

How To Avoid Hitting A Deer

1. Know where the deer are likely to be. Areas with high deer populations are normally marked with a bright yellow sign. Deer also tend to graze in wooded areas or open fields. When driving your usual route to work, be attentive to areas where you have seen deer in the past – they are likely to cross there again.
2. Be alert at sunrise and sunset. Deer are more active during dawn and dusk hours.
3. Use your high beams. When possible, use your high beams for better visibility. The extra light will help make it easier to spot a deer, or other animals, lurking alongside the road.
4. Do not rely on deer gadgets. Whether it is a deer whistle, deer fence or other type of product to scare away the deer do not rely solely on them to keep deer away. Research is not exact on whether or not these products truly work.
5. When you see one you will probably see more. Deer travel in groups. If one comes across your path, proceed with caution in case there are more.
6. Do not swerve. Swerving is not always the safest option. Hitting a deer might often cause less damage than swerving to avoid it and then hitting a more dangerous obstacle, like a vehicle in oncoming traffic.
7. Wear your seat belt. If you do hit a deer, wearing a seat belt decreases your chances of injury.
8. Spread the word. When friends or family head out on the road, let them know to be careful and alert. Even a simple reminder can help prevent deer collisions.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A DEER

Taking the above precautions can help you avoid hitting a deer but nothing can entirely rule out the possibility. Here are steps you can take after you hit a deer.

1. Pull over. Move your vehicle to a safe place off the road. Do not forget to turn on your hazard lights.
2. Stay away from the deer. An injured deer can still lash out and hurt someone.
3. Assess the damage. When you are out of harm's way, examine your vehicle and take photographs of any damage to your car. Use good judgement to know if your car is safe to drive or if you will need to call for a tow truck. Call for help. Depending on the circumstances, consider calling the police or an animal expert. While it is not always required to file a police report, it can provide evidence if you decide to make an

insurance claim. If the deer is still in the middle of the road, a trained professional from animal control, the game commission or your local fish and wildlife service can move it away for everyone's safety.

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