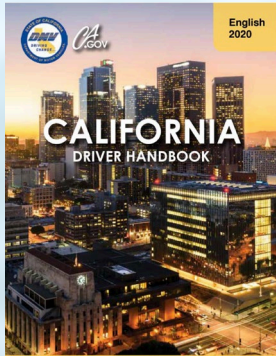


Do you still have questions? Go to the Caltrans website at www.dot.ca.gov and type "MUTCD" in the search box to find the *California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*. Go to Chapter 2 then Section 2B.05. Another web site to visit is the DMV at www.dmv.ca.gov. Click on "Driver License" then "California Driver Handbook". In the section called "Traffic Controls" is a subsection called "Traffic Signs".



STOP SIGNS

An informational pamphlet on the proper function of STOP signs.



The City of Encinitas contracts for law enforcement services with the San Diego County Sheriff. If you have an enforcement question or request, please contact The North Coastal Station at (760) 966-3500.



The City of Encinitas is committed to providing its residents with the safest and most efficient transportation system possible. This pamphlet is designed to provide you with useful and helpful information regarding traffic control.

City of Encinitas
Traffic Engineering

505 South Vulcan Ave
Encinitas, CA 92024

760-943-2211
traffic@encinitasca.gov



WHAT IS A STOP SIGN FOR?

A STOP sign is a red, octagon shaped sign with white letters that conveys to motorists to come to a full STOP at the limit line (a wide white line painted on the street) or before entering the crosswalk at an intersection. Stop signs are placed on the right side of the street in the direction of travel, and sometimes in the middle of the street, so motorists can see them easily.

Like traffic signals, STOP signs help motorists decide who has the right-of-way to go through the intersection first. They can also help motorists better traverse the intersection where the sight distance is limited. They provide motorists with time to check the intersection in all directions to be sure if it is safe to proceed.

CAN A STOP SIGN BE USED?

- There are few gaps in traffic
- There is collision history at the intersection
- High volume of pedestrians walk across the intersection
- High volume of motorists turn left at the intersection, but traffic is not heavy enough for a traffic signal
- Unsignalized intersections that will be signalized in the future.
- An intersection where motorists cannot easily see to the right or left because of walls, bushes, and other physical obstructions
- Stop signs should NOT be used for traffic calming purposes.

WHAT OTHER SIGNS ARE USED WITH A STOP SIGN?

In some places, a plaque might be below the STOP sign; for example, an “ALL WAY” sign or a “CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP” sign. These plaques let motorists know what kind of intersection it is. The “ALL WAY” plaque lets you know that there is a STOP sign at all approaches. The “CROSS TRAFFIC DOES NOT STOP” plaque indicates that the traffic going left-to-right and right-to-left does not have a STOP sign, so motorists must be more cautious when entering the intersection.



When a Stop sign cannot be seen easily a “STOP AHEAD” sign is often placed in advance of the intersection to warn motorists that a STOP is coming up. In addition, there are pavement markers to warn motorists before approaching the STOP sign.

Stop signs might also have a flashing red light on top so that motorists can easily see where it is.



WILL STOP SIGNS SLOW DOWN TRAFFIC ON OUR STREETS?

Many people think STOP signs help slow down speeders, but this is not true. Motorists often accelerate quickly after stopping to make up for the time they lost by stopping. If traffic at the intersection is always light, motorists may do a “rolling STOP” (they slow down but don’t come to a complete STOP) because they think it is safe or they are in a hurry.

There are “traffic calming measures” that help lower traffic speeds – STOP signs are not one of them. Traffic calming means making changes to a road’s design features such as changing the painted markings, extending curbs into the street (bulb-outs), building a traffic circle, or adding a median. Please see the *Traffic Calming* pamphlet for more information.



WHAT IF A STOP SIGN IS BLOCKED BY SOMETHING?

If you see a STOP sign that is blocked by a tree, a bush, or is painted with graffiti, please report it to the City immediately. Call the number on the back of this pamphlet or use the “SeeClickFix” website or app which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play store. Be sure to include the cross streets and explain what is blocking the STOP sign.