

Tools for Life – Weekly Health & Safety Meeting



Home Healthy - Home Safe

Date: August 2023

The Safety Advantage of Backing into a Parking Spot

Parking can be a stressful and sometimes hazardous task, particularly when it comes to maneuvering in and out of tight spaces. While there are different approaches to parking, one method that is Apollo policy and part of our safety culture is backing into parking spots. Let us explore the advantages of backing into a spot and why it can be a beneficial practice for drivers.

- 1. Enhanced visibility:** One of the primary advantages of backing into a parking spot is improved visibility. When exiting a parking spot, the driver has a clear view of the surrounding area, including pedestrians, other vehicles, and potential obstacles. This enhanced visibility allows drivers to make more informed decisions, reducing the likelihood of accidents or collisions.
- 2. Better maneuverability:** Backing into a parking spot requires a higher level of precision and control compared to driving forward. By practicing this maneuver regularly, drivers can enhance their overall spatial awareness and develop better maneuvering skills. This increased proficiency can prove invaluable in various parking situations, such as crowded parking lots or when parking near curbs of other vehicles.
- 3. Quick and Easy Exit:** Backing into a parking spot sets the stage for a quick and straight forward exit. When it's time to leave, the driver can easily pull forward without the need for excessive maneuvering or blind-spot checks. This can be particularly beneficial in busy parking lots or situations where time is limited, allowing for a more efficient and convenient departure.
- 4. Improved safety for pedestrians:** Backing into a parking spot can contribute to pedestrian safety. When backing into a spot, drivers typically have a clear line of sight, making it easier to spot pedestrians or other vulnerable road users. This increased visibility reduces the risk of accidents when exiting a parking spot and enhances overall safety for everyone in the vicinity.
- 5. Theft deterrent:** Backing into a parking spot can serve as a theft deterrent. By positioning the vehicle in a way that allows the driver to easily observe their surroundings before leaving the spot, potential thieves and vandals may be dissuaded from targeting the vehicle. This added layer of security can provide peace of mind to drivers, especially in high-crime areas.

HEALTHY OR SAFETY REMINDER: Here are some parking lot safety reminders: park in well-lit areas, lock your vehicle, Avoid distractions such as using your phone or playing loud music, walk with confidence, Keep valuables out of site, Park close to entrances or in high traffic areas, use the buddy system, and trust your instincts.

Conclusion

Backing into a parking spot offers numerous safety advantages, including enhanced visibility, quick and easy exits, better pedestrian safety, and potential theft deterrent. While it may take some practice to become comfortable with this technique, the benefits it provides outweigh the initial learning curve. By adopting the habit of backing into parking spots, drivers can contribute to a safer and more efficient parking experience for themselves and others.

Discussion Points/Quiz Questions:

1. What is one big advantage to back in parking?
2. Why is it safer for pedestrians if you back in park?
3. Who back in parks both on and off the job?