



Understanding Blind Spots...

A blind spot is any area around your vehicle that you cannot see directly or through your mirrors.

- **Location:** While they vary by vehicle, they are typically found directly to the rear, the front (obscured by the hood), and along the sides where mirrors don't reach.
- **Vehicle Size:** Larger vehicles, like heavy machinery or trucks, have much larger and more numerous blind spots.

Testing: You can map your blind spots by having a colleague walk around your parked vehicle and marking the nearest point where you can see their feet in your mirrors.

Mirror Adjustment and Checks—Properly adjusted mirrors are your first line of defense against blind spots.

- **The "Barely See" Rule:** Adjust side mirrors so you can barely see (or not see at all) the side of your own vehicle. This widens your field of view to the sides.
- **Continuous Scanning:** Don't just check mirrors once; scan them frequently, especially before turning, lane changes, or reversing.
- **Cleanliness:** Mud, dust, and grime can obscure your view. Always clean your mirrors

Safe Reversing Techniques—Reversing is a high-risk maneuver because visibility is at its lowest.

- **G.O.A.L. (Get Out And Look):** Before you start backing up, physically get out of the vehicle and walk 360 degrees around it to check for hazards, pedestrians, or obstacles.
- **Minimize Reversing:** Avoid reversing whenever possible. Use "pull-through" parking spaces so you can drive forward when exiting.
- **Reverse Slowly:** Maintain a low, controlled speed. If you lose sight of your path or your spotter, stop immediately.
- **Eliminate Distractions:** Turn off the radio and roll down your windows to hear what is happening around you and communicate with others.

Working with a Spotter—In tight spaces or areas with limited visibility, a trained spotter is essential.

- **Clear Communication:** Agree on hand signals with your spotter before you begin moving.

Maintain Visual Contact: If you lose sight of your spotter in your mirrors, stop the vehicle instantly.

Visibility: Spotters must wear high-visibility clothing (like reflective vests) to ensure they are seen by the operator.

Are there any specific areas on our site where you find reversing particularly difficult or visibility limited?



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