

DRIVER SAFETY TIP PARKING LOTS

Whenever motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic must mix, accidents seem to be inevitable, but the number of parking lot accidents just doesn't seem to make sense. **Vehicle operators need to remember that the restricted lanes and spaces in a parking lot allows for little or no room for evasive action if speed is too high for instant stopping when impact is imminent.** Very slow driving and constant alertness is imperative wherever people are walking or vehicles are parked.

Other accidents result from blind corners that often exist where aisles empty into traffic lanes and the countless incidents where thoughtless handling causes one vehicle to scrape another in narrow parking spaces.

- ✚ Try to park your car as centered and straight in a space as is possible.
- ✚ Avoid parking next to cars that are parked at an angle.
- ✚ Avoid parking at the end of an aisle where there is the additional exposure from vehicles turning.

The parking lot is the most common transition point for a switch in personalities. The driver becomes a pedestrian, and vice versa. After getting out of the car, some people seem to forget that they are no longer behind the wheel. After parking, they dart out into traffic as if to make up time for being late for an appointment. As a driver, you are aiming tons of steel directly at that darting pedestrian. Can you stop in time?

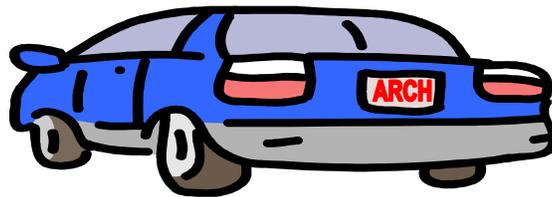
When backing out of a space, you must not only be aware of the clearances between your vehicle and the other vehicles to either side, but you must also be aware of cars and pedestrians that might drive or walk into your line of travel.

- ✚ You should constantly be moving your eyes to the left, right, and directly behind as hazards can develop in an instant.
- ✚ Another vehicle's driver might be rushing to get to a space and not see you pulling out, another vehicle could suddenly pull out of a space behind you, or a pedestrian might be engrossed in their latest purchase and could walk right into your path.
- ✚ Don't depend on your horn, the other driver might not react quick enough to avoid hitting your car. The best deterrent to a parking lot accident would be awareness and preparedness.
- ✚ Never speed in a lot- hitting another car or a pedestrian is never worth gaining a few seconds or a good parking space.

If there is something radically wrong with the layout of a parking lot, you should report it. Changes may cut down on accidents and actually expedite the smooth flow of traffic in the lot. Where there are a great number of parking lot accidents, however, you won't likely be able to put the blame on defective lot layout. Most often such mishaps are caused by the old human tendency for individuals to be so engrossed in their own affairs that they become oblivious to everything around them. They forget the hazards of parking lots in a rush to get their business done.

Many people are forgetful and must be reminded of the rules of safe conduct in parking lots, whether walking or driving, until the proper performance becomes second nature. If you keep reminding yourself that proper parking lot conduct is expected, that continuous caution and concern for the safety of others is the only right way, you will make the parking lots safer for yourself and others.

Drive Carefully in Parking Lots!



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