

superior driving techniques



avoiding
reversing collisions



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Reversing collisions are one of the most common types of driver at-fault collisions. Although they may not seem costly at first, the hidden expenses of a reversing collision can be enormous when considering staff and vehicle downtime, claims administration, replacement vehicle hire and increased premiums.

Most of these collisions can be avoided, or significantly reduced, simply by taking more care and following the tips provided in this brochure.

Assess the vehicle

A vehicle's windows should always be clean, both inside and out. The driver should also ensure the mirrors are clean and positioned correctly for their height. If the vehicle is fitted with a reversing monitor, the driver should check it is functioning correctly.

Check for potential hazards

Prior to entering the vehicle, the driver should check the surrounding area for obstacles, pedestrians, animals and small children who may be playing nearby. Wherever possible, the driver should clear the area of danger.

When driving commercial vehicles with high bodies or stacked loads, the driver should be aware of overhead objects such as awnings or bridges and ensure their vehicle will fit safely underneath. If hit, these may damage the vehicle or injure people nearby.

When reversing a heavy vehicle, the driver should ensure the ground surface is strong enough to carry the vehicle's weight.

Ask for help

If, after checking the surrounding area, a driver is still unsure about reversing safely, they should ask for help. The guide should be positioned so that they are easily seen and are safe from other vehicles.

Reverse slowly

The driver should always reverse slowly, looking both ways so that all areas of potential danger are visible. In congested areas, a driver should sound the horn to alert others of their intention to reverse.

Avoid reversing onto busy roads

Wherever possible, drivers should avoid reversing onto busy roads.

Sometimes reversing is unavoidable, however, it is safer to reverse from the roadway into an intended car space because the driver can then proceed forward to reenter the traffic.

Reversing into traffic is more dangerous than reversing out of it!

Reversing in limited visibility

Extra care should be taken when reversing at night or when vision is limited by weather conditions. Reverse lights, brake lights and indicators can be used to illuminate the rear of the vehicle. If the driver still has trouble seeing, they should get out of their vehicle and check the surrounding area again.

Reversing in a truck

Truck drivers should be aware that they may not be able to see the rear of their trailer, especially if reversing to the left.

If it is possible to reverse to the right, a truck driver should do so as they will have a clearer view of the trailer.

Avoid long distance reversing

Drivers should avoid reversing long distances. If the driver reverses further than intended, it is safer for them to drive around again rather than reverse.

Remember, there is no right of way when reversing.

Practice reversing

Before reversing an unfamiliar vehicle, the driver should practice reversing in a safe area to get a feel for the vehicle.

Reversing sedans and trucks can be difficult. Drivers must be aware of potential hazards and follow the reversing rules. By doing so, they will minimise the chance of having a reversing collision.

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