

Vehicle Safety:

Avoiding Backing Accidents

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

To prevent backing accidents, plan ahead and **avoid backing whenever possible**. Drivers should reduce backing operations in the first place.



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.
- Try to position the vehicle to avoid backing.
- 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 accidents are preventable. The following key failures can cause collisions during backing operations:

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