

Starts and Stops | Steer Clear®  
State Farm®

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(Text on screen)  
Starts and Stops

(IMAGE)

An animated car drives down an animated roadway. Next, we see an intersection from above. Multiple cars pass through the intersection in turn.

(Announcer: Male voice)

Learning to drive a car is also learning how to interact with other cars so you avoid crashes. Sudden starts and stops can be dangerous, resulting in loss of control over your car or even a crash. Taking charge of your starting and stopping habits is a huge way to lessen your chances of getting involved in a crash.

(IMAGE)

We see two cars stopped at a traffic light. When the light turns green, the rear car speeds up faster than the first car, hitting it. Then we see two cars driving, and when the first car slows down, it is hit by the car behind it. Next, we see a truck behind a car, and when the car stops suddenly, the truck struggles to stop.

(Text on screen)  
Acceleration

(Announcer: Male voice)

Remember that quick acceleration could cause you to hit the car in front of you, while sudden stops may cause the car behind yours to crash into you. And remember that any larger vehicle traveling behind you, like a truck or a bus, will take longer to stop. Let's go over good stopping and starting techniques to ensure a smooth ride.

(IMAGE)

A car is seen stopped at a red light. An image of a foot poised over a gas pedal is seen. The foot presses down and the car, seen below, accelerates. Then the foot lifts as the car approaches a stoplight and stops. Then an image of a disposable drink container is seen spilling its contents.

(Announcer: Male voice)

From an acceleration standpoint, remember that it doesn't take much pressure on the gas pedal for the car to accelerate. A nice smooth touch should be all it takes to get the car gradually build speed. If you need a bit more acceleration, gradually press down harder on the pedal. You don't want to press the pedal hard when you first start out. If you do, the car will jerk ahead, which won't be enjoyable for your passengers.

(Text on screen)  
Braking

(Announcer: Male voice)

Good braking technique will not only be less stressful on you and your passengers. It will also prolong the life of your vehicle. When you brake, you use your right foot, which is the same for you use for the gas. Your heel should be on the floor so you can swivel your foot easily between the gas and the brake.

(IMAGE)

The car is seen stopped at a red light. Then, we see an image of a foot moving from brake pedal to accelerator. The car is seen proceeding down the roadway, with the image of the foot and brake pedal seen above. The foot is seen moving up and down on the pedal to illustrate braking technique. The car is seen coming to a stop before a traffic cone. Then we see a checklist appear above the car, with each line checked off in turn.

(Announcer: Male voice)

When braking, apply a nice even touch on the brake pedal. Avoid slamming on the brakes unless you absolutely must come to a quick stop. Softly pressing on the brakes ensures a comfortable stop. Right at the end of your stop, about the last five feet, slowly ease off the brake pedal, and the car should come to a smooth stop. Using these techniques will ensure that you won't have the jerky motion that could result in passenger discomfort or possibly even failing the road portion of a driver's test.

(Text on screen)

Using the Emergency Brake

(IMAGE)

A simplified model of the braking system is shown, and part of it is highlighted. Then we see the braking icon from the dashboard. Next, we see a car moving down a roadway from above. Two other cars are parked on the side. The moving car stops and begins backing into a parking space between the other cars, aiming to parallel park. It parks and then the parking brake icon appears above.

(Announcer: Male voice)

Using the emergency brake. The primary brake system on your car is complex, and there are numerous ways it can fail-- some of them catastrophic. Of course, this is what the emergency brake was named for and the main reason for its implementation in every vehicle on the road. Whether you're driving or parking, get in the habit of using your emergency brake every once in a while to keep the parts moving and give your normal braking system a rest. In case you need to use your emergency brake in a real emergency, it'll be ready to act and could even save your life.

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