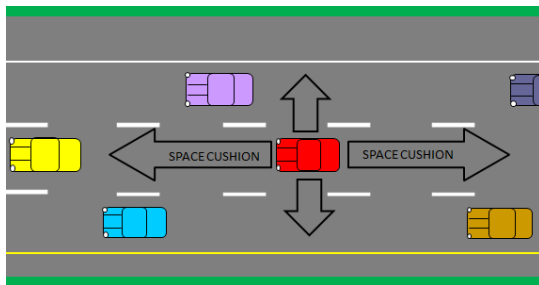


Your vehicle travels at a very high rate of speed. Most drivers do not realize just how fast they are traveling. The below chart shows how many feet per second your vehicle travels at different speeds.

At:	you go: per second	At:	you go: per second	At:	you go: per second
5 mph =	7.33 feet	35 mph =	51.33 feet	65 mph =	95.33 feet
10 mph =	14.66 feet	40 mph =	58.66 feet	70 mph =	102.66 feet
15 mph =	22 feet	45 mph =	66 feet	75 mph =	110 feet
20 mph =	29.33 feet	50 mph =	73.33 feet	80 mph =	117.33 feet
25 mph =	36.66 feet	55 mph =	80.66 feet	90 mph =	132 feet
30 mph =	44 feet	60 mph =	88 feet	100 mph =	146.66 feet

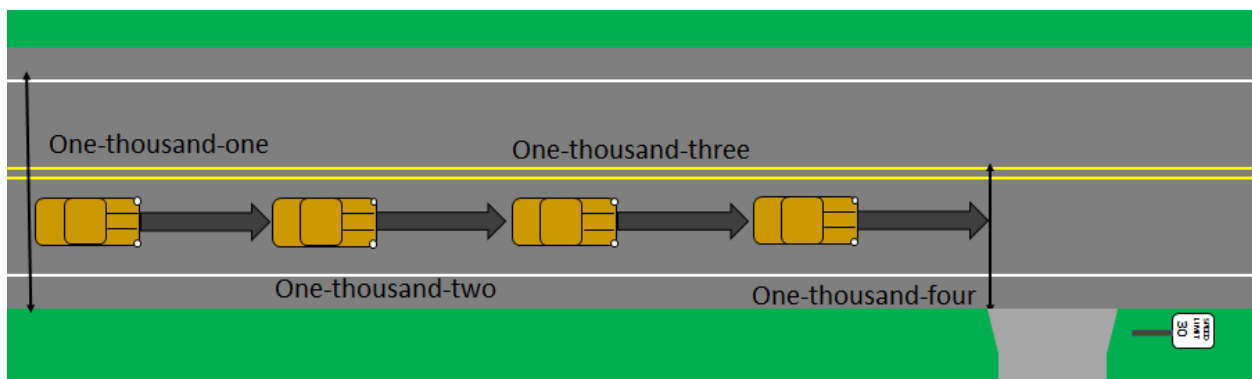


The faster you go the more space and time you need to deal with other vehicles, people, animals, and objects. Try to keep a safe amount of space all around your vehicle. Space around your vehicle is a good thing.

You should keep space:

To the Front of Your Vehicle

Attempt to always keep at least 4 seconds of space between you and the vehicles in front of you during ideal conditions. More, if conditions are not good. Doing so will give you time and space to stop or move out of the way if something in front of you happens. Many times when people crash, they saw the object or problems ahead but did not give themselves enough time or space to react. Never get closer than 2 seconds to vehicles in front of you while the vehicle is moving down the roadway. You could get a ticket for "tailgating".



To determine if you have 4 seconds of space, pick a driveway, tree, sign, or other object on the side of the roadway and start counting one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two, one-thousand-three, one-thousand-four. If you reach the object before counting to 4, you are too close and need to put more space between you and the other vehicles.

Always leave more space between you and other vehicles:

