

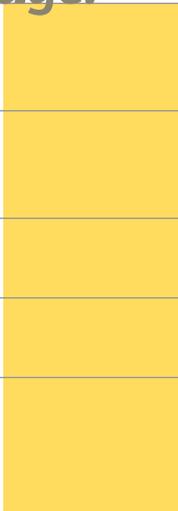


**T**rucks are important to the United States economy. They transport product that are critical to life—and those that make life a lot more comfortable. However, as a motorist, sharing the road with large trucks can make you feel very uncomfortable.

***Protect yourself and your passengers by learning how to share the road safely with large vehicles.***

### ***Test your knowledge!***

1. What is the stopping distance of a fully-loaded (80,000 lb.) semi traveling 65 mph?
2. What is the proper following distance when driving behind a big truck?
3. How many blind spots does a semi have?
4. What is the largest blind spot on a big truck?
5. Because you sit higher in a semi truck and have many mirrors, is your road visibility better or worse than in a car?



*This brochure was developed with information from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.*

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# SHARE THE ROAD SAFELY

**What passenger car drivers need to know about driving safely around big trucks**





## Large trucks do not operate like cars.

They are so large that accelerating, slowing down, and stopping takes more time and much more space than any other vehicle on the road. Trucks have large blind spots and make wide turns. They are not as maneuverable. If there is an unexpected traffic situation, there might not be enough room for them to avoid a collision. Research shows that passenger car drivers make the mistakes in the majority of fatal crashes involving large trucks. Even though to err is human, colliding with a truck could cost someone their life. We've included tips that can help you anticipate a truck's actions and avoid collisions. **YOU are your best protection on the highway.**

## 5 Ways to Share the Road Safely with Trucks

### STAY OUT OF THE NO ZONE

Watch out for the huge blind spots—or the No Zone—around large trucks. Truck drivers must react faster than car drivers in emergency situations due to the size and weight of their vehicle. If faced with a potential front-end collision, the truck driver may turn into your lane, not knowing you are there.

• **Side No Zones:** Don't hang out on either side of trucks because they have large blind spots on both sides. Never pass a truck on the right side, which is the largest and longest blind spot. If you can't see the driver's face in his side-view mirror, he can't see you! Always pass quickly and efficiently on the left side of the truck.

• **Rear No Zones:** Avoid tailgating because the truck driver can't see you behind his truck—and you can't see what's going on ahead of you. If the truck has to stop suddenly, you have no place to go.

• **Front No Zones:** Pass safely and don't cut in too soon after passing. Look for the whole front of the truck in your rear-view mirror before pulling in front—and then don't slow down!



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### BEWARE OF WIDE RIGHT TURNS

Truck drivers sometimes need to swing wide to the left in order to safely make a right turn. They can't see cars squeezing in between them and the curb. Watch for their blinkers and be patient—and give them room.

3



### PAY ATTENTION AND DON'T GET DISTRACTED

Concentrate on driving. Drivers are increasingly turning their vehicles into virtual offices and entertainment centers. Using cell phones, navigation devices, and even laptops while driving makes the roadways more dangerous. Multi-tasking while driving is never a good idea.

4



### LEAVE MORE SPACE FOR TRUCKS

Trucks are not equipped with the same type of energy-absorbing bumpers as cars. When a car is hit from behind by a truck, the results are often deadly. Truck drivers leave extra room behind the vehicles they follow because it can

take them twice as long as a car to stop. When you move in front of a truck, anticipate the flow of traffic, especially when traffic conditions change due to work zones, debris, or a crash. If you are directly behind a truck when it begins to slow down, it's best to back off and avoid tailgating.

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**WEAR YOUR SEATBELT!** Buckling your seatbelt is the single most important thing you can do to save your life in a crash. A seatbelt will keep you in your seat and help you maintain control of your vehicle.

## Stay Out of the "No Zone"

