

Did You Know?

The National Safety Council (NSC) estimates that 25% of all accidents happen while a vehicle is backing up. It is estimated that 210 people die every year in vehicle backing accidents.

Preventing Backing Accidents:

Planning in advance can help minimize the likelihood of an accident while backing:

- Position your vehicle so that it is not necessary to back up.
- When parking try to find a slot without neighboring cars.
- If possible, back into a parking space.
- If possible, back up to the left where objects on the driver's side can be seen.
- When possible, use another person as a spotter to help while backing up.
- Never allow the spotter to walk backwards while giving instructions.
- Conduct a walk-around of the vehicle to identify hazards.
- Use both mirrors and check over shoulders when backing up.

Know your vehicle clearances (front, back, sides, and below) and be mindful of blind spots.

Factors in backing collisions:

- Moving backwards without first looking to ensure the area behind the vehicle is clear.
- No side mirrors, incorrect shape and size, or improperly mounted.
- Obstructed blind spots.
- Turning while backing out.
- Distractions caused by pedestrians, traffic, or improper signaling by spotter.
- Physical barriers that move behind the vehicle prior to or during backing.

Practical tips to consider:

- If equipped, use a rear window defogger to melt ice and keep the rear windshield clear.
- Perform a vehicle walk-around if practical.



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Safety Spotlight: Safe Vehicle Backing

- Look overhead for safe clearance.
- Avoid backing and turning simultaneously.
- Check side mirrors for cleanliness and adjustment.
- Start moving slowly initially to allow vehicles/pedestrians to move out of the way.
- Stop before loading dock contact and get out to check the final distance.
- Backup slowly in order to stop quickly, if needed.

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