



**NEW
ARTICLE**



8 TIPS TO AIM, ADJUST, AND USE YOUR TRUCK MIRRORS

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Knowing what is happening behind you is almost as important as the view through the windshield.

Most trucks have six rearview mirrors to meet this need — two door-mounted mirrors on each side of the cab, and a mirror on each fender. But the surfaces must still be aimed in the right direction to maximize the view.

Safety Mirror Experts of **SME** company in Turkey with 55 years of experience, offer several tips to properly aim, adjust and use these all-important tools.

1. Use available mirror check stations

Mirror check stations found in many fleet yards offer an easy tool to aim and adjust mirrors before heading out on the road.

Objects like cones are set up in fixed positions. Simply pull up to the marked location and adjust the mirrors until each object can be seen.

2. Follow the 90-10 rule

When aiming the door or “West Coast” mirrors, follow the 90-10 rule. You should be able to see 90% of the road and 10% of the trailer on both sides of the cab.

The convex mirror at the bottom provides the bigger picture. This overlaps the reflection in the mirror above it, so you can see the lane beside the truck and reduce blind spots.

Although most of the focus is on the road beside and behind the truck, the remaining 10% sliver helps to track curbs while turning corners, monitor straps on flatbed loads, or see the lights that indicate a working reefer.

3. Remember the broader picture

Fender mirrors, when available, offer a broader view of the lane beside a truck. When the vehicle is rounding a corner, they play a key role in tracking the Trailer.

Get help from another person when aiming and adjusting these mirrors, note that how this will limit the number of trips back and forth to the driver's seat.

4. Watch for merging traffic

When traffic merges onto a roadway from the right, it enters a blind spot. The convex mirror at the corner of that side of the truck shows what is approaching from behind. It effectively offers another 10 feet of visibility.

5. Keep your head on a swivel

Truck drivers should make sure they move their heads when checking mirrors wherever they're mounted, to ensure none are overlooked.

6. Track vehicles through the blind spots

Every truck will have a blind spot, but the trick is to track the reflections of vehicles as they move from one mirror to the next.

If you see a blue car coming up in your mirrors, please make sure you see a blue car going away. If you don't see it going away, it is definitely somewhere in your blind spot.

If it's a sunny day, look at your shadow. If you have something in addition to your trailer shadow, you have a car in your blind spot.

7. Keep the mirrors up

Many drivers make the mistake of aiming their mirrors too far down, limiting the view of the long road behind them. A better way to monitor the trailer wheels is to shift your body as needed.

8. Keep it clear and clean

Make sure the mirror heater is working, especially in cold weather. And keep a squeegee in the truck to clean the mirrors when they get dirty.

For more tips about truck mirrors, contact **SME's Safety Mirror Experts** today!