

MAKE THE RIGHT MOVE

Tips for Changing Lanes

Years ago, when most roads were narrow, the biggest risk was that another vehicle would cross the center line to pass and hit somebody head-on.

Now, with wide superhighways, this seldom happens. But new hazards have taken its place. One of them is the lane jumper who cuts in front of you when you don't even know he is there, or broadsides you as you both try to move to the center lane from opposite directions.

Learn the rules of proper lane changing and you'll avoid grief for yourself and others.

Which Lane Is Right?

You'll wind up choosing your lane on the basis of traffic flow. But generally, on a four-lane highway, you should travel in the outside lane and use the inside lane only for passing.

If there are three or more lanes on each side, you can move to the center lane for normal travel, since the slowest traffic usually moves to the outside lane. The inside lane remains a passing lane. But, on many highways, large vehicles are barred from the fastest lanes.

Remember How Big You Are

Every time you change lanes with a large vehicle, you have to be extra careful because of your size and the time it takes to move from one lane to the other.

You need more time and more space to accomplish the maneuver.

Make sure you have enough room ahead of you to get out of your lane safely. Follow the four-second rule and maintain a proper interval at all times. Then you'll have the space when you need it.

Look to the side to make sure someone else isn't planning to move into the same lane that you're heading for. Then glance in your mirrors to see if anyone is moving up swiftly from behind.

More Lane-Changing Tips

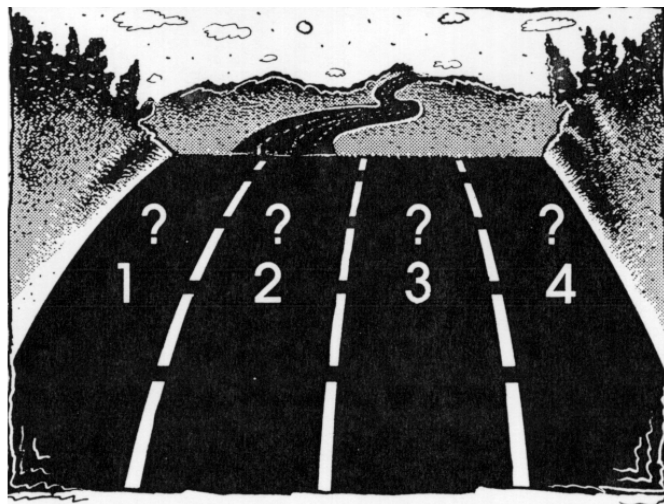
Signal before you begin to make your move. Stay aware of the

traffic flow in both lanes, lest you get caught by a sudden slowdown. Then, when you're sure the coast is clear, change lanes without reducing your speed any more than necessary.

You'll create a hazard if you slow down excessively.

Avoid making frequent lane changes. Try to avoid getting stuck in the wrong lane if traffic slows to a crawl just as you need to get off at an interchange. Ease over a lane at a time before you get in that situation.

Try to anticipate slowdowns or lane closures which may force you to move over. The sooner you see them happening, the easier it will be to deal with the problem.



Slower traffic should use the outside (right) lane. Normal traffic should use the center lanes. The inside (left) lane remains a passing lane.