

BLIND SPOTS



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BLIND SPOTS...

Even the most experienced driver can forget to perform a 'shoulder-check' when changing lanes from time to time, so it's important to understand where your blind spots are and how to use your mirrors appropriately. This guide highlights the general rules around carrying out necessary checks before performing a manoeuvre.

WHAT IS A BLIND SPOT?

A blind spot is an area that can't be seen in your mirrors, or an area that is hidden by part of the vehicle. Drivers should always take special care to compensate for blind spots and remember – sensors may not always detect everything!

WHERE IS THE BLIND SPOT?

There are actually two blind spots when driving as shown by the blue areas originating from the red car in the diagram.

Here's an example

The orange car can be seen by the red car in the right door mirror, however the yellow car is completely out of sight as it is in the blind spot. Failure to check this blind spot before moving lanes may cause a collision.

When you move to the left or the right, always check your interior and exterior mirrors, followed by briefly looking over your shoulder to check the left/right blind spot is clear before you move across.



HOW TO CHECK FOR BLIND SPOTS

Follow these simple steps:

- Use all mirrors to check the road is clear
- Look around to check the blind spots (the areas you are unable to see in the mirrors)
- Signal if necessary before moving out
- Look around for a final check.

MIRRORS

- Use your mirrors frequently so that you always know what is behind and to each side of you
- Use them in good time before you signal or change direction or speed
- Be aware that mirrors do not cover all areas... **check your blind spots!**



WHEN ON THE ROAD

- Try to anticipate the movements of other drivers at all times. If you think they are likely to move into your lane for example, put yourself in a position where they can see you
- Keep to the left, unless road signs or markings indicate otherwise. The exceptions are when you want to overtake, turn right or pass parked vehicles or pedestrians in the road
- Keep well to the left on right-hand bends. This will improve your view of the road and help avoid the risk of colliding with traffic approaching from the opposite direction
- Drive with both hands on the wheel where possible. This will help you to remain in full control of the vehicle at all times
- Be aware of other road users, especially cycles and motorcycles who may be filtering through the traffic. Remember to always check your mirrors and look over your shoulder in the direction in which you are turning to help locate them
- Take extra care around HGVs and other large vehicles as they tend to have bigger blind spots and slower reaction times
- Take even more care around lorries with foreign registration plates. The driver may be sitting on the other side of the vehicle, putting his major blind spot on the right. The driver may also be unsure of the UK road network, so you are best to give them plenty of space.

REMEMBER:

- 1 Mirrors**
- 2 Signal**
- 3 Manoeuvre**

You should also undertake the necessary checks when carrying out the following manoeuvres:

- **Reversing** (blind spot to the rear)
- **Pulling away at a crossing** (blind spot immediately in front of the vehicle)
- **Turning at junctions** (blind spot behind each side of the windscreen).

TOP TIPS:

- Check around you constantly
- Use mirrors and any other devices available to aid vision. You should also look over your shoulder when appropriate
- Check twice for road users at junctions
- The location of blind spots will vary on different vehicles, so ensure you take time to learn where yours are and minimise the risk of causing an accident
- Do not get distracted by loud music and mobile phones
- Remember, it is up to you to check that the space around your vehicle is clear before and during any manoeuvres.



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