

# Best Practice Guide

## Blinds Spots



### **Open Your Eyes To Blind Spots**

Blind spots are areas that drivers cannot see by looking through their windows or mirrors.

Failure to check blind spots can lead to collisions, injuries and fatalities. Help reduce your risk of being involved in a blind spot incident by following a few simple collision avoidance techniques.

## Know Your Blind Spots

Blind spots exist all around your vehicle, so make sure you know where yours are. They can exist to the front, rear and sides of a vehicle and generally the larger the vehicle, the larger the blind spots.

## Position Mirrors

To observe the road most effectively it is important to position your mirrors correctly:

- Start by positioning your side mirrors at the point where you can only just see the back corner of your vehicle.
- Move them out by a fraction so that you are just unable to see your vehicle in your normal driving position. The back of your vehicle is always in the same position so there is no need for you to be able to see it when driving.



## Use Your Head

The only way to check blind spots properly is to turn your head so that you can see over your shoulder.

Do this before:

- Setting off.
- Changing lanes.

- Passing others.
- Turning.
- Opening your door when parked at the roadside.

## Clean Up

To help with observation you must keep mirrors and windows clean. Never set off driving while your windscreen is steamed up and never place unnecessary objects such as stickers or signs on or near your windows.



## Consider Extras

If you drive a large vehicle or if you regularly tow a trailer or caravan you should consider fitting additional mirrors to help reduce blind spots. Other blind spot reduction aids such as CCTV and reversing cameras are also available.

## Reverse With Care

Never reverse if you are unsure about whether the area around your vehicle is clear. Children, animals and other hazards can be easily hidden in rear blind spots. If you are about to reverse but are unsure whether the area is clear, you must get out of your vehicle and check the whole way around it.

## Beware When Changing Lanes

It is essential to check blind spots when changing lanes or merging onto a highway / motorway. As well as checking your mirrors you should look over your shoulder towards the lane you wish to join to check for obstructions in your blind spot.

## Watch Out For Others

When passing or driving close to a large vehicle you should try to remain out of the driver's blind spots. If you are unable to see the vehicle's mirrors the driver can probably not see you!

When driving close to large vehicles remember:

- Pass the vehicle as quickly as possible without speeding.
- The larger a vehicle is the larger its blind spot.
- The longer you are in a vehicle's blind spot the more chance there is of the vehicle changing lanes without seeing you.



- B** Be aware of where your blind spots are.
  - L** Look over your shoulder to check blind spots.
  - I** It is essential to check blind spots when changing lanes and merging.
  - N** Never set off from stationary without checking blind spots.
  - D** Do not reverse unless you are 100% sure your blind spots are clear.
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- S** Several blind spot aids are available.
  - P** Position mirrors correctly.
  - O** Only drive when windows and mirrors are clean.
  - T** Try to stay out of other drivers' blind spots.

## WARNING

All vehicles have different blind spots so make sure you familiarise yourself with each different vehicle you drive.