



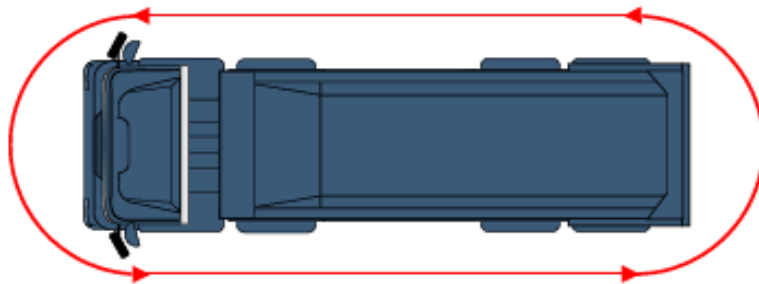
Backing up a tractor trailer properly, is an *essential skill for a commercial vehicle driver that must be taken seriously*. The ability to perform this maneuver well, separates the 'pros' from the amateurs. Many tractor/trailer accidents are usually caused by the trucker not spending the time necessary to complete the backing up process successfully.

Backing Collisions

Best rule of thumb – avoid backing. Plan your route to eliminate as much backing as possible. However, if it is not possible, follow these five rules:

Remember G.O.A.L.! GET OUT AND LOOK! Get out of the vehicle when backing in, to physically check your position as often as is necessary to ensure a safe landing, even if it means getting in and out of the vehicle, every five feet or so, during the process.

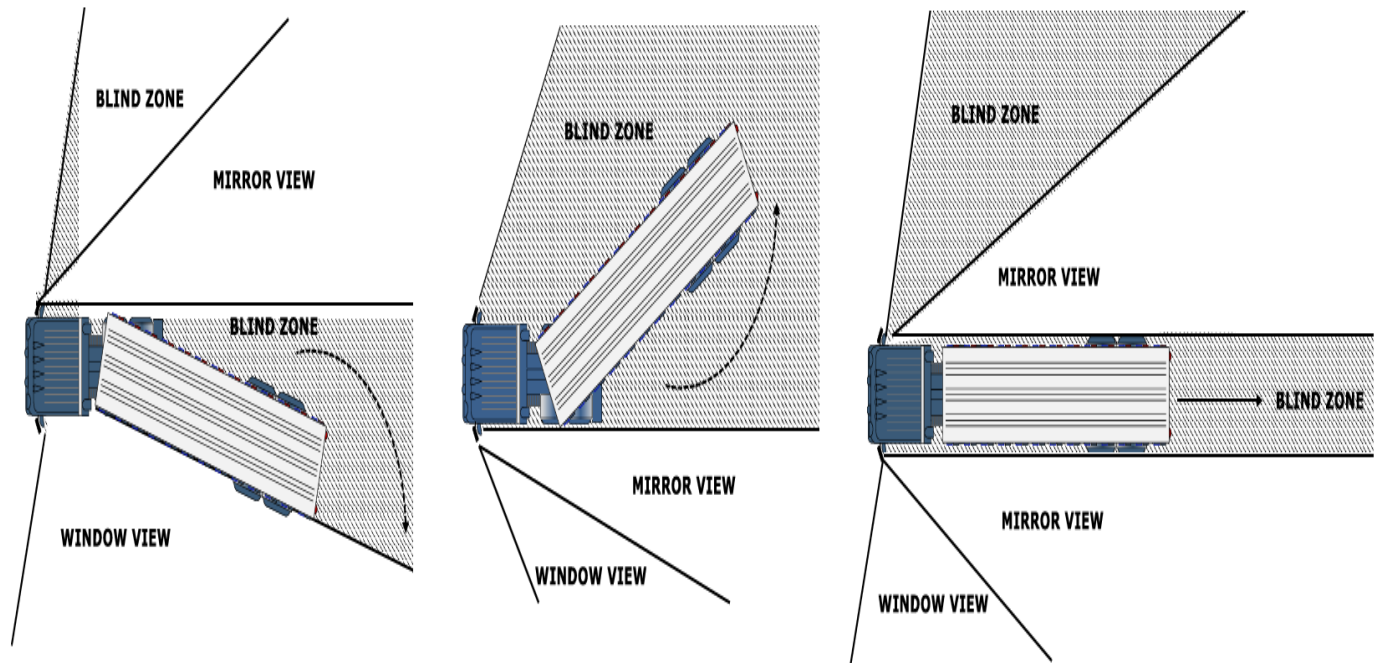
Take as much time as is needed to back up safely, without incident. It's definitely worth investing the time! **Then, immediately back up, sounding your horn as you are backing.**



Back from the driver's side –

Backing from the driver's left help reduce the blind zone. It may be necessary to drive around the block to position the vehicle to back from driver's side.

Below are illustrations that identify the blind zones when backing to the left, the right (blind side) and straight back.



Back slowly –

By backing slowly, it allows you to maintain control of your tractor trailer. You can make adjustments as you are backing.

Check all sides as you back –

Do not depend entirely on your mirrors because object may be closer than they appear. Get out and take a look $\frac{3}{4}$ through the backing maneuver, pace the distance between the vehicle and the desired stopping point, mark a guide/spot on the ground an equal distance from the driver's seat, then continue backing. When you reach this mark, stop backing.

Use a reliable guide –

Instruct the guide to watch the area you will be moving into and keep an eye on your blind zone. A guide should stand on the driver's side so they can see both you and the rear of your vehicle. Make sure you agree on hand signals to be used before you begin to back. Stop if you lose sight of your guide.

Additional rules to remember

- Never assume that the path is clear unless it can be seen or guide can verify it is clear
- Never back around a corner or into traffic – Drive around the block to avoid this dangerous maneuver.
- Don't back out of driveways or alleys.
- Adjust your mirrors properly, keep them clean as well as sensors and camera
- Locate a parking stall to pull through to park



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Truckers Voice in Court (TVC) has been serving more than 500,000 professional drivers for over 30 years. TVC Pro-Driver is the only BBB-accredited legal protection service dedicated to professional drivers, providing coverage in all 50 states and Canada for more than one million moving, non-moving and serious accident violations.

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For information regarding TVC Pro-Driver program, please speak with your station representative for the available plans. Plan charges will be deducted monthly from the settlement check of Independent Contractors.