

Tuesday: How to avoid car park crashes.



A supermarket car park is a hazardous spot. Lots of distracted people coming and going, trolleys on the loose, vehicles being parked. No wonder it's a hotspot for vehicle damage.

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. It found that you are most likely to damage your car in a supermarket car park on a Tuesday.

Of those Tuesday prangs, 39 per cent involved multiple vehicles, including bumper-to-bumper accidents, misjudging spacing and reversing into the path of another vehicle.

This is stressful for everyone involved, so do your bit to avoid car park prangs by following these steps:

1. Slow down. A car park is a place where you need to have your wits about you. Take it slow so that if there are any sudden developments – someone steps in front of your car, for example – you have time to react and avoid an accident.
2. Check your mirrors. Make sure they are correctly positioned, so you have an optimal view of your surroundings.
3. Maintain your distance from other vehicles.
4. You may not be on the road, but the road rules should still be applied. This means staying in your lane, waiting your turn, and indicating so other drivers know your intentions.
5. Keep an eye out for trolleys on the move. They can do a surprising amount of damage.
6. Further to the above: avoid parking next to the trolley bays. This is where people tend to lose control of their trolleys.
7. Similarly, avoid parking beside pillars and walls. Sure, you may be an excellent parker, but who needs an additional challenge when they have popped out for milk and bread?
8. Park away from the supermarket entrance. Everyone wants a convenient park, but these spots are the busiest. Drive past them and find a less hectic part of the car park.

