

Reverse Angle Parking FAQs

Q. Why Reverse Angle Parking?

- Improved driver visibility
- Easier loading/unloading
- Accessible parking and curb ramps
- Traffic Calming

Q: Why use RAP instead of head-in angle parking?

- Safety: This is a proven way to park vehicles and benefits all motorists, drivers, passengers, handicapped persons, pedestrians and bicyclists.

Q: How do you Reverse Angle Park?

- Reverse Angle Parking is as easy as 1-2-3!
 - Signal right when slowing
 - Pull past empty parking space and stop
 - Back into space on an angle

Q: Is backing into stalls difficult?

- Backing into a parking space may seem unfamiliar at first, but it is far easier than parallel parking.

Q: Is it harder and does it take more time?

- Parallel parking takes longer and is more difficult for most people.

Q: Isn't it easier and more convenient to just pull forward into a standard angle stall?

- With standard pull-in parking, it may seem easier. But backing into a street filled with traffic when you leave can be a difficult. Also, it is far safer to load your trunk with packages and/or pets from the sidewalk than to stand out in the street behind your car to load and unload packages.

Q: How do you communicate with cars behind you that you are backing into a parking stall?

- The law requires you to signal right when slowing your vehicle and then backing into a parking stall.

Q: Won't this type parking increase the number of accidents?

- Actually, a common cause of crashes is motorists backing out of standard head-in parking when not being able to see on-coming traffic. Reverse Angle Parking removes this difficulty. The initial stopping and signaling required for back-in angle parking is already an everyday occurrence throughout the city with parallel parking. Some cities have actually reported a decrease in parking-related accidents where Reverse Angle Parking has been implemented.

Q: Will motorists be able to park on both sides of the street?

- In the case of 1800 – 2000 block Commonwealth Avenue between Pecan Avenue and The Plaza, Reverse Angle Parking will be used on both sides of the street.

Q: Why is the pavement marked and why are pavers used?

- Pavers:
 - Helps to differentiate between the travel lane and the parking areas
 - Makes the street appear narrower than if it was all asphalt
- Marking the pavement:
 - Helps motorists know where to park correctly
 - Provides designated spots for motorcycles and scooters
 - Provides designated spots for disabled
 - Increases visibility of purpose of right of way uses

Q: Are other cities using Reverse Angle Parking?

- Yes, many:
 - Baltimore, MD
 - Birmingham, AL
 - Burlington, VT
 - Everett, WA
 - New York, NY
 - Portland, OR
 - Salt Lake City, UT
 - San Francisco, CA
 - Seattle, WA
 - Tucson, AZ
 - Washington, DC
 - Wilmington, DE