

Hazard Perception

✓ Most accidents are caused by driver error - often because drivers lose concentration or don't notice hazards early enough. It is vital that you keep alert and constantly read the road ahead.

✓ **There are three types of hazard:**
Static hazards - like parked cars, side roads etc. Look a long way ahead to see them as early as possible
Moving hazards - like other vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. Try and predict what they might do.
Hidden hazards - like what might be around a bend. Use your imagination and think of the worst case scenario... What if?

✓ **Spotting hazards:**
* Look as far as you can see so you have more time to think
* Move your eyes side to side so you see the whole picture
* Check the mirrors to keep abreast of what is behind you
* Don't let your eyes rest for too long on one thing
* Think about your environment - what is the road surface like? What is the weather like? What hazards might you expect in the location you are in at that time of day?

✓ **Dealing with hazards:**
* Check the rear view mirror as soon as you see a hazard, in case you need to slow down or change direction
* Decide on the best course of action and whether to signal
* If there are many hazards, s-l-o-w down to give your brain time to process what your eyes see and then prioritise sensibly.

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Wycombe Driving School

01494 718888

www.wycombedrivingschool.co.uk



Hazard Perception - top tips



Keep your eyes moving



Predict what might happen



Imagine worst when can't see

- Scan rhythmically from side to side
- Look far ahead - not just at the car in front
- Keep your eyes moving - don't get mesmerised by one thing
- Look for side entrances and check drivers waiting to emerge have seen you
- Look deep into side roads as you turn in
- Look down pavements to see past parked cars
- On bends look for reflections in house windows and in the sides of parked cars
- Look under parked cars for the feet of pedestrians and look into the cars for drivers who might pull off or open a door
- Sit up to see over the brows of hills
- Slow right down when overtaking parked long vehicles in case they are hiding pedestrians
- Use commentary driving to keep focused
- Expect others to make mistakes
- Imagine the worst when your view is restricted and adjust your speed accordingly
- Think about your environment - the road surface, the weather, the location...
- Remember to check your mirror when you see potential danger so you know whether it is best to brake or swerve if the worst happens