

PASSING SAFELY ON TWO-LANE ROADS

There are precious few passing opportunities on our Vermont roads, so it's important to know how to do it safely when we can, and to recognize when we can't. Here are a few tips that can help:

- Know the acceleration ability of your car, and stay where you are if oncoming traffic is too close.
- Use your left signal to alert other drivers, and check to make sure the next car isn't already passing you.
- Leave plenty of clearance (at least 4 feet) between you and the other vehicle, and obey the speed limit.
- When you can see the entire front end of the passed vehicle in your rear view mirror (or more if towing a trailer), activate your right turn signal and return to your lane.
- If you are being passed, slow down a little and stay to the right.

Remember that passing is always optional. When in doubt, stay in your lane. Do not pass on hills, curves, at railroad crossings or intersections. And it may be legal to cross a double yellow line in Vermont, but it is rarely a good idea except at very low speeds and must be done with extreme care. Most Vermonters are courteous and will find a safe place to pull over and let you go by when they see that they are holding up traffic, so be patient.

