

SEVEN TIPS FOR SAFE PARKING ON HILLS

Key issue

Parking collisions account for as many as one in five vehicle insurance claims every year. There has recently been an increase in the number of vehicle roll-away incidents and near misses on hilly roads. Detailed investigations have revealed that the major causes were drivers being unfamiliar with the vehicles they have parked and incorrectly using the park/hand brake.

The following advice and guidance applies to all vehicles and drivers, especially when driving a new or unfamiliar vehicle.

Seven tips

1. Before driving and parking any new type of vehicle, ensure you read the vehicle manual. New vehicles use a variety of park/hand brake systems and the level of pressure required to properly apply the park/hand brake varies from manufacturer to manufacturer.
2. Always show consideration for other road users when parking – avoid causing physical or visual obstructions.
3. Apply the park/hand brake sufficiently for the incline/situation you are stopped in.
4. If you park on a street with a kerb and your vehicle is heading downhill, turn the wheels towards the kerb in the direction of the incline so they will keep your vehicle from rolling into traffic.
5. If you park your vehicle facing uphill, ensure you park close to the kerb then turn your wheels towards the centre of the road so that if your handbrake was to fail, the back of your tyre would wedge against the kerb and prevent your car from rolling away.
6. If there is no kerb or a very low one, whether you are facing uphill or down, turn your wheels all the way toward the side of the road on which you are parked. If your vehicle does start to roll, it will roll away from the street and traffic.



7. In a vehicle with manual transmission, always leave it parked in first gear regardless of conditions. Remember to take the vehicle out of gear, or depress the clutch when re-starting.

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