

Defense against blind spots



A key component of defensive driving is being aware of blind spots. Before hitting the road, ensure your mirrors are adjusted to provide a clear view of other vehicles or obstructions that may be out of sight.

Here are some things to look out for when taking to the road.

- Other vehicles like cars, motorcycles, bicycles, pedestrians and animals.
- Signals that warn of problems ahead.
- Signs that are giving directions.
- Construction workers, event workers or police officers directing traffic with signs or flags.

While it's important to check your blind spots before making a move, it's equally critical to ensure the path ahead is clear prior to taking your eyes off the road.

Use advanced safety features

One way automakers are enhancing safety on the highway is including cutting-edge safety features that alert drivers to potential hazards. Blind-spot detection can be found in many new vehicles as a standard inclusion.

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, sensors are used to monitor the sides of a vehicle for other cars approaching blind spots.

Typically, vehicles with this feature will signal that changing lanes is unsafe by displaying a warning alert on or near the side mirrors. In addition to reducing lane-changing accidents, the Highway Loss Data Institute finds that equipped vehicles help lower insurance claims covering damage to other automobiles.

More affordable safety

If buying a newer vehicle with blind-spot detection doesn't fit your budget, consider using a low-cost solution to enhance your car's safety. Visit a local auto parts store or dealership to inquire about installing convex mirrors that can be added to your existing rear-view side mirrors. Many can be easily fixed with an adhesive back to extend your view of what is happening behind you.

Respect others' blind spots

When driving, you're not only responsible for your safety but also for other drivers. Take caution to avoid remaining in blind spots for extended periods to help reduce the risk of accidents. Be extra cautious by staying out of view when traveling near semi-trailers other large commercial vehicles, as their range of sight can be limited.

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