

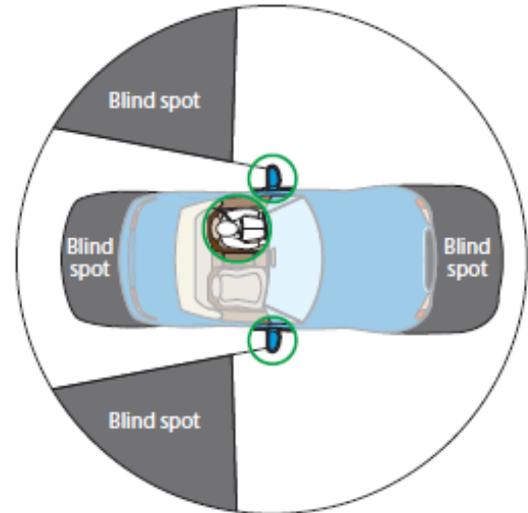
## Tailgate Meeting Guide: Managing Blind Spots

Every day, blind spots contribute to driving surprises, near misses and crashes. Use the resources in this guide to help your employees understand and manage blind spots when they drive.

### Explain the facts

#### 1. What are blind spots?

Blind spots are the zones around your vehicle that you cannot see directly or by using the vehicle's mirrors. Because you cannot see vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians or anything else that might be in those zones, you are blind to that information, which can lead you to make unsafe driving decisions and actions.

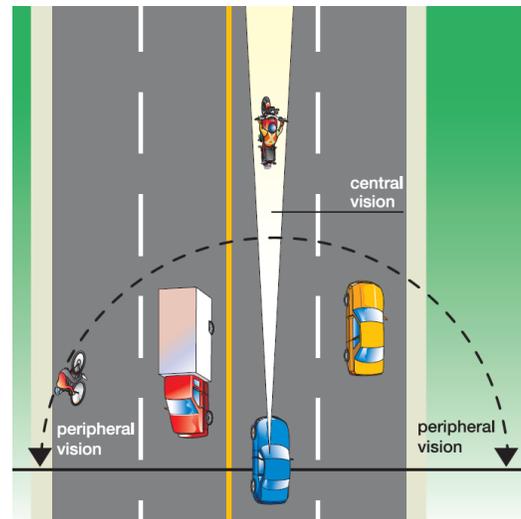


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#### 2. Every vehicle has blind spots.

Three key factors determine the size and location of blind spots: the driver's field of vision, the vehicle configuration and its mirrors.

**Field of vision** - While you're watching the road ahead, your field of vision is mostly in front of you. Peripheral vision enables you to see some things to each side. Everything outside your field of vision is a blind spot. Visual impairments that restrict a driver's field of vision increase blind spots.



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**Vehicle configuration** - Design features such as thick roof supports block your view during shoulder checks. Cars with long or high hoods have bigger frontal blind spots. Pickups with canopies and vans with bulky cargo have larger rearward blind spots. Small rear windows and modifications like dark-tinted glass impair visibility.

**Vehicle mirrors** – Small side and rear-view mirrors further increase blind spots. So do poorly adjusted mirrors.

**Before driving any vehicle, learn where its blind spots are and decide how you will manage them.**

## Activities to help manage blind spots

### Learn your work vehicle's blind spots

Find an empty corner of a parking lot. Sit in your vehicle with the seat properly adjusted. Starting in the front, have a helper walk around the vehicle and mark (with a piece of chalk) the nearest distance at which you can see their feet. Have them continue all the way around the vehicle making chalk marks where your visibility stops and starts. Connecting the chalk marks outlines the blind spots. Get out and walk around the vehicle so you can see where your blind spots are. Learn more at [Understanding blind spots](#).

### Adjust your mirrors

Properly adjusted rear-view mirrors are an essential part of minimizing blind spots.

- Set the rear-view mirror so it gives you a view straight out the rear window.
- Set each side mirror so it's just past the point at which you can see the side of your vehicle.

Use the steps explained in the [Road Safety At Work Tool Kit](#).

### Do shoulder checks

Rear-view mirrors provide a limited view of the road and vehicles beside and behind you. Proper shoulder checks give you a fuller picture. Watch [How to Do Shoulder Checks](#). Remember, shoulder check when:

- changing lanes
- backing up
- merging with traffic
- leaving a parking space
- turning at an intersection
- opening your door

### Use active scanning

Active scanning involves continuously monitoring the area around your vehicle as you drive. Look far enough ahead that you can identify hazards well before you get to them. Periodically glance to your left and right to keep track of what's going on beside. Check your mirrors every 10 seconds. Read more at [Scanning for hazards](#).

### Take advantage of tools and technology

Adding convex mirrors is a proven way to reduce blind spots. Emerging safety technologies like blind spot detection systems can let drivers know about vehicles that are in their blind spots and prevent you from making unsafe lane changes. See how this technology works here: [Blind Spot Warning Systems](#).

### Stay out of other driver's blind spots, especially large commercial vehicles

Learning the blind spots around your vehicle should also give you a way to estimate blind spots around *other* vehicles. Use that knowledge to avoid being in other driver's blind spots. Large commercial vehicles have even larger blind spots to avoid. Learn more at [RoadSafetyBC](#).

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