

## STOP Signs Installed in Wrong Places...

**...usually create more problems than they solve.**

**M**any requests are received for STOP signs to interrupt traffic or to slow speeding vehicles. However, studies across the nation show that there are a high number of intentional violations when STOP signs are installed as nuisances or “speedbreakers.”

Studies show that speed is reduced in the immediate vicinity of nuisance STOP signs. However, speeds are higher between intersections than before the signs were installed. This is caused by motorists “making up for lost time.”

Nuisance STOP signs also increase air pollution, waste fuel and create more traffic noise.



A Traffic Safety Message  
From the  
City of Springfield  
Public Works Department



**For more information:**  
**417-864-1980**  
<http://www.springfieldmo.gov/traffic>

**Will  
More STOP Signs  
Slow Traffic  
On Our Street ?**



*City of Springfield  
Department of Public Works  
Traffic Engineering Division*

## Neighborhood Streets with Low Traffic...

...tend to operate best under the State Right of Way law.

When an intersection has no STOP or YIELD signs, State Law applies. It requires that when two vehicles enter a four-leg intersection from different streets at the same time, the driver on the left must yield right of way to the driver on the right. This requires drivers on all four approaches to slow down to reasonable speeds.

However, when STOP signs are installed on one street, drivers on the other street tend to increase speed since they have the right of way. Drivers tend not to be as careful, since they feel others need to yield to them.



## Under the Right Conditions...

...STOP signs can play an important role in traffic safety.

National standards have been established to determine when STOP signs should be installed. These standards consider traffic speed, number of vehicles, sight distance, and frequency of “gaps in traffic” for safe vehicle entry or pedestrian crossing.

When STOP signs are used, they should stop vehicles on the street with less traffic. Four-way STOPS are helpful only when traffic is high and approximately equal on all four approaches. Experience indicates that when at least 500 cars per hour enter an intersection for a substantial portion of the day, four-way STOPS may be considered.

Most drivers are reasonable and prudent. When confronted with unreasonable and unnecessary restrictions, motorists are more likely to violate any type of traffic sign.

# REMEM-

STOP signs:

- ⤴ Do Not Stop Speeding
- ⤴ Increase Air Pollution
- ⤴ Increase Noise Pollution
- ⤴ Waste Fuel