

# How to share the road safely with Oversize Loads

## What is an Oversize Load?

An Oversize Load is a vehicle that is wider, taller, longer, or heavier than what is normally allowed on the road. There are many different types of Oversize Loads. Some of the most common ones are construction or farm equipment, and manufactured homes. Oversize Loads are issued special permits to be able to use our roads.

## Oversize Loads can be hazardous for drivers

Oversize Loads require extra caution and patience from the drivers around them. Because of their size, they need extra time and space to turn, change lanes, and stop. They may need to go slow so that they can fit under, around, or through something along the road.

## Pilot cars

Sometimes Oversize Loads are accompanied by pilot cars (also called escort vehicles). Pilot cars are passenger vehicles with Oversize Load signs that help warn drivers about the presence of the load.

## What to do if you see an Oversize Load

If you see an Oversize Load or pilot cars on the road:

- Start by slowing down and observing the situation carefully.
- If they are coming towards you in the opposite lane, move over if you can, to give them extra space along the center line.
- If they are in front of you in the same lane, slow down, and don't pass them until you are sure it is safe to do so.
- Oversize Loads might need extra room or additional lanes to turn, so stay well behind them at intersections.
- When you encounter an Oversize Load or pilot cars on the freeway, don't cut them off or try to go in between them. Stay away from any rear overhang, and watch for debris.
- If they are merging, move over so that they can have additional room to get up to speed.
- Keep in mind that Oversize Load drivers have large blind spots. Stay as far as possible from them in case they move in an unexpected direction.

## Obey pilot car signals

Pilot car operators may sometimes signal for drivers to slow down or wait if the load needs more space to maneuver. They may just use their lights, or they might use their hand, a flag, or a stop paddle to help drivers know what to do. If the pilot cars are signalling for you to slow or stop, heed their instructions. They are trying to keep you safe.

**OVERSIZE LOADS:  
SLOW YOUR PACE,  
GIVE THEM SPACE.**

Learn more at [esc.org](https://www.esc.org)

