

Backing Up

When driving on an unconventional surface, you must be prepared to avoid obstacles in your path. Some of these may include rocks, tree stumps, or picnic tables.

One way to avoid hitting these obstacles is to avoid backing up. **Always try to position your vehicle so that you can drive forward.** When you are backing up, your view of the path is already compromised.

Here are some tips for backing up:

1. **Do a Circle Check:** Take a walk around your vehicle to ensure there are no obstacles hiding in your blind spots. Always be sure your way is clear before you begin backing up.
2. **Look back:** At the same time remember that you must also check to the front and both sides. What is behind you is important, but where the front of your vehicle is moving is also important.
3. **Back up slowly:** Never back up at a speed that is faster than a brisk walk - this will enable you to stop almost immediately if something enters your path.
4. **Limit the distance:** Back up only as far as absolutely necessary to reposition the vehicle so that a forward gear may be used - this will reduce the time you spend backing up and looking back.
5. **Back in and drive out whenever possible:** This allows you to examine the area to be backed into as the vehicle approaches it.