

Newcomer Information

All You Need to Know
to Get Relocated

With 300 annual days of sunshine and the nation's largest public park system, metro Denver residents dabble in everything from skiing to hiking, mountain biking to river rafting. Perhaps that's why Denver is one of the healthiest cities in the nation.

The information in this chapter will help newcomers make a smooth transition, so they can begin to enjoy all that metro Denver has to offer.

Colorado's historic focus on low taxes, coupled with metro Denver's high household incomes, has kept the region's cost of living at or near the national average.

Metro Denver ranks slightly above the national average for cost of living, but well below many other major cities. Also, metro Denver's utility rates are consistently among the lowest of any major U.S. city.



As the capital of the State of Colorado, Denver offers easy access to state services as well as to city and county services.

CREDIT: RUDY REV

Ten-digit dialing is necessary throughout metro Denver; and all addresses are in Colorado unless otherwise noted.

Automobiles

Auto Emissions Inspection

Emissions testing is required when registering, re-registering or selling vehicles in the seven-county metro Denver region. Envirotest Systems Corp. operates 15 Air Care Colorado emissions testing centers in the Denver-Boulder area. Tests for 1982 and newer vehicles cost \$25 and are required every two years. Tests for 1981 and older vehicles cost \$15 and are required annually. Air Care stations are open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. VIN verifications also may be obtained at Air Care stations for \$9. Payment is by cash or check only.

Air Care Colorado Hotline and Auto Emissions Tech Center
<http://www.aircarecolorado.com> 303-456-7090

Driver's License

Colorado requires that new residents apply for a state driver's license within 30 days of relocating. If your present driver's license is valid, you'll need to pass a brief written exam and eye test. Licenses must be renewed every five years. Out-of-state students and military personnel are not required to obtain a Colorado

driver's license if they have a valid home state license.

Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles
 1881 Pierce St.
 Lakewood, 80214303-205-5600
<http://www.revenue.state.co.us/mv-dir>

Full-Service Offices

Aurora
 14391 E. Fourth Ave.....303-344-8400

Boulder
 2850 Iris Ave.....303-442-3006

Denver
 1865 W. Mississippi Ave.....303-937-9507

Longmont
 917 S. Main St.....303-776-4073

Northglenn
 500 Malley Drive720-929-8636

Parker
 17737 Cottonwood Drive303-627-0985

Limited-Service Offices

Broomfield
 5139 W. 120th Ave720-887-8396

Lakewood
 1881 Pierce St.....303-205-5609

Littleton (Oakbrook Shopping Center)
 311 E. County Line Road....303-795-5954

Vehicle Registration/Inspection

Colorado license plates must be obtained within 30 days of establishing residency or employment. Out-of-state students and military personnel are not required to obtain Colorado license plates if they have valid plates from their home state. Motor vehicle registrations are handled at the county level. Registering your vehicle requires a valid emissions sticker, vehicle identification number verification, lien holder information, title and current registration. Annual notices are mailed, reminding you to register.

County Motor Vehicle Offices

Adams303-654-6010

Arapahoe303-795-4500

Boulder303-413-7710

Broomfield303-464-5888

Denver303-376-2200

Douglas303-660-7440

Jefferson303-271-8100



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**303-292-LEND
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Home of Denver's oldest standing structure, Four Mile Historic Park transports visitors back in time.

CREDIT: FOUR MILE HISTORIC PARK



The Denver Public Library has 22 branches and approximately 440,000 cardholders. In fact, 79 percent of Denver residents hold library cards and borrow close to 12 million items each year.

Useful County Phone Numbers

County	General Information	County Commissioners
Adams	303-659-2120	303-654-6100
Arapahoe	303-795-4400	303-795-4630
Boulder	303-441-3131	303-441-3500
Broomfield	303-469-3301	
Denver	720-913-4900	720-865-9032
Douglas	303-660-7400	303-660-7401
Jefferson	303-279-6511	303-271-8525

Consumer and Business Assistance

Attorney General's Office
of Consumer Protection..... 303-866-5304

Better Business Bureau..... 303-758-2100

Colorado Division of
Consumer Protection..... 303-692-3620

Colorado Office of Economic
Development and
International Trade.....303-892-3840

Colorado Office of Small
Business Development..... 303-592-5920

Colorado Business
Assistance Center303-592-5920

Government City Office

Mayor
John Hickenlooper
1437 Bannock St.
Denver, 80202 720-865-9000

County
Please see sidebar information
on page 170.

