

FIRST THINGS FIRST

Identification

The most important formality on entering the United States is giving proof of citizenship. Typically, U.S. officials have been willing to accept anything from a driver's licence or birth certificate to a Canadian Tire credit card. Increasingly, however, Canadians are being required to show identification that includes a photo and proves their right to re-enter Canada.

Every Canadian should carry a valid Canadian passport for all trips outside Canada, including those to the United States. Your passport is the most widely accepted form of identification available. It confirms your identity and your right to re-enter Canada.

Dual nationality

Some Canadians may have U.S. as well as Canadian citizenship through birth in the United States or through naturalization or descent. Although this is not likely to create problems — and in fact may solve some — it is wise for you to understand your status under U.S. law.

Canadians who are also U.S. citizens should always identify themselves as U.S. citizens when entering the United States. For information on dual nationality dial 1-800-529-4410. With your touch-tone phone choose English or French and then listen to the choices — press #1 for the menu of services, #2 for citizenship information and #3 for information on dual nationality.