

A stop sign is a valuable and effective control device when used at the right place and under the right conditions.

Why are stop signs used?

Stop signs are used to help drivers and pedestrians at an intersection decide who has the right-of-way.

What are the right conditions for a stop sign?

- ◆ When an intersection's width is such that drivers or pedestrians cannot easily distinguish a safe opportunity to cross an intersection. (EX. an intersection with multiple lanes of traffic in each direction).
- ◆ When the sight line of drivers or pedestrians is such that they cannot easily distinguish a safe opportunity to cross an intersection. (EX. near a hill, a curve, or heavily vegetated areas)
- ◆ When traffic volumes reach a level that drivers and pedestrians cannot easily distinguish a safe window to cross an intersection, but the traffic volumes has not reached a level that warrants a traffic signal.

Stop signs are not used for speed control, why?

- ◆ Speed reduction is only apparent within 200 to 300 feet of the intersection.
- ◆ Frequently speeds increase between intersections as drivers try to make up lost time.
- ◆ Installing stop signs every 300 feet or at every intersection to continually slow speeds isn't practical.

Why doesn't the city just put up a stop sign?

Stop signs placed at arbitrary locations are often ignored by "rolling through" or "running" the sign.

Stop signs are not used to arbitrarily interrupt through traffic, either by causing it to stop, or by causing such an inconvenience as to force the traffic to use other routes.