State
Governor
Bill Owens' Office303-866-2471

Federal Representatives

District 1:
Diana DeGette (D)303-844-4988

District 2:
Mark Udall (D)303-650-7820

District 3:
John T. Salazar (D)719-543-8200

District 4:
Marilyn Musgrave (R)719-456-0925

District 5:
Joel Hefley (R).....719-520-0055

District 6:
Thomas G. Tancredo (R)720-283-9772

District 7:
Bob Beauprez (R)303-940-5821

Senators

Wayne Allard (R).....303-220-7414

Ken Salazar (D).....202-224-5852

Legal Aid

Boulder County
Legal Services303-449-7575

Colorado Legal Services.....303-837-1313
Justice Information Center303-832-1220

Libraries

(District offices/main branch libraries)

Arapahoe Library District
12855 E. Jamison Circle
Englewood, 80112303-798-2444
<http://www.arapahoelibraries.org>

Aurora Public Library
14949 E. Alameda Pkwy.
Aurora, 80012303-739-6600
<http://www.auroralibrary.org>

Boulder Public Library
1000 Canyon Blvd.
Boulder, 80302303-441-3100
<http://www.boulder.lib.co.us>

Denver Central Library
10 W. 14th Ave. Pkwy.
Denver, 80204720-865-1111
<http://www.denver.lib.co.us>

Douglas County Libraries
100 S. Wilcox
Castle Rock, 80104303-688-7620
<http://www.douglas.lib.co.us>

Englewood Public Library
1000 Englewood Pkwy.
Englewood, 80110.....303-762-2550
<http://www.engagewoodgov.org>



The Denver Public Library is ranked as one of the top libraries in the nation, according to Hennen's American Public Library Ratings Index.

CREDIT: JEFFCO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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4220 E Virginia Ave, Glendale, CO 80246




Jefferson County Public Library
10200 W. 20th Ave.
Lakewood, 80215303-232-7114
<http://www.jefferson.lib.co.us>

**Mamie Doud Eisenhower
Public Library**
3 Community Park Road
Broomfield, 80020720-887-2300
<http://www.ci.broomfield.co.us/library>

Rangeview Library District
8992 N. Washington St.
Thornton, 80229303-288-2001
<http://www.adams.lib.co.us>

Newspapers

Daily Camera..... 303-442-1202
<http://www.dailycamera.com>



The Denver Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for 397 urban parks and pathways equaling more than 4,000 acres of green space.

CREDIT: RUDY REY

Denver Business Journal.....303-837-3500
<http://www.bizjournals.com/denver>

The Denver Post 303-832-3232
<http://www.denverpost.com>

Rocky Mountain News 303-892-5000
<http://www.rockymountainnews.com>

Westword303-296-7744
<http://www.westword.com>

Pets

Annual licensing and vaccination are required for dogs and cats living in the region, although regulations vary from county to county. Contact your local Animal Control office for specifics.

Denver Division of Animal Care & Control303-698-0076

Dumb Friends League Humane Society303-751-5772

State Board of Veterinary Medicine303-894-7755

Post Offices

Check the federal government listings in the white pages for the post office nearest you. The General Mail Facility, located near the new Stapleton development, is open 24 hours a day.

General Mail Facility303-853-6758

U.S. Postal Services (locations).....800-275-8777
<http://www.usps.com>

Public Safety

Emergency, Police and Fire.....911

Adams County Sheriff303-654-1850

Arapahoe County Sheriff.....303-795-4711

Boulder County Sheriff303-441-4444

Broomfield County Police303-438-6400

Colorado State Patrol303-239-4500

Denver (city and county) Police720-913-2000

Douglas County Sheriff.....303-660-7505

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)303-705-7300

Lawn Care in Denver

The Basics of Lawn Care in May

Water: Deep watering less often makes healthier lawns than shallow frequent watering. Warm season grasses, like buffalo grass or blue grama, need much less water than Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue. Water only when needed. Visual signs are footprints that remain more than a few minutes or a blue-gray tone to Kentucky bluegrass. Or insert a screwdriver about 4 inches into the soil; if it is hard to insert and comes out dry, the lawn needs watering.

Tip: *Minimize overhead watering of ornamentals and vegetables to prevent bacterial and fungal diseases.*

Mow: Don't mow when the lawn is damp. Keep the blades sharp and set at 2-1/2 to 3 inches high all season, which reduces the lawn's water needs. Mulching mowers are great. Leaving the grass clippings on the lawn returns one to two pounds of nitrogen to the soil in a season, which reduces the amount of chemical fertilizer that must be applied. Leaving on the clippings does not increase thatch build up. Not more than a third of the grass blades' height should be cut at a time. Grass that has been allowed to grow too long will need to be cut once and then again several days later. Tall fescue grows more rapidly than Kentucky bluegrass. It is coarser than bluegrass, so the mower blades require sharpening after four or five mowings.

Tip: *Lawn mowers and weed whips cause some of the worst tree problems. Take care when using them to avoid bark damage.*

Fertilize: Slow release nitrogen sources, such as sulfur-coated urea or organic based fertilizer, are most effective for early-spring and summer use. The most important fertilization is in the fall before the lawn loses its green color.

