

Parallel Parking

Learning how to parallel park is one of the hardest skills for new drivers to learn. Rick from NNYDA has an easy to learn 3 step method.

The 3 step method

1. Signal right and pull up alongside approx. 2 feet away from the car you want to park behind, aligning your rear bumper with the other car or truck's rear bumper. (on a similar size vehicle it would be mirror to mirror)
2. Put car into REVERSE, and turn wheels 1 FULL TURN to the RIGHT. (same direction as your signal) Check your left mirror and left blind spot. Now **look out the back window** over your right shoulder and if traffic allows (no vehicles driving towards you in ether direction) slowly back-up until you are at a 45 degree angle. You should see you right mirror between you and the other vehicle's tail light. STOP.
3. Turn the wheels ALL THE WAY to the LEFT. **Look back** and slowly back-up until you are parallel with the curb. Use your right door mirror to see that the curb and right side of your car are parallel. Put your car in DRIVE, Turn the steering wheel 1.5 turns or until your wheels are straight, move forward slowly until you are about 3 feet from the car in front of you verifying that your wheels are straight and put your vehicle in park.

THAT'S' IT! If done correctly you should be less about 12 inches from the curb. Practice will improve your judgment.

Tips when choosing a parking spot:

1. Select a space that is at least six feet longer than your car.
2. Flash your brake lights and put on your turn signal before you pull up.
3. Always look back to check traffic before backing up.
4. Take it slow and ease into the spot. Jumping the curb will cause you to fail your road test, bumping the curb will not.

Exiting a parallel parking space

1. Back-up straight about 2 feet without touching the car behind. If when looking forward you can see the rear tires below the bumper for the car in front of you then that is far enough.
2. Put your car in DRIVE, signal left then Turn the wheels ALL THE WAY to the LEFT while checking your left door rear view mirror and then your left blind spot. If clear pull away slowly while turning your wheel back in the direction you want to go.