

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**