

CAR PARKS ARE COMPLEX

CHOOSE YOUR VEHICLE WISELY

A partnership between:



It's worth keeping in mind that in the inherently dangerous car park environment, which features tight spaces, multiple directions of travel, large pylons and hidden objects, vehicle factors can make a big difference in your ability to safely navigate and park. Several vehicle factors are important to keep in mind when assessing your risk in car parks, and could be used to inform future vehicle selection.

Bigger Is Not Always Better

Parking spaces are slowly but surely decreasing in size; meaning that larger vehicles are at a higher risk of collision when attempting to park or navigate tight parking lanes. Smaller vehicles fit better in parking lots, making for a safer and easier driving experience. Recommended models include;

- Suzuki Swift
- Toyota Yaris
- VW Polo
- Mazda CX-3
- Hyundai i30

Drive a larger car? Keep in mind the importance of picking more spacious spots, taking extra care to keep your distance for other vehicles, and watching out for small or low-lying objects in your surrounding area.

Vehicle Visibility

Vehicles can have varying degrees of visibility both forward and to the rear of the vehicle. It has been proposed that vehicles rated with better forward and rearward visibility are less likely to collide with a pedestrian. Forward visibility, in particular, has been noted as being compromised by structural features such as pillars, which obscure vision to the front, left and right of the vehicle.

Following the deaths of a number of small children in NSW from reversing cars in driveways, IAG created the IAG Reversing Visibility Index. IAG found that reversing visibility was not a problem exclusive to large 4WDs or SUVs, and that all assessed cars have a "blind area" that could easily hide a child. Selecting vehicles which have a high Reversing Visibility Index will help you safely navigate car parks, in addition to taking extra caution to exercise safe driving behaviours while reversing.

Technology

When selecting a vehicle, keep in mind the safety technology available for a safer and smoother car park experience.

A range of technology solutions have been identified as countermeasures for car park-related incidents, and specifically, to assist the driver to avoid pedestrians, cyclists and objects during reversing manoeuvres). These include;

Rear Parking Assist: uses ultrasonic sensors to detect objects behind the vehicle during reversing manoeuvres, providing audible alerts to help drivers avoid a collision.

Rear Vision Cameras: utilise a rear-facing camera to show the area behind the vehicle on a screen while the vehicle is in reverse.

Rear Automatic Braking: applies emergency braking if the system detects the vehicle is backing too fast to avoid a crash with a detected object.

Rear Vision Cameras have been found to be relatively more effective than Rear Parking Assist systems in avoiding a reversing crash, however, the combination of both technologies has been found to reduce incidents by 42%.

Rear Automatic Braking significantly reduces the risk of a crash, above and beyond other technologies.

“Even though backing up is a routine maneuver, there’s a lot of information to process. Park-assist systems can help with this task if drivers can see what’s in the camera display, hear the alerts and respond appropriately. Rear autobrake adds another level of safety because it doesn’t rely on drivers to take action to avoid a crash.”

3 out of 4

reversing incidents could be avoided, if all vehicles had a rear view camera, parking sensors and rear autobrake systems. (of all backing crashes reported to police)

Remember

Vehicle technology should always be used as an aid, not a substitute, for safe driving behaviour. Don’t rely completely on technology when reversing; look over your shoulders and use your mirrors as your back up.

Use safety technology wisely: they are there to help you navigate the environment safely, not to help you squeeze into a tighter spot!