

Vehicle Safety:

Avoiding Backing Accidents

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

The following tips will help you avoid collisions while backing:

- Continuously check all mirrors while backing
- Always back slowly while continuously looking and listening for signs of trouble.
- Avoid backing whenever possible. Drivers should plan ahead to reduce backing operations in the first place.
- 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.



The following are key collision failures related to 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

All backing accidents are preventable. The key is to plan ahead to avoid backing in the first place. You should only back up your vehicle as a last resort.