



Winter Parking Lot Safety for Drivers and Pedestrians

Drivers:

- Turn off radios and other electronic devices to prevent distraction before you enter icy or snowy parking lots. This will help you stay fully alert for pedestrians, bicycles, light posts, and other vehicles.
- Obey traffic lane designations. Don't cut diagonally across lots.
- Obey parking lot speed limits. Don't race for a space.
- If available, drive into a pull-through parking spot. These spots eliminate the need for backing, and make it easier for drivers to check for pedestrians when pulling in and pulling out.
- If you must back into or out of a space, survey the scene, noting people nearby, proximity to other parked vehicles, and approaching traffic from both directions.



Improve safety when driving or walking in parking lots at work or other places.

Pedestrians:

- Wear shoes with non-slip soles and good ankle support. Strap-on non-slip shoe treads or cables are also available. Avoid plastic and leather soles.
- Don't carry large, heavy, or awkward loads that can affect balance or block vision.
- If the ground is icy, take short steps with slightly bent knees, shuffle your feet, and walk at a slower pace, so you can react quickly to a change in traction. Leave your hands and arms free for better balance.
- Make sure you are seen by drivers. Make eye contact with an approaching driver and don't proceed if you see the driver is not paying attention or doesn't acknowledge your presence. If your jacket or other outerwear blends in with surroundings, you become less visible to drivers during the day or night.
- Always use crosswalks and other designated paths.
- Turn off electronic equipment and prevent other distractions while you walk through parking lots.
- Hybrids or electric vehicles are extremely quiet when running, so don't rely solely on your hearing to detect possible vehicle activity. Snow also muffles vehicle engine sounds.
- Do not walk in front of or behind a moving vehicle and expect them to stop.
- In heavy snow, drifts can prevent drivers from seeing traffic signs and crosswalks. Stay clear of snow drifts that can obscure your view of oncoming traffic. Don't take short cuts over drifts or plowed snow.

Remember: Roadways are for vehicles, pathways are for pedestrians.