

Parking Manual for new drivers





Welcome to your new parking manual!

According to a recent survey by the International Parking Institute, your car will be parked **90%** of the time, so this little manual will give you all the tips and tricks you need to park your first car safely. We'll let you know all of the do's and don'ts as well as some great handy hints to get you started.

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Welcome.

1. Parking Tips

- Check for small children and shopping trolleys that have escaped their owners.
- Open the window and turn the music down to hear people and vehicles nearby.
- To avoid dents to your doors, park a little further away from the store and away from other parked cars - but be careful not to go too remote, especially if it's dark for your safety.
- Once parked, take abandoned trolleys back to the trolley parks so save them rolling into your car, causing damage. You didn't leave them there, but they can cause you hassle if you leave them, especially if the car park is on a gradient.
- Make sure you don't have items on the parcel shelf, obscuring your view when reversing. These items can also become projectiles if you have to brake hard.
- Where possible, park on an 'end space', so potentially less damage to your car from opening doors etc. This is particularly useful if you have a three-door car as they generally have bigger doors that need more space.

- Reverse into the space vs driving into the space - reversing in is generally favoured as it is safer driving out forward into traffic due to better visibility, plus a car is easier to manoeuvre in reverse. However, when you have a lot of shopping to put in the boot, driving in has its advantages. Drivers must weigh up the options and make this decision.
- When manoeuvring into the space, take it slow and take effective observation. Keep looking everywhere and keep listening. If in doubt, stop and have a proper look, this may involve getting out.
- If you are unsure if you are in the centre of the parking bay, check it's safe, then slowly pull forward to straighten up and reverse back in again. When going forward a good tip is to pull forward enough so you can see the white bay lines in your door mirrors, this helps you centralise your car, but don't forget to keep looking around and out of the back window!
- Park in well-lit and busy areas where possible.
- When returning back to your car, have your car key to hand, ready. Don't unlock the car with the remote until you are near the car.



Courtesy of Olivia Baldock
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2. Safety

Personal Safety

Always make sure you lock your doors when parking your car. Even if you've only popped off for a minute or have gone into the petrol station to pay. Thieves can be quick and you don't want to entice them by leaving any personal possessions on display or offer them easy access through an unlocked door or an open window.

Always ensure you make a mental note of where you have parked; you don't want to end up wandering the streets late at night and if you park on a hill, check your gears so that your car doesn't roll away – put them into reverse if you're facing downhill, first gear if facing uphill and always make sure your handbrake is on – otherwise you might come back to find your car isn't where you left it.

We all know that using a mobile phone whilst driving is illegal and newly introduced on the spot fines have now been put in place. If you need to use your phone urgently, use a hands free kit or pull over to park and talk safely.

Car Safety

Whilst your car is parked it's always best to conduct regular maintenance checks, such as measuring your oil levels, checking tyre depth and ensuring you have enough screen wash.

You can also test your headlights and rear lights by parking in front of a wall and using mirrors to ensure all brake lights and indicators are working. If they're not, get a new bulb replacement straight away.

It's best to get breakdown cover so you can get back on the road quickly and don't end up spending a fortune if you ever breakdown. Keep the emergency number in your car, so you can call them at any time.



3. Enforcement

The dreaded Parking Ticket

We know it's obvious, but make sure you only park in a valid place. It's always a good idea to look for a parking sign to ensure you are parked in a designated area, otherwise you could end up with a parking ticket. Parking tickets are given out to make sure people are parked in the correct places, without causing danger or obstruction.

Always make sure you have parked in a designated space, check to see if there is a time limit if parking on-street and avoid double yellow lines.



Paying for parking

If you have neglected to pay for your parking, this can also result in a ticket fine. Parking charges are put in places to pay for the use of the land you are parked on. Money is used to keep parking areas clean, safe and well maintained, whilst offering designated areas specifically for parking. Off-street car parks offer you a more flexible parking option as you only pay upon returning to your car. That means you won't have to worry about overpaying or rushing back to your vehicle when out and about.

You can pay for parking in lots of different ways; at a pay machine, by phone or via the internet in advance. Make sure you check the ways you can pay for parking when choosing where to park and ensure you have coins with you in case you can't pay by a debit/credit card. Always check if the car park is a pay and display or if you pay upon return.



4. Things to Avoid

Never park in front of a 'No Parking' sign, your car may end up getting clamped or towed if you do.

Don't park in disabled/parent toddler bays unless you have a disability or are travelling with children. These bays are often limited and must be kept free for the designated users.

Do not park on the brow of a hill. This is extremely dangerous for other drivers who won't be able to see over the top and steer clear of oncoming traffic.

Same goes for parking on a bend; other motorists will find it hard to see around corners and drive around your car safely.

Make sure you wear suitable footwear, in a recent poll by car insurer Sheila's Wheels, the results showed that unsuitable footwear, mainly flip flops, appear to be behind 1.4million accidents and near-misses every year. It takes one foot to slip off a pedal and it could cost you more than a pair of suitable driving shoes.

5. Q-Park Car Parks

Q-Park offer safe and secure quality car parks in major cities throughout the UK. Our parking facilities are clean and well-lit, with secure entrances for vehicles and pedestrians. Our friendly hosts conduct regular patrols around our sites and we have CCTV security systems in place. We also offer additional services such as free umbrella hire and our car parks have jump starter kits in case of emergencies.

When entering our facilities, it may seem that the car park gate is closed, but this is a security feature and the gate will rise when your car approaches. Always take your parking ticket with you as most Q-Parks require you to use your parking ticket to get back into the building. The majority of our car parks ask you to make a payment when you return to the car park, but you can also pre-book a space online and pay in advance.

If you're going to be parking in one of our car parks regularly, you can save up to 50% off parking with a Q-Park Season Ticket. We also have lots of restaurant partners throughout the UK, who will offer discounts off food when you park with us.



Download the app and start saving Today



To find out more about our car parks and services, visit www.q-park.co.uk or follow us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest parking offers.