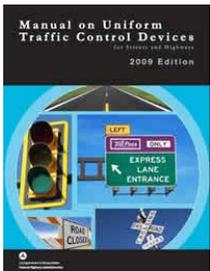
All government agencies in the United States are required to use a handbook called the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* or **MUTCD**. The **MUTCD** sets the allowable uses for what shapes and colors can be used for certain meanings. The following describes what the unique shapes convey:

<b>Shape</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Shape</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Octagon	STOP	Triangle	Yield
Circle	Advance Train Crossing	Pennant	No Passing
Cross buck	Train Crossing	Diamond	Warning
Pentagon	School or County Road	Rectangle	Regulatory, Guide or Warning
Trapezoid	Recreation/Cultural or National Forest Road	Shield	Highway Route

These shapes also use unique colors to provide further information:

<b>Background Color</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Background Color</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Red	Restrictive or Prohibited	White	Regulatory
Orange	Construction	Yellow	Warning
Brown	Recreational or Cultural	Fluorescent Yellow-Green	School or Pedestrian
Green	Guide or Informational	Blue	Motorist services

These shapes and colors allow motorists and pedestrians to understand the meaning of the signs without being able to read the sign legend. For example, only STOP signs are octagonal in shape and have a red background, a school sign is yellow/fluorescent yellow green and is pentagon shaped (like a school house), and a warning sign is diamond shaped and either yellow or orange colored.



## What is this MUTCD?

The **MUTCD** stands for the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) publishes the **MUTCD**, which contains all national design, application, and placement standards for traffic control devices. The purpose of these devices, which includes signs, signals, and pavement markings, is to promote highway safety, efficiency, and uniformity so that traffic can move efficiently on the Nation's streets and highways. Federal, State and local laws required that government agencies use the **MUTCD** for determining which traffic control devices to use and how each device may be used.

## Want More Information?

This flyer is for general purposes only. For more information, please contact the Clark County Department of Public Works, Traffic Management Division at (702) 455-6000 or email [InTheWorks@ClarkCountyNV.gov](mailto:InTheWorks@ClarkCountyNV.gov).

**NOTE:** The **MUTCD** is used throughout the country as the standard by which traffic control decisions are made. Nevada Revised Statute 484A.430 and County Code 14.12.070 require the County to use the **MUTCD** for placement of all traffic control devices. The complete **MUTCD** can be found at: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/2009/pdf-index.htm>.