

Backing the Tractor-Trailer in Straight Line Checklist

1. Put vehicle in position by moving forward until tractor-trailer is aligned and front wheels are straight.

2. Put vehicle in reverse.

Back as slow as possible (use idle speed)

Don't ride clutch or brake

3. Constantly check behind when backing.

Keep doors closed--always watch both mirrors.

Make maximum use of mirrors to detect persons/objects crossing into intended path.

4. Steering

Keep vehicle on path.

Do not oversteer.

Correcting drifts.

Turn steering wheel in direction of drift as soon as it occurs.

Do not oversteer, only slight movement required if caught right away.

Little drifts need small correction, big drifts need big ones

Use push-pull method of steering to keep trailer in line

When trailer drifts, it gets bigger in mirror, push steering wheel towards that mirror to correct.

Immediately straighten steering wheel.

If late in catching larger image of trailer, push wheel more towards biggest error in push-pull method--not returning wheel to straight position immediately.

5. Pull up and start again if too far out of position

Easier to make corrections moving forward (i.e., get the vehicle back in proper position).

When it is not necessary to stop, pull up and make corrections in steering path.