

## Insurance 101

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### **Tackle That Roundabout Safely**

Roundabouts, rotaries, traffic circles—they're known by many names, but one thing is clear: drivers are sometimes confused about how to drive in them.

These circular roadways without traffic lights and stop signs have been found overall to be safer alternatives to intersections, so you will likely be seeing more of them. Here are some tips to ensure that when you go around in circles, you safely get where you need to go:

**Take it slow.** Approach the roundabout slowly and yield to the traffic already there. Enter when you see a gap in the traffic flow.

**Don't think right.** Traffic on your **left** always has the right of way. Remember that driving around the roundabout is **counter-clockwise**.

**Know where you going.** Decide ahead of time—before you enter the roundabout—what exit you're going to take. If you are already in the roundabout and not sure of your exit, stay left and go around it, hugging the central island. Once you identify your exit, signal and move into the right lane.

**Watch what the others do.** Be aware of drivers around you, who may be straddling lines or in the wrong lane when they exit. Pay particular attention to trucks, which may use multiple lanes when they turn.

**Prevent surprises.** Always use signals when changing lanes or exiting, and check mirrors frequently. And never stop in the middle of the roundabout.

Sources: institute for Highway Safety, Washington State Department of Transportation, Virginia State Department