

VEHICLE SAFETY: Avoiding Backing Crashes

One in four traffic crashes involves backing. Considering that the average driver operates in reverse less than a total mile every year, this statistic is even more alarming.

To prevent backing crashes, plan ahead, **reduce backing operations**, or even **avoid backing whenever possible**.

When you must back up as a last resort, the following tips will help you avoid collisions:

- Continuously check all mirrors while backing
- Always back slowly while continuously looking and listening for signs of trouble especially when backing from angle parking.
- Try to position the vehicle to avoid backing if possible.
- If backing cannot be avoided, it is better to back in upon arrival than to back out later while departing.
- Conduct a visual walk-around of the vehicle to check for maneuvering room or pedestrians.
- Whenever available, use a passenger to guide you during backing operations.

All backing crashes are preventable.

The following key failures can lead to collision during backing operations:

- Failure to look before backing
- Failure to check for blind spots
- Failure to conduct a walk-around
- Backing at an unsafe speed
- Failure to check mirrors continuously during backing



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