Is this really safer than head-in angle parking?

Yes, Tucson, Arizona, has reported an average of 3 to 4 bicycle/car crashes per month before back-in angled parking and none in 4 plus years following implementation.

Overall, back-in angle parking improves the safety of bicyclists and drivers by increasing visibility, and makes accessing the parked car easier and safer.

Will back-in angle parking be hard to learn?

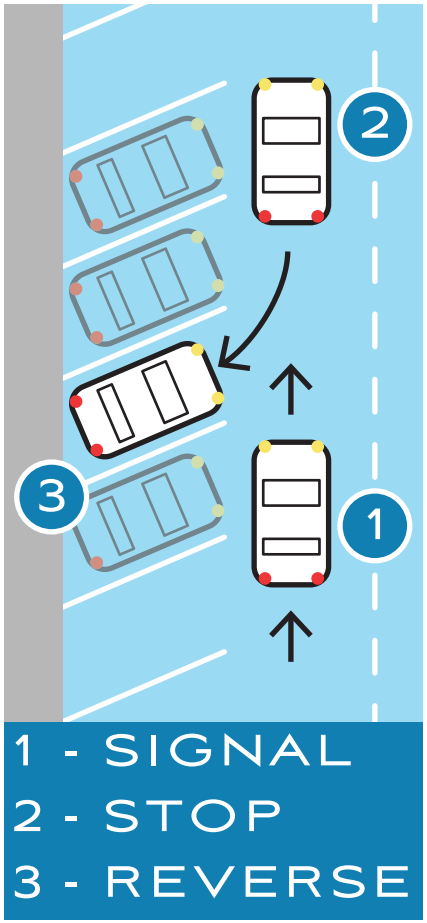
No. The parking maneuver itself is a simple driving operation; it is, in fact, easier than parallel parking, and easier than blindly backing into an active traffic lane. Please be patient with others as parking drivers and through drivers will all learn this parking technique that has a proven record in improving traffic safety.

This technique may be new in Montgomery but is has been practiced safely elsewhere for several years.

How does back-in angle parking work?

Just like parallel parking:

1. Signal a left turn to warn other drivers.
2. Pull past the parking space and stop.
3. Put your car in reverse and back into the parking space.



These three simple steps are illustrated in the diagram below for reverse angle parking on the left hand side of a street:

Back - In Parking Comes To Washington Avenue

What is back-in angle parking?

Back-in angle parking, which is also called "reverse angle parking", is a safer type of angle parking that the City of Montgomery is implementing for the 20 on-street angle parking spaces on Washington Avenue.

Instead of pulling into the parking spot, cars back into their spots. This redirection allows drivers to make eye contact with oncoming traffic when exiting the parking space. In a passenger car or van this blockage is more than it would be in a pickup truck.

On Washington Avenue there were a number of angle parking spaces where drivers did a head-in parking maneuver to start and then had to back out into moving traffic. Driver visibility is significantly reduced when backing out and there have been numerous close calls on Washington Avenue caused when cars were backing out of their parking space. If you do not prefer to try this type parking there are off-street spaces available in the parking garage in the structure next to the City offices at 25 Washington Avenue.

Where is back-in angle parking used in the US?

- Brunswick, Maine
- Knoxville, Tennessee
- Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Mobile, Alabama
- Seattle, Washington
- Tucson, Arizona

Questions? Comments?

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City of Montgomery

To sustain a safe, vibrant, and growing Montgomery in its entirety that we are all proud to call "home".

What are the benefits of back-in angle parking?

Anticipated benefits of this manner of parking are:

1. Improved visibility and increased field of vision:

When leaving the parking space, motorists are able to see oncoming traffic.

2. Decreased number of collisions:

Motorists no longer have to back out blindly from their parking space.

3. Improved safety:

For children - Car doors open in a manner that directs children to the back of the vehicle, ushering them towards the sidewalk rather than the street.

For bicyclists - As vehicles exit their parking stall, they are able to see bicyclists in the roadway.

4. Improved loading and unloading:

Trunks are adjacent to the sidewalk and open car doors offer protection from the street, allowing loading and unloading to occur outside of the traveled roadway.

5. Traffic calming:

Washington Avenue is a business oriented street with a 30 mph speed limit, numerous crosswalks and mini-roundabouts. This manner of parking will encourage a slower speed for vehicles using Washington Avenue.