

52 WAYS DRIVERS CAN AVOID PARKING LOT CRASHES



- 1 When in doubt, get out and look. 
- 2 Keep your focus on your current task. 
- 3 Avoid backing if possible. 
- 4 Call ahead and ask for truck-specific directions. 
- 5 If its raining, snowing, or very hot, power lines can sag down into your path. 
- 6 Avoid blindside backing. 
- 7 If new snow has fallen, tree branches may sag into your path. 
- 8 Take your time: a crash will undo all your haste. 
- 9 Use a spotter for backing if possible. 
- 10 Use your hazards/flashers when you get out and look. 
- 11 Getting out and looking is a sign you're smart, not inexperienced. 
- 12 Battery-powered flashers are great markers when backing into a dark or shaded dock. 
- 13 A backing camera is no excuse to avoid getting out and looking. 
- 14 Don't run your wheels over any ground you haven't first seen with your eyes. 
- 15 Two-thirds of all collisions happen in parking lots. 
- 16 Even a slow moving truck does a lot of damage to anything it hits. 
- 17 Chock your wheels if parking on an incline. 
- 18 Never move your vehicle with the cargo doors open. 
- 19 Always put on your seat belt. 
- 20 Idling speed is plenty fast for backing. 
- 21 Try to time deliveries during non-peak traffic times. 
- 22 A right turn is always preferable to a left. 
- 23 Never move even an inch with your lift gate open. 
- 24 Most parking lot accidents happen on the way out. 
- 25 Plan your exit route before you put it in drive. 
- 26 If you can't see your spotter, stop until they move to where you can. 
- 27 Agree on hand signals with your spotter before you start backing. 
- 28 Even with a spotter, the driver is responsible for any backing crash. 
- 29 99% of backing crashes will be determined as "preventable." 
- 30 Hitting a fixed or stationary object will always be determined as preventable. 
- 31 Backing "radar" systems may miss poles and people. Get out and look. 
- 32 Mirror vibration makes it hard to see during backing. Go slow. 
- 33 Keep your head on a swivel. 
- 34 If possible, avoid fueling stations during busy periods (beginning and end of the day). 
- 35 Do a quick walk around inspection of your truck before you leave. 
- 36 Double check your exit route: have cars parked in new spots? 
- 37 Double check your exit route: has a dumpster moved? 
- 38 Set out cones to "protect" your exit route if a wide turn is needed. 
- 39 Overtime, rush fees, route disruptions, and damaged client relations are hidden costs of "small" collisions. 
- 40 Time yourself when you get out and look, it's probably less than 30 seconds. 
- 41 Time is money, but so are body shop bills. 
- 42 Practice with a new spotter if possible. 
- 43 Low hanging signs and awnings create make a high number of crashes. 
- 44 Don't over look overhead clearance. 
- 45 Watch for taillights and reverse lights when going through a parking lot. 
- 46 Squeegee mirrors and windows on wet days. 
- 47 Keep items off your dash to avoid blocking the defroster vents. 
- 48 Tap the horn twice before backing. 
- 49 Use three points of contact when entering and exiting the truck. 
- 50 You're the pro driver. Don't let passenger cars make you mad. 
- 51 Let a ringing cellphone go to voicemail. 
- 52 If you're not loading or unloading, use the downtime for paperwork, training, or planning your next route. 