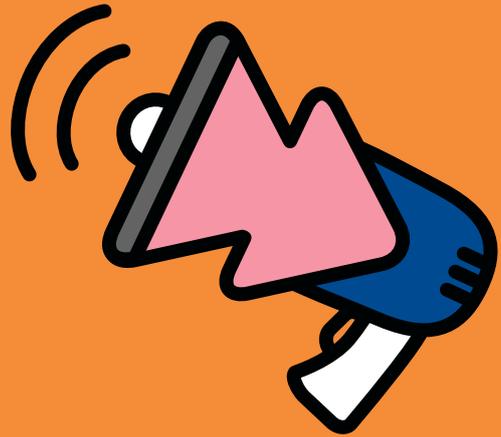


Friday: How to avoid reversing mistakes.



It's utterly avoidable, but many of us have done it: reversed our vehicle into a fixed or moving object and caused a pricey prang. It's never fun, but there are ways to safeguard yourself.

It turns out that Friday is the most common day for a reversing accident. We know this because we analysed 12 months of claims data – 89,608 car, home and contents claims made between July 2019 to June 2020 – for The Mistake Report.

Of those reversing incidents, 34 per cent involved multiple vehicles, including bumper to bumper accidents, misjudgments of space, and reversing out at the same time.

But a hefty 27 per cent were self-inflicted accidents, commonly caused by misjudging distances to walls, poles and gates. Eeek.

So how do you avoid a reversing accident? Here are some useful pointers:

1. Know your blind spots – every car has them. To pinpoint where yours are, get a friend to stand behind and to the side of your car and move slowly backwards until you can no longer see them in your mirrors. This is your blind spot. Repeat on the other side. Make sure your windows are down so you can safely communicate with your friend throughout.
2. Mirrors don't give you the full view – so don't rely on them alone. To see as much as possible, you need to turn your body and head and look through the rear window
3. Walk around the whole vehicle before you jump in, so you know what barriers there might be. Make this a habit.
4. If you're not confident about your backing skills, ask a passenger to jump out and spot you.
5. Always look both ways just before you push the accelerator.
6. Check for children and pets. They are unpredictable and can move quickly.
7. Reverse slowly so you will have more time to stop if you need to.



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