

# Park Here, Not There.

## 7 Safe Parking Tips

From 2014 through 2017, large truck registrations increased by more than 5.4 million in the U.S. alone, according to the Federal Highway Administration. As the number of trucks keeps rising, the competition for safe truck parking spots tightens.

According to the American Transportation Research Institute's 2018 Critical Issues in the Trucking Industry survey, truck parking ranks as the No. 5 concern among all respondents. And it ranks No. 2 among commercial drivers.

Get ahead of the game. Try these seven tips to find safe parking on your route:

- 1. Create a plan.** The closer you get to dusk, the harder it will be to find parking. So, plan your route thoroughly so you'll know where to stop. You may even be able to reserve parking in advance.
- 2. Embrace technology.** There's an app for everything these days. And that includes truck parking. Search for "truck parking" smartphone apps in the Apple Store or Google Play store. Some identify open parking areas. Others allow you to reserve a spot in advance (you may need to pay for parking reservations depending on which app you use).
- 3. Watch the roadside signs.** Eight states in the Midwest—Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin—use a Truck Parking Information Management System (TPIMS). It posts truck parking availability at rest areas and parking areas on highway signs and updates the numbers in real time. Other states (including Florida) use similar systems on interstates.



- 4. Seek the light.** Parking in a well-lit area reduces the risk of theft and other criminal activity. Some wise options: reputable truck stops and big box store parking lots.
- 5. Choose the right spot.** Avoid parking on the end of a row, where vehicle and pedestrian traffic will cross. Look for spaces that you can pull through so you don't have to back up to park your truck. Make sure you park straight. Avoid spots alongside trucks or cars that are parked at an angle. And park with your cab facing the same direction as other trucks in the lot.
- 6. Think safety first.** If you're parked overnight, lock all doors, close curtains or window screens, keep valuables out of site and make sure your cargo is secured. Dash cams also may be a helpful crime deterrent.
- 7. Know the "never" areas.** Avoid parking on off-ramps or on the shoulder of a highway; both are illegal in most states except in the case of an emergency.