

Crossing the border

To cross the U.S.-Canadian border, a driver's license alone won't cut it anymore. Starting Jan. 31, 2008 you will need to have a passport or similarly secure document, or a combination of two other documents.

Single-document option

- U.S. or Canadian passport
- U.S. pass card (not available until spring)
- "Trusted traveler card," including NEXUS, SENTRI or FAST cards (typically used by those who cross the border frequently, often for work)
- State- or province-issued enhanced driver's license (not yet available in most places)
- U.S. military ID with travel orders
- U.S. merchant mariner document
- Native American tribal photo ID card
- Form I-872 American Indian card
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card

Double-document option

If you don't have a passport or one of these other IDs, there is a two-paper option, the most likely combination being a driver's license and a birth certificate. Border crossers can present a driver's license or ID card, or a U.S. or Canadian ID card, along with one of the following:

- Birth certificate
- U.S. consular report of birth abroad
- U.S. Certificate of Naturalization
- U.S. Certificate of Citizenship
- U.S. Citizen Identification Card
- Canadian citizenship card
- Canadian certificate of citizenship without photo

18 and under: U.S. and Canadian citizens 18 and younger need a birth certificate issued by a federal, state, provincial, county or municipal authority.