

AVOIDING SIDESWIPE

Here are some simple driving tips and tricks to help prevent you from getting into a sideswipe accident:

1. Check Your Blind Spot

When you switch lanes, you should check your mirrors every time. Make it automatic:

- a. Check your side mirror.
- b. Check your rearview mirror.
- c. Recheck your side mirror.

Finally, glance over your shoulder to check your blind spot. Adjust your mirrors properly to minimize blind spots.

2. Be Careful Passing High-Clearance Vehicles

Any time you pass a high-clearance vehicle such as a semi-truck, as discussed above, be aware the driver may not see you. Never take too long to pass a truck. It's all right to speed up when passing to get out of the truck driver's blind spot.

3. Merge With Caution

Merging with other traffic always presents a risk of sideswipe collisions, especially when connecting from an on-ramp, and the highway you're merging onto is full of traffic. When cars are traveling at high speeds, merging onto a highway can be challenging. Drive cautiously to make sure you can see all of the vehicles coming up behind you. If you merge too slowly, you might cause an accident. If necessary, you might want to speed up to facilitate your merge.

4. Drive Defensively

There are many ways for people to drive defensively. Driving defensively means always expecting something to happen or an emergency to pop up. If you are always looking for someone not following the rules of the road, you will be one step ahead and avoid a potential accident or stop your vehicle in time. Sideswipe accidents will likely occur when you pass someone on the highway or a two-lane road. As you pass a vehicle, you should always assume they won't see you passing and might pull into your travel lane, sideswiping your vehicle. If you expect this, you can react faster and potentially avoid the collision.

5. Signal Early and Clearly

Use your turn signals well before making a lane change or merging. Signaling early gives other drivers time to anticipate your movements. When changing lanes, ensure ample space is available between your vehicle and the one you intend to pass. Don't cut off other drivers abruptly.