

TONY BARDEN SCHOOL OF MOTORING

MIRRORS

OBJECTIVES;

1. To be able to check the mirrors before you signal.
2. To be able to check the mirrors before you carry out any manoeuvre.
3. To be able to know what's behind you at all times.
4. To be able to act properly on what you see in the mirrors.

MAIN POINTS;

When should you check your mirrors?

1. Before you signal.
2. Before you carry out any manoeuvre e.g. *open a door, move off, slow down, stop, increase speed, change your position, pass or overtake other road users.*
3. Often enough so that you know what is happening behind at any given time.
4. When you have been given an instruction to change speed or position.

Remember; *MIRROR* *SIGNAL* *MANOEUVRE*

How should you check your mirrors?.....Use the *look, assess, decide* routine.

*LOOK*__ Glance quickly in the mirrors, *never* stare in them or you will not steer correctly!

*ASSESS*__ What's behind?, what are they doing?, how will that effect me?

*DECIDE*__ To carry out what you intend to do, or to wait until it is safe.

BREAKDOWN OF INDIVIDUAL MIRROR CHECKS

Regular use of the mirrors will keep you informed of conditions behind and at the sides. You should always check your mirrors **before moving off**, i.e. your central mirror, your outside mirror, and over your right shoulder.

You should check your mirrors **before you signal**, this way you can delay a signal if someone is passing you.

You should check your mirrors **before you brake**. If you notice a car close behind, you can apply your brakes earlier and more gently than normal. This will give the driver behind more time to get to his own brakes.

You should check your mirrors **before changing up through the gears**. This way you will notice any cars that may be overtaking you. You must not keep the other driver on the wrong side of the road for longer than necessary. You might decide not to change until he has passed, or to change but not increase speed.

You should **check the necessary side mirror before you make a turn**. Left turns....left mirror/Right turns....right mirror. (Central mirror first, then correct side mirror!)

You should check the mirrors **before you change lanes** or move out to pass any obstruction.

You should check the mirrors **as soon as you spot a hazard** (anything which may cause you to change speed or direction). This way you will know what's behind before you make a decision on how to deal with the hazard.

You should check **both side mirrors before you move off in traffic** to watch for any cyclists coming up behind you.

You should check your mirrors **often enough so that you are aware of what's behind at all times**.

You should check your mirrors **when you have been given a route direction** to assess conditions behind before deciding on the safest option.

After you have read the above, write down 8 occasions when you should check your mirrors.

What routine should you use?

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