Aerate: Core aeration allows water and oxygen to penetrate the soil for healthy plant growth and can prevent problems such as thatch build up, fungal diseases and excessive earthworm mounding. You can hire someone to do it, rent an aeration machine, or in small areas, use an aerating hand tool. Water deeply the day before aerating for best penetration. Leave the cores on the lawn. They'll usually disintegrate in about two weeks, leaving nutrients to filter back into the soil. Once a year in the spring is usually adequate for a healthy lawn. Aerate again in the fall for compacted or unhealthy lawns.

*Source: Colorado State University Cooperative Extension
 (http://www.colostate.edu/menugard.html)*

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)303-629-7171

Jefferson County Sheriff303-277-0211

Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center800-222-1222

U.S. Secret Service303-866-1010

USDA Forest Service Rocky Mountain Region303-275-5350

Recycling/Trash Pickup

Trash collection services vary depending on location. Residents of the city and

county of Denver are provided trash collection services; residents in other areas must contract for service. Curbside recycling is available in some areas. Check the yellow pages for a listing of waste removal contractors.

Colorado Recycles.....303-695-6010

Denver Recycles720-865-6805

Denver Waste Management.....303-446-3400

Hazardous Materials and Waste Management.....303-692-3300

Hazardous Waste Commission303-692-3467

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- ▶ High-Definition Television

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Utilities

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<http://www.comcast.com>

Electric

Intermountain Rural Electric
Association (IREA)303-688-3100

Xcel Energy-Public Service
Company of Colorado303-615-5000

Telephone

Qwest Communications800-475-7526

Water

Arapahoe County Water
and Water Authority303-790-4870

Denver Water303-628-6000

Check Special Districts in the Blue Pages of your local phone book for other municipalities.

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CREDIT: GERMAINE PHOTOGRAPHY

Metro Denver provides a number of youth and family organizations, such as the YMCA of Metropolitan Denver, that encourage various recreational activities.

Veteran and Military Information

- Air Force800-525-0102
- Air National Guard866-462-6264
- Army303-894-9725
- Colorado Veterans Services303-914-5549
- Division of Veterans Affairs ..303- 894-7474
- Recruiting District Enlisted Programs Administration303-866-1979

Volunteer Information

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters303-433-6002
- Colorado Nonprofit Association.....303-832-5710
- Habitat for Humanity303-454-8965
- Metro Volunteers303-282-1234
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado.....303-715-1010
- Volunteers of America.....303-297-0408

Voter Information

All U.S. citizens are eligible to vote in Colorado upon reaching age 18. Proof of residency in the state for at least 30 days prior to the election is required, and registration must be completed at least 29 days before the election. For voter registration locations, contact your local county clerk's office or election commission office. Residents may also register to vote at any driver's license office or public assistance agency throughout the state.

Weather Information

- Air Quality Bulletin303-782-0211
- Colorado Road Conditions303-639-1111
- Weather Information 303-494-4221

Youth/Family Organizations

- 4 Parents Hotline303-620-4444
- Aspen Center303-429-4440
- Boy Scouts of America-Denver Area Council.....303-455-5522

Home Services

A challenge for newcomers is finding the right companies to provide services needed for their new homes. Check the Index of Advertisers at the back of this publication for a list of advertisers such as banks, apartment locators, grocers, architects, flooring, home builders, home improvements/remodeling, home inspections, insurance, mortgage brokers and lenders, movers, realtors, utilities, window coverings and other service companies. Flip to their ad and there is instant information about the company.

Also, the **Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce** lists reputable services companies in its Business Directory found at <http://www.denverchamber.org>, or call the Chamber's Business Resource Center at **303-620-8073**. The Chamber's Directory lists companies that provide carpet cleaning, plumbing, landscaping, insurance, electrical, utility and many other services.

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CREDIT: TOWN OF SUPERIOR PHOTO ARCHIVE

Residents in the Town of Superior have a special day to honor man's best friend.



CREDIT: CITY OF GOLDEN

Cities, counties and communities located across metro Denver offer a variety of recreational facilities, such as the City of Golden's splash park.

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver**303-892-9200
- Family Advocacy Care Education & Support (FACES)**720-570-9333
- Front Range Earth Force**303-433-0016
- Girl Scouts-Mile Hi Council**303-778-8774
- Junior Achievement**303-534-5252
- Urban League of Metropolitan Denver**.....303-388-5861
- YMCA of Metropolitan Denver**.....720-524-2700
- YWCA of Boulder County**303-443-0419
- Young Americans Center for Financial Education**303-321-2265
- Young Life**303-472-8140
- Youth for Christ USA**.....303-843-0370
- Youth with a Mission**303-424-1144
- Youth with a Vision**.....720-221-7088
- Youthtrack Inc.** 303-904-0998