2 MIRROR CHECKS TIP SHEET BY CHRIS LEPPIEN, QUALIFIED DRIVING INSTRUCTOR

Why do we do mirror checks?

We do mirror checks so we are aware of what other vehicles are doing around us at all times. When we look in our mirrors, we are not just checking if there is a vehicle, we are looking to see what that vehicle is trying to tell us.

Others do not wind down their windows and say "Let me pass", we cannot hear them.

They tell us what they want to do by the way they are driving. This is particularly important on the open road.



Interior Rear View Mirror





Left Side Mirror

Right Side Mirror

- If a vehicle is a safe following distance behind us, and close to the left side of the road, they are telling us they are happy to stay behind us.
- If a vehicle is too close, they are either a bad driver or they are telling you they want to pass.
- 3 If a vehicle is close to the centre line, they are either a bad driver or they are telling you they want to pass.





Always adjust your driving to what is happening around you

If you recognise that someone wants to pass...

- (1) Slow down and make sure you are as far to the left as is safe to allow them good vision to pass.
- 2 If necessary, pull over and stop to let them pass.

You cannot control what others do.

The more aware you are of what others are doing, the more time you have to react and adjust your driving accordingly.

Always maintain a good scanning pattern.

Looking 12 seconds ahead and mirror checking every 5 - 10 seconds.









