

Helpful parking tips for an overcrowded metroplex



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May 16, 2010

Imagine coming out of the local grocery store or department store to find your beautiful car has been nailed by a shopping cart. Then you go around to the drivers side and find a nickel sized door ding. These parking lot hazards can be prevented simply by choosing a better parking spot. Parking lots are overcrowded here in Dallas/Fort Worth and you can save yourself money and

damage by following a few guidelines for parking.

Park at the top of sloped or hilly parking lots. This will help avoid runaway shopping carts smashing into your car doors. People do not take the time to put their shopping carts up and leave them unattended for gravity and a little wind to push them right into your car causing unsightly dings.

If a parking lot has few spots left, look for a corner spot. A corner spot is the best

parking spot in any situation because it only allows one car to park next to you, cutting down the chances of someone damaging your car. Be sure to park as close to the curb as possible without damaging your wheels. Even if you have to park far away from the entrance to the store, the less people that park around you, the better. Plus, it's a good way to get in a little extra exercise.

If there are no corner spots left, find a spot between two nice, expensive cars who have left plenty of space between them. If you don't want to risk it, go to your next destination and try back again later when there might be a suitable spot. Parking between two cars could lead to doors being flung into your car, or even worse, someone scraping the side of your car with theirs and they take off without leaving you a note.

If you and some friends are meeting at a restaurant or movie theater, wait for them and try to park together. Friends are less likely to damage your car because they know how much you care about it.

Parking your compact car between two big trucks could end up with someone parking in the trunk of your car because they did not see you when they pulled into the spot too quickly. Parking near the entrance or in heavy traffic areas leaves your car vulnerable to being scratched by keys, purses, zippers on jackets, and purchased items that customers are carrying to their cars.

The best spots to park in if you are lucky enough to find one, are the single spots with curbs on both sides so no one can park next to you. These are hard to find and coveted by many.

In summary, there are many drivers out there who do not realize how much time

and money you put into your car or just how much you love your car. That is fine, they have the right to treat their car however they want to, but you need to take all steps possible to protect your car from parking lot hazards. If a parking spot doesn't feel right, go with your gut and search for alternate parking. Too many times a beautiful car is parked in the wrong spot, and either a car door flies open or a cart smashes into it. Don't be a victim of the parking lot.