

Keep Your Beak Back:

Following distances in and around heavy vehicles

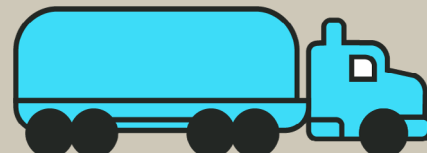
An NRSP survey found that more than

1 in 3 

drivers underestimate the safe following distance when following a heavy vehicle.

Tailgating is especially dangerous around heavy vehicles, which require longer stopping distances and have significant blind spots.

When driving a light vehicle, make sure to leave at least a **3 second gap**, keeping in mind that heavy vehicles have a longer stopping distance due to their larger mass ⁵.



When driving around heavy vehicles :

- Keep out of blind spots, and stay visible by avoiding the areas directly beside and behind trucks.
- Don't cut in: Never merge directly in front of a heavy vehicle. Cutting in can remove the space they need to stop safely.
- Signal early: Let truck drivers know your intentions with clear and early signals.



Truck drivers tailgating are

1.34

**times more likely to be involved
in multi-vehicle crashes¹.**



When driving a heavy vehicle:

For truck drivers, factors such as vehicle size, load, and regulatory demands can increase the likelihood of high-risk behaviours^{1, 14}. These include speeding, following too closely, and frequent overtaking.

**When driving a heavy vehicle
maintain a minimum**

4-second gap,

**allowing extra space when road
conditions are poor or traffic is
unpredictable⁶.**