- ❖ During bad weather or when you can't see well.
- ❖ that are pulling trailers or have items in the bed of pickup trucks. Items in the trailer or truck bed could fall off and into your path of travel. Watch for loose or moving loads. If you see any, slow and put more space between you and them.
- ❖ when you are pulling a trailer or have things loaded on your vehicle. The extra weight from the trailer or the loaded items will cause your vehicle to take longer to stop.
- ❖ when following large vehicles such as semi-trucks, box trucks, vans, buses, and campers. These large vehicle limit your view of the roadway ahead. You cannot see around them very well. If you can't see well, you have no idea of what is happening ahead and will not know when to slow or stop. The farther back you stay from larger vehicles, the more you can see around them giving you more time and space to deal with problems.
- ❖ when following vehicles that are required to stop at a railroad crossing, such as school or transit buses and cargo trucks hauling hazardous materials like gasoline.
- ❖ when following bicycles, mopeds, and motorcycles. These vehicles can stop quicker or lose their balance and fall over into your driving path.
- ❖ when driving on poor road conditions such as snow, ice, or rain. The snow, ice, or rain is going to cause your vehicle to need more time and space to stop safely. Leaving more space gives your vehicle more room to slide when the road is slippery. Many crashes occur during winter because drivers did not give themselves enough room to stop safely.
- ❖ when following a vehicle that seems to be all over the roadway or is speeding up, slowing down, speeding up. The driver of that vehicle may be impaired or not paying attention to the task of driving. Give them space to crash into things.
- ❖ when the vehicle behind you wants to pass you. Slow down and give that vehicle space to safely get around and in front of you. The sooner they are past you, the less chances there are of problems occurring.
- ❖ when being tailgated by vehicles behind you. By slowing down and putting more space in front of you, you encourage the vehicle behind to pass and get in front of you. Putting more space in front of you also gives you and the vehicle behind you space and time to stop if you need to.
- ❖ when parking on an incline or hill. Leave more space in case the vehicle in front of you starts rolling back.

To the Sides of Your Vehicle

You need space on both sides of your vehicle to have room to turn or change lanes.

Avoid driving next to other vehicles on multi-lane roads. Someone may crowd your lane or try to change lanes and run into you. Move ahead or drop back from the other vehicle.

Keep as much space as you can between yourself and oncoming vehicles. On a two lane road, this means not crowding the center line. In general, it is safest to drive in the center of your lane.

Make room for vehicles entering a roadway with two or more lanes. If there is no one next to you, move over to the next lane.

Keep extra space between your vehicle and parked cars. Someone could step out from a parked vehicle or from between vehicles, or a parked vehicle could suddenly pull out.

Give extra space to pedestrians and bicyclists, especially children. They can move into your path quickly and without warning. Do not share a lane with a pedestrian or bicyclist. Wait until it is safe to pass in the adjoining lane. Bicycles are vehicles, and are **entitled to a full traffic lane**. Give a bicycle at least **three feet of room** when you pass.

Give snowplows as much room as possible. They often need to operate very close to the centerline, and sometimes throw up clouds of snow affecting your vision.

“Split the difference” between two hazards. For example, steer a middle course between oncoming traffic and parked vehicles. However, if one is more dangerous than the other, leave a little more space on the dangerous side. For example, if the oncoming vehicle is a semi-truck, leave a little more room on the side the truck will pass.

When possible, take potential hazards one at a time. For example, if you are meeting or passing a bicycle or a motorcycle and an oncoming vehicle is approaching, slow down and let the vehicle pass first so you can give extra room to the bicycle or motorcycle.

To the Rear of Your Vehicle

It is not always easy to maintain a safe distance behind your vehicle. However, you can help a driver behind you maintain a safe distance by keeping a steady speed and signaling in advance when you have to slow down or turn.

Try to find a safe place out of traffic if you need to stop to pick up or let off passengers.

If you want to parallel park and there is traffic coming behind you, put on your turn signal, pull next to the space, and allow vehicles behind you to pass before you park.

If you are driving more slowly than other traffic on a multi-lane road, drive in the right most travel lane. When you have to drive so slowly that you slow down other vehicles, pull to the side of the road when safe to do so and let them pass. There are “turnout” areas on some two lane roads you can use. Other two lane roads sometimes have “passing lanes.”

Every now and then you may find yourself being followed too closely or being “tailgated” by another driver. If you are being followed too closely and there is a right lane, move over to the right. If there is no right lane, wait until the road ahead is clear and passing is legal, then slowly reduce speed. This will encourage the tailgater to drive around you. Never slow down quickly to discourage a tailgater. All that does is increase your risk of being hit from behind.

Caution: *This is especially true if you are being followed by a large truck or bus, neither of which can stop as quickly as a car. Give large vehicles extra room to move.*

Above and Below Your Vehicle

Besides keep space on all sides of your vehicle, you also need to think about how much space you have above and below your vehicle. Not having enough space above and below your vehicle could result in some serious damage to your vehicle or others property.



When backing out of your garage, be sure that the door is all the way up and has stopped.



If you load things on top of your vehicle, make sure you have enough room above before going thru a bank or fast food drive-thru or when entering a gas station, car wash, or other lower clearance area.



When driving a vehicle you normally do not drive, know the height of that vehicle. Plan your routes so that you have enough space above.



Watch for low clearance signs. If your vehicle is too tall to fit under the object, do not go that way. Find a way to turn around.



