



Driver's Education – Chapter 2: Your Vehicle Requirements

1. **All vehicles MUST be equipped with at least TWO separate braking systems**
 - Foot brake and parking brake
2. **Bumpers**
 - ALL private passenger cars MUST have BOTH front and rear bumpers
 - Pickup trucks and vans must have front bumpers and either rear bumpers or reflectors
3. **Horn**
 - Your vehicle must have a working horn
 - Bells, sirens, and whistles ARE NOT horns and can only be used on emergency vehicles
 - Use your horn when necessary to avoid a crash
 - Don't use your horn to announce your arrival or honk unnecessarily
4. **Head lights and Tail lights**
 - ALL motor vehicles, except motorcycles MUST have two white head lights that work on high and low beam and red tail lights
 - ALL motor vehicles MUST have red brake lights that come on when the brake pedal is pressed
 - High beam headlights must illuminate objects from at least 350 feet away
 - Head light maintenance:
 - Replace broken/cracked lenses
 - Clean headlights as often as you clean your windshield
 - Have your headlights inspected & adjusted yearly
5. **Your headlights MUST be on:**
 - From sunset until sunrise
 - During inclement weather
 - For rain, snow, sleet, hail, fog
 - Any time you can't see the road for a distance of 500 feet
 - If your windshield wipers are on, your lights are on
6. **License Light: A white light must illuminate the rear license to make it visible at night**
7. **Turn Signals:**
 - All turn signals must be in working order
8. **Prohibited Lights: (These lights are allowed ONLY ON AUTHORIZED VEHICLES)**
 - Blue lights
 - Flashing lights
 - Strobe lights
 - Authorized Vehicles are:**
 - Snowplows
 - Emergency vehicles
 - School buses
 - Road maintenance vehicles
 - Farm equipment

9. Mufflers:

- ALL motor vehicles must be equipped with mufflers that keep the vehicle from making sudden and prolonged loud noises, particularly sharp popping or crackling sounds
- Check mufflers and exhaust system for carbon monoxide leaks

10. Rearview Mirrors:

- All passenger vehicles must be equipped with rearview mirrors
- Any vehicle that does not have a clear view through the rear window (trucks, vans, and pickups used for hauling) MUST be equipped with an additional outside mirror

11. Seatbelts and Airbags:

- Seatbelts in motor vehicles must be clean and in good working order and available to all occupants
- In Minnesota, seatbelt use is MANDATORY and non-use is a primary offense
- Airbags are SECONDARY restraint systems. They are designed to WORK WITH the seatbelts
- Airbags are NOT designed to keep occupants from being ejected from the vehicle

12. Tires

- Tires must be able to CARRY YOUR VEHICLE'S WEIGHT and GRIP THE ROAD
- A tire is illegal if the tread depth is less than 1/16th of an inch
- Check tires regularly for cracks, cuts, uneven wear, bulges, punctures
- Make sure your tires are the correct size for your vehicle and all 4 match brand, model, and size

13. Windshield and Windows:

- A windshield MAY NOT be covered by or treated with any material that makes the glass more reflective or reduces the amount of light that travels through it
- Window tint cannot reduce the light transmittance of a light to less than 50% or reflection to more than 20%
- Window tint can be used only on:
 - The rear window of a pickup
 - The rear and side windows of a van (behind the driver's seat)
 - Limousines
 - Vehicles used by a funeral home

14. Windshield Washers and Window Defrosters

- Any vehicle equipped with a glass windshield MUST be equipped with wipers in good working order
- Defrosters are necessary to keep the windshield and windows clear of frost and steam

15. Wheel Guards and Fenders:

- Passenger vehicles MUST be equipped with fenders or other wheel guards that prevent WATER, DIRT, and OTHER MATERIAL from being picked up and thrown into the air by the tires

16. Fuel Efficient Techniques

- Keep your engine running properly
- Keep your tires properly inflated
- Use the recommended motor oil for your vehicle
- Combine errands into one trip
- Avoid aggressive driving like speeding and rapid acceleration
- Observe the speed limit