



A stop sign can be one of the most effective traffic control devices when used at the right locations. It is intended to help drivers determine who should yield the right-of-way at an intersection when the standard right of way rules do not prove adequate.

How are locations for stop signs determined?

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, published by FHWA, is the national standard that provides criteria for a stop sign to be installed for a specific location. These criteria include minimum traffic volumes and/or documented accident problems.

The manual provides guidelines for installing all signs and traffic control devices, thus creating uniformity from state to state. Douglas County is required by the State of Colorado to comply with the guidelines of the manual.

Improper Use of Stop Signs

Often, stop signs are requested at locations where they are not warranted. Misconceptions regarding the effects of stop signs often lead individuals to request their installation. Unfortunately, this can result in the improper use, and can create problems such as:

- Increasing or causing accidents
- Increasing speeds between intersections
- Causing unnecessary delays
- Breeding disrespect for all traffic control devices and increase running of stop signs.
- Increasing vehicle operating costs
- Increasing noise and air pollution
- Creating an enforcement problem

Safety Problems

Unfortunately, the problems noted above make conditions worse and reduce safety even though stop signs are perceived by many as cure-alls for traffic safety problems. Some believe stop signs will slow the speed of traffic or create such an inconvenience that traffic will use other routes. However, studies show that there is an increase in violations, and drivers tend to speed up between the stop signs to “make up for lost time. “

Most drivers are reasonable and prudent. However, when unwarranted traffic restrictions are imposed, increased violations often occur. For example, some drivers will make a partial or rolling stop rather than a complete stop. Others may tend not to obey the right-of-way rule, especially if they perceive that a stop sign is not appropriate at a particular intersection. This often results in an increase in right-angle accidents – the very type of accident the stop signs are installed to prevent. In such cases, the stop signs can create a false sense of security in a pedestrian and an attitude of contempt in a motorist. Another serious problem is the increase in failing to comply with the STOP sign combined with the tendency for children to use less caution crossing the street, since they are likely to rely on the drivers to stop.



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TRAFFIC ENGINEERING

STOP SIGN



An Informational Brochure
Provided by

Douglas County Traffic
Engineering



Information provided by:
Douglas County Traffic Engineering

If you would like more information, please
contact:

Traffic Engineering (303) 660-7490
traffic@douglas.co.us



Please feel free to visit our website at:

<http://www.douglas.co.us/road-work/traffic/>

Douglas County has jurisdiction over unincorporated
area of the County (including Highlands Ranch).
Contact towns or cities regarding issues within their
respective boundaries.

Douglas County Traffic Engineering
100 Third Street
Castle Rock, CO 80104