You also need to make sure you have enough room under your vehicle before driving.

Parking bumpers, curbs, and other objects could cause damage to your vehicle if you attempt to drive over them.

Slow down for speed bumps. Avoid braking while going over speed bumps. Doing so can cause the front to dip down onto the bump.



Deep snow or sand can cause your vehicle to get stuck. If the snow looks deep, do not attempt to drive through it. Find a path with less snow.



If there are objects like boxes, bags, plastic bottles or other things in the roadway, don't drive over them if they are larger. You have no idea what is in the box, bag, or bottle. Hitting it could result in damage to your vehicle. It could also get caught under the vehicle and start on fire from the exhaust pipe.

Slow down and go around the object when it is safe and clear.

Communication with Others

Communication when driving a vehicle involves sending a clear message to others and at the same time being able to understand the message being sent back to you. Becoming proficient with communication skills can reduce crashes and make it safer for all roadway users.

How we communicate and what we want other motorists to know include.....Our Presence: The message "I'm here, I have stopped, etc. conveys do you see me? We can communicate with others by:

HEADLIGHTS: Not only do they help us see at night but they make us visible to others on the road. If you're having trouble seeing others, that means others are having trouble seeing you. WI law requires all drivers to have headlights turned on from 1/2 hr after sunset to 1/2 hr before sunrise. In adverse weather conditions a good rule to remember is if using your windshield wipers, headlights should be on. If your vehicle has daytime running lights, remember to still turn on regular headlights to allow the tail light to be illuminated.

HORN: It would not be in cars if we weren't to use them. Short, brief, and quick taps are most effective. Long lasting blasts could be interpreted as an act of rage. The horn catches people's attention. Use your horn:

- around pedestrians and bicyclists to signal your approach.
- exiting a space where your view is blocked.
- when passing another vehicle before returning to the lane.
- to alert another motorist you have lost control of the car.

It is not recommended that the horn be used:

- as an attempt to make someone drive faster.
- around blind pedestrians.
- around horses or other animals along the road.
- as a sign of rage.

TURN SIGNALS: are necessary for every Right and Left turn or lane change and should be engaged 3 sec. or 100 feet before each turning maneuver. Make sure signals cancel after turning which most cars do automatically. If the signal goes off during the turn do not worry, just finish your turn safely. WI Law only requires you to signal prior to your turn and not during the turn.



If your turn signals do not work, you may continue to drive during the daytime only using hand signals as shown in the illustration to the left. Get your turn signals fixed as soon as possible.

HAZARD LIGHTS: If your car breaks down, signal, move to the right, and stop when safe with flashers on. Remain inside the car until help arrives. If it is a mechanical issue, raise the hood and remain inside.

BACKUP LIGHTS: Be on the lookout for backup light and brake lights when driving thru parking lots. There are very few regulations in parking lots, other than being courteous to other drivers sharing that lot.

BRAKE LIGHTS: Be on the lookout for other vehicle brake lights. They are attempting to tell you that they are either stopping or slowing down and to please not hit them. Don't wait until the last moment to let others know that you are stopping or slowing.

Keep an eye on traffic behind you. If you think the driver behind you does not see that you are stopping or slowing, pump your brake pedal to make your brake lights flash on and off. Flashing lights get our attention quicker than solid lights. Don't ride your brake making your brake lights stay lite while driving. This will confuse drivers behind you and they will not know as quickly when you are slowing or stopping.

To have even more time to react to slowing or stopping traffic ahead of you, look for active brake lights on vehicles that are three to four vehicles ahead. If they are slowing or stopping, there is a good chance that you will be soon.

Do not rely on brake lights to tell you when the vehicle ahead is going to stop or slow. If you space between you and them starts to get less, slow down and be ready to stop if you have to.

VEHICLE POSITION: on the road identifies your chosen path of travel. Utilizing side mirrors to maintain a balanced space and not get too close to the center line is best achieved with looking 12-15 seconds ahead your intended path of travel. Swerving or drifting from your lane is very dangerous to everybody on the road. Remember, blind spots do exist. The bigger the vehicle, the larger the blind spot. Never stay alongside any vehicle and always check the blind spot before exiting from your lane.

EYE CONTACT & BODY ACTIONS: The driver's actions such as a smile, wave or other body action is helpful in interpreting information. If you see the driver to your left keep looking over their right shoulder into the blind spot area, it is a good indication that they want to lane change.

For the safest communication on the highway, eye to eye contact from driver to driver will always give you the best results. If the other driver sees you, and you see them, then how would you crash into each other?

All drivers expect you to keep doing what you are doing and that is giving feedback to all drivers in the safest manner for all road users as we share the roads.