

HOW TO AVOID BACKING CRASHES

Backing a motor vehicle is usually a safe, simple maneuver. You probably do it several times a day. It's just part of driving. However, because your ability to see to the rear is limited, backing a vehicle requires extra care and caution.

Backing into a fixed object or parked vehicle is usually the most frequent type of crash companies experience. With very few exceptions, backing crashes are almost always avoidable.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO HELP AVOID BACKING CRASHES:

- Avoid backing when possible; e.g., pull through a parking space instead of backing up
- Know what's behind your vehicle before you start to back
- Check your mirrors frequently while you back
- Back slowly; take your time as you back
- Be alert for frantic yelling or horn blowing; be prepared to stop
- As you back, watch for pedestrians
- If you are not sure what's behind you, get out and look

By taking a few extra seconds to prepare before you begin to back, crashes can be avoided.

SAFE DRIVING

VEHICLE CRASH BEHAVIORS THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED BY VIRGINIA TECH TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE ARE:
DRIVING TOO FAST FOR CONDITIONS TRIPLE THE ODDS OF A CRASH
DRIVING WHILE DROWSY OR SLEEPY SHOWS A SIMILAR INCREASE OF LIKELY CRASHES
EYES TAKEN OFF ROADWAY MORE THAN TWO SECONDS, THE ODDS OF A CRASH DOUBLE
EXHIBITING AGGRESSIVE DRIVING BEHAVIOR MORE THAN DOUBLES THE LIKELIHOOD OF A CRASH

TIPS TO PREVENT RISKY BEHAVIOR:
MAINTAIN A SAFE SPEED WITH FLOW OF TRAFFIC AND OBEY POSTED SPEED LIMIT.

BE SURE YOU'RE WELL RESTED BEFORE DRIVING
AVOID DISTRACTIONS THAT TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THE ROAD SUCH AS CELL PHONES, CHANGING CAR RADIO OR CD, LOOKING AT A MAP OR DAYDREAMING OR TEXTING.
BE COURTEOUS WHEN DRIVING, USE TURN SIGNALS, NEVER TAILGATE, ALLOW TRAFFIC TO MERGE AND PASS WHEN NEEDED. USE YOUR HORN IN A SHORT TAP FRIENDLY MANNER WHEN NECESSARY AND LOUD BLAST IN EMERGENCIES.

RISKY DRIVING BEHAVIORS SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE THE LIKELIHOOD OF BEING INVOLVED IN A CRASH. REMEMBER THESE BEHAVIORS AND WORK TO AVOID THEM WHEN DRIVING.

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SAFE DRIVING

SAVE YOUR LIFE
AND
OTHERS



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DRIVING SKILLS FOR LIFE

1. Get Plenty of Rest Before Trip. Rest at truck stops, rest areas (with security) or hotel-not on side of road.
2. Don't Trust Anybody. You can never rely on what the other driver will do.
3. Yield Anyway! Nobody ever yielded their way into a collision.
4. Don't Speed. Driving higher than reasonable speed increases your chance of a collision and decreases your ability to react in time.
5. Don't Drive Impaired. No drinking/drugs while driving or while fatigued or with any disabling illnesses.
6. Wear Your Seat Belt. They provide impact protection, keep you in place, and absorb crash forces.
7. Fueling. Obtain fuel in well lit major cities or truck stops.
8. Take Turns Driving. Travel with someone if possible.
9. Debit Cards Use. Instead of cash for fuel and food purchases.
10. Obey Traffic Laws! Follow speed limit, obey stop signs, and all traffic laws.
11. If Stopped at Night by Police. *Pull over
*Turn on dome light *Turn off engine
*Pull your seatback up *Placed hands on steering wheel *Only driver speak-no dumb questions.
12. Map Out Trip. Use co-pilot or Mapquest.

If you are going to pass a car, follow these rules:

- Make sure you are in a passing zone.
- Be certain that there is no oncoming traffic.
- Look at all mirrors carefully before you make a lane change.
- Look behind you for any vehicles that might be trying to pass you.
- Be aware of any blind spots. Once the lane is clear, signal your move.
- Move into the passing lane, and accelerate to pass the car in front of you.

Drive a well-maintained vehicle. Check the following elements at least once a week:

- Cooling system (radiator, radiator cap, thermostat, and hoses)
- Brakes and brake fluid
- Belts (fan, alternator, and air conditioning)
- Tires
- Engine fluids (motor oil, transmission fluid, and coolant)
- Lights
- Wiper blades

Bad weather such as rain, snow, or fog can make driving difficult. Always watch for difficult conditions and be prepared to take defensive action. Follow these bad weather tips:

- The tires on your car can lose traction on wet roads. Slow down if the roads are wet.
- Snow and ice can make roads slippery. If your car goes into a skid, do not push down hard on the brakes. Take your foot off the accelerator and turn the steering wheel in the direction you want to go. Do not turn sharply. Use moderate turns of the wheel until you come out of the skid.
- Slow down as you approach shaded areas, bridges, and overpasses in winter. These areas freeze first and stay frozen longer.



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