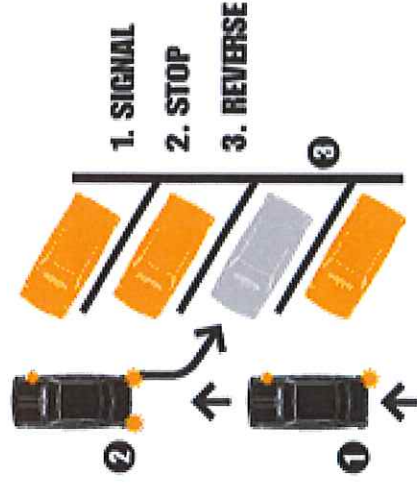


What is reverse angle parking?

Reverse angle parking is a safer type of angle parking that the city is currently investigating. Instead of pulling into the parking spot, cars back into their spots, allowing them to make eye contact with oncoming traffic when exiting the parking space.



Source: New Westminster, Canada

How does back-in angle parking work?

Just like parallel parking:

1. Signal a right turn to warn other drivers.
2. Pull past the parking spot and stop.
3. Reverse into the parking spot.

These three simple steps are illustrated by the diagram above.

What are the benefits of reverse angle parking?

Some anticipated benefits of this parking strategy are:

1. **Improved visibility and increased field of vision.** When leaving the parking space, motorists are able to see oncoming traffic.
2. **Decreased number of collisions.** Motorists no longer have to back out blindly from their parking space. When used on steep streets, reverse angle parking automatically curbs a driver's wheels, which reduces the threat of runaway vehicles.

3. Improved safety:

- **For children.** Car doors open in a manner that directs children to the back of the vehicle, ushering them towards the sidewalk rather than the street.

- **For cyclists.** As vehicles exit their parking stall, they are able to see cyclists in the roadway.

4. Improved loading and unloading.

Trunks are adjacent to the sidewalk and open car doors offer protection from the street, allowing loading and unloading to occur outside of the traveled roadway.

5. Improved handicapped parking.

Handicapped parking spaces can be placed adjacent to curb ramps.

More benefits!

6. **Increased space.** Reverse angle parking does not require as much space to maneuver as traditional angle parking, which may result in an increased number of parking spaces or additional room for sidewalks, bike lanes, etc.
7. **Traffic calming.** The downtown has been identified as a Slow Zone. We want to encourage the slow speed of vehicles in the downtown:

What are some potential downsides?

- ~ **Vehicles overhanging sidewalk.** This can be alleviated with proper design and placement.
- ~ **Vehicles backing into street furniture.** This can be alleviated with proper design and placement.
- ~ **Vehicle exhaust over sidewalks.** Idling is illegal in Burlington.
- ~ **Vehicles may enter the spaces head-in from the opposite side of the street.** This can be alleviated with enforcement, signs, and driver awareness.
- ~ **Potential congestion.** As with parallel parking, backing in may cause some congestion on heavily trafficked streets.

We would evaluate each potential location to determine if it is an appropriate site for reverse angle parking.

Is this really safer than head-in angled parking?

Yes! Tucson, AZ has reported an average of 3-4 bike/car crashes per month before back-in angled parking, and none in the 4 years following implementation (none reported for year 5 yet).

Overall, back-in angle parking improves the safety of cyclist and drivers by increasing visibility, and makes accessing your car easier and safer.

Would the transition be difficult for drivers?



Example of an instructional sign.

No. The transition would be aided with signs and other markings to clarify the appropriate use of these parking spots. At first, “seed” cars could also be parked in a few spots to provide a visual example of the correct way to park.

The parking itself is a simple driving operation; it is, in fact, easier than parallel parking, and easier than blindly backing into an active traffic lane. We would work to provide the educational outreach that is necessary to inform the public of the switch.

Where is reverse angle parking used in the US?

Arlington, VA	Birmingham, AL
Charlotte, NC	Chico, CA
Everett, WA	Honolulu, HI
Indianapolis, IN	Knoxville, TN
Marquette, MI	Missoula, MT
New York, NY	Olympia, WA
Philadelphia, PA	Portland, OR
Pottstown, PA	Salem, OR
Salt Lake City, UT	San Francisco, CA
Santa Barbara, CA	Seattle, WA
Syracuse, NY	Tacoma, WA
Tucson, AZ	Ventura, CA
Washington DC	Wilmington, DE

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