

# Best Practice Guide

## Avoiding Damage While Parked



### **Don't Be A Victim Of Damage**

Damage caused to vehicles while parked is a major problem.

In some cases, drivers causing damage to parked vehicles will 'dent and run' leaving the victim with a damaged vehicle. This problem is escalating, with damage ranging from minor dents, nicks and scratches to the more serious cases of broken taillights, bumpers and smashed side / wing mirrors.

There are a number of steps you can take to help reduce damage to your vehicle while parked.

## Choose Your Neighbours

When choosing a parking space look at the vehicles parked to either side.

Avoid parking next to:

- A vehicle with its wheels turned.
- A vehicle parked at an angle.
- A vehicle that looks badly looked after (i.e. dented and scratched). If the driver does not care about their own vehicle, they are unlikely to care about scraping yours.

## Straighten Your Wheels

Ensure your wheels are straight when you park to avoid accidentally turning into another vehicle when you pull out.

## Park Within The Lines

Park within the painted lines of a space so you are not encroaching on another space. Leaving your vehicle at an angle or over the lines will increase the risk of it being scraped or hit by other vehicles parking alongside yours.

## Keep Your Distance

Although it may seem tempting to park as close to an entrance as possible, doing so will increase the risk of your vehicle being damaged. The areas closer to buildings are much busier, with vehicles occupying most spaces and people passing by with trolleys and pushchairs.

You should:

- Park further away from buildings where there are fewer vehicles and fewer pedestrians.
- Park away from trolley return sites to avoid damage being caused to your vehicle by 'runaway' trolleys.
- Avoid spaces that are situated at the ends of rows where your vehicle could be scraped by others as they turn the corner.
- Avoid parking close to turning or delivery areas.

## Back Up

Where it is legal and safe to do so reverse into parking spaces so that you can drive out when you start your journey. It is much safer to reverse into a parking space than into a road or car park where pedestrians and vehicles are likely to be passing.



## Look Out For Hazards

Be extremely cautious when pulling into or out of a parking space. Be aware of passing pedestrians, cars waiting to get into your space, other vehicles backing out at the same time and reckless drivers who speed through lanes.

## Parking Security

When leaving your vehicle:

- Engage the vehicle parking brake to secure the vehicle.
- Lock the doors and close all windows.
- Remove valuables from your vehicle or store them out of sight.
- Activate the alarm or immobiliser.

## On The Street

Take extra care when parking on the street and don't feel under pressure to rush your manoeuvre. When approaching a space make sure the vehicle behind is far enough away to stop safely.

Remember to:

- Park in the direction you are travelling.
- Park close to the kerb.

- Allow room for the vehicles ahead and behind to get out. Make sure you are not making it difficult for either of them to leave their spaces.
- If you park on a street with a kerb and your vehicle is heading downhill, turn the front wheels towards the kerb.
- If you park your car headed uphill, turn the wheels away from the kerb.
- On a street without kerbs you must turn the wheels towards the side of the road on which you are parked.
- Before leaving the vehicle, set the parking brake, lock the steering wheel and put the vehicle in first gear or in the 'park' position.



## Take Care At Night

At night some of the parking 'rules' are different, as your personal safety should be your main priority.

When parking at night:

- Park near lighting and / or cameras.
- Park in busy areas and avoid isolated areas where attackers could hide.
- Use parking areas with an attendant on duty if possible.

- P** Park within the lines.
- A** Allow time.
- R** Reverse into spaces.
- K** Keep your distance.
- I** It is wise to be choosy about who you park next to.
- N** Night time parking requires extra precautions.
- G** Good journey planning includes allowing time to find parking.

## WARNING

Many attacks occur in indoor parking garages so it is not only damage to your vehicle you need to consider.

Park close to CCTV cameras if possible and avoid sharing a lift with anyone who looks suspicious. If you ever feel unsafe in a parking area, do not park there!