



## Colorado License Plate History

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1913 - Black Numbers on White Background</b> |  |
| <b>1914 - White on Blue</b>                     | <b>1946 - Federal Yellow on Black (1 plate)</b>    |
| <b>1915 - Black on Yellow</b>                   | <b>1947 - Black on Federal Yellow</b>              |
| <b>1916 - White on Black</b>                    | <b>1948 - Black on Aluminum color</b>              |
| <b>1917 - Black on Pink</b>                     | <b>1949 - Black on Yellow</b>                      |
| <b>1918 - White on Black</b>                    | <b>1950 - Green on White</b>                       |
| <b>1919 - Gray on Maroon</b>                    | <b>1951 - White on Green</b>                       |
| <b>1920 - Validating tab, same plate</b>        | <b>1952 - Validating tab, same plate</b>           |
| <b>1921 - Silver on Blue</b>                    | <b>1953 - Green on Federal Yellow</b>              |
| <b>1922 - Black on White</b>                    | <b>1954 - White on Black</b>                       |
| <b>1923 - White on Black</b>                    | <b>1955 - Black on White</b>                       |
| <b>1924 - Black on Gray</b>                     | <b>1956 - White on Black</b>                       |
| <b>1925 - White on Maroon</b>                   | <b>1957 - Black on Yellow Orange</b>               |
| <b>1926 - White on Green</b>                    | <b>1958 - Dark Green on Light Green</b>            |
| <b>1927 - White on Black</b>                    | <b>1959 - White on Dark Green</b>                  |
| <b>1928 - Red on Beige</b>                      | <b>1960 - Dark Green on White</b>                  |
| <b>1929 - Orange on Black</b>                   | <b>1961 - Validating tab, same plate</b>           |
| <b>1931 - Black on Orange</b>                   | <b>1962 - White on Dark Green</b>                  |
| <b>1932 - Orange on Black</b>                   | <b>1963 - Dark Green on White</b>                  |
| <b>1933 - Black on Orange</b>                   | <b>1964 - White on Dark Green</b>                  |
| <b>1934 - Yellow on Black</b>                   | <b>1965 - Dark Green on White</b>                  |
| <b>1935 - Black on Yellow</b>                   | <b>1966 - White on Dark Green</b>                  |
| <b>1936 - White on Navy Blue</b>                | <b>1967 - Dark Green on White</b>                  |
| <b>1937 - Black on Silver</b>                   | <b>1968 - White on Dark Green</b>                  |
| <b>1938 - White on Turquoise</b>                | <b>1969 - Dark Green on White</b>                  |
| <b>1939 - Yellow on Black</b>                   | <b>1970 - White on Dark Green</b>                  |
| <b>1940 - Black on Yellow</b>                   | <b>1971 - Green on White (reflectorized)</b>       |
| <b>1941 - Yellow on Black</b>                   | <b>1972 - White on Green (reflectorized)</b>       |
| <b>1942 - White on Maroon</b>                   | <b>1973 - Green on White (reflectorized)</b>       |
| <b>1943 - Federal Yellow on Black (1 plate)</b> | <b>1974 - White on Green (reflectorized)</b>       |
| <b>1944 - Validating tab, same plate</b>        | <b>1975 - Red on White &amp; Blue (Centennial)</b> |
| <b>1945 - White on Black (1 plate)</b>          | <b>1976 - Validating tab, same plate</b>           |
|   | <b>1977 - White on Green (reflectorized)</b>       |
|   | <b>1978 to 2000 - Validating tab, same plate</b>   |
|   | <b>2000 - Green on white (reflectorized)</b>       |

1913 was the first year the State issued license plates. Prior to this time, cities issued numbers and you made your own.

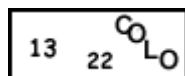
1913, 1914, and 1915 license plates were porcelainized.

Numbers on 1919 and 1920 plates were individually cut pieces and they were spot welded on the heavy license plate blank. A tab showed the year on these plates. 1920 plates were stamped like the rest.

Plates for the larger counties during the 1920's were very large. Some measured 5 1/2" X 16", while others

measured 6" X 14" with numbers 5/8" wide and 4" tall.

The word "COLO" and year 1922 plate was:



The 1931, 1932, 1933, and 1934 plates were stamped of very heavy metal, very difficult to bend.

County numbers first appeared on plates in 1932.

1948 license plates were made of aluminum and were very easily damaged.

1950 license plates had a very thin layer of paint and the slightest dust or sand storm immediately chipped off the plate.

"Colorful" first appeared in 1950, dropped in 1956, reappeared in 1958, dropped in 1959 and reappeared in 1973.

The outline of the Colorado Rocky Mountains appeared on the 1960, 1962-1972, and 1974 plates.



The picture of the Skier appeared in 1958 and disappeared in 1959.

County numbers disappeared from license plates in 1959. A combination of letters designates counties.

Example: RS - Jefferson County

1971 license plates began the era of reflectorized material on the coating of the license plates.

For the years 1975 and 1976, a special Centennial-Bicentennial license plate was issued. The special issue had the State Centennial-Bicentennial emblem, and the colors were red, white and blue for the license plates.

In 1977, Colorado began issuing license plates on a staggered, year around basis. The white on green reflectorized plates were a multi-year plate with validating tabs that were issued each consecutive year. The outline of the Colorado Rocky Mountains appeared across the top of the plate and "Colorado" appeared across the bottom. These plates are still in use at the present time.

In 1989, Colorado began issuing Designer license plates. These plates are blue on white and are a multi-year plate with validating tabs that are issued on a staggered, year around basis. The plate has "Colorado" silk screened at the top with the red and yellow Colorado "C" symbol. In July, 1992, personalized plates in Colorado were allowed to utilize seven (7) positions on the plates and the "denim" background replaced the white background used on the "designer" license plates.

Legislation required that ALL license plates in Colorado be replaced over a four-year period beginning January 2000. Every plate was re-designed and the configurations of the plates went to a three numeric followed by three alpha for all plate styles. Plates were numbered sequentially, regardless of plate type or county of issuance thus eliminating the long used county designated plate configurations. The regular issued plates were green on a white background and utilized a three position stacked coding to denote trucks, trailers, etc. Commercial plates were red on a white background and all motor vehicle dealer plates were blue on a white background. The designer plate utilized black letters on a shaded green background with the mountains represented in purple and the red and yellow Colorado "C" symbol at the top of the plate.

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