

The following text provides fundamental instructions for basic driving maneuvers, including starting the engine, moving the vehicle, stopping, steering, and backing up. It emphasizes safety precautions such as checking for traffic and pedestrians, proper hand positions on the steering wheel, and techniques for safe backing up, including the use of mirrors and rearview cameras.

BASIC DRIVING Starting the engine: How you start your vehicle will depend on its make and model. Check the vehicle owner's manual for how to start the vehicle. No matter your make and model, your right foot should be on the brake before starting the vehicle. Check indicator lights and gauges to be sure your vehicle does not need maintenance. Moving the vehicle: Look for a safe path and check for traffic or pedestrians to the sides and behind. Signal, and if safe, press the accelerator gently with the ball of your foot on the pedal and the heel of your foot on the floor. Stopping the vehicle: Check your mirrors for traffic to the rear of your vehicle. Move your foot from the accelerator to the brake pedal. With steady pressure, press until your vehicle comes to a stop. Steering: The steering wheel is always turned in the direction you want the vehicle to move, whether moving forward or in reverse. Hand position: You have better vehicle control when you place both hands on the outside of the steering wheel, on opposite sides, at the 3 and 9 o'clock positions or the 4 and 8 o'clock positions. Your grip on the steering wheel should be firm but gentle. Use your fingers instead of the palms of your hands and keep your thumbs up along the face of the steering wheel. Never grip the inside of the steering wheel when turning it. Backing up: To safely back up your vehicle, you should: ● Check behind your vehicle before you get in. Children and small objects cannot be seen from the driver's seat. ● Place your foot on the brake and shift to reverse. ● Grasp the steering wheel at the 12 o'clock position with your left hand. Place your right arm on the back of the passenger seat and look directly over your shoulder through the rear window. ● Use your mirrors for backing up but keep in mind these mirrors do not show the area immediately behind your vehicle. If you have a rear view camera, 7 Colorado Driver Handbook use it in addition to checking over your shoulder and using your mirrors. ● Accelerate gently, smoothly and slowly. Steer slightly in the direction the rear of the vehicle should move. If backing up while turning, make quick checks to the front and sides. Continue looking to the rear until coming to a complete stop.