

WHEEL CHOCK SAFETY GUIDE

Why Wheel Chocks Matter

Wheel chocks are a simple but critical control used to prevent unintended vehicle movement.

On worksites, yards, and roadside environments, relying on a handbrake alone is not enough — especially with heavy vehicles, trailers, or uneven ground.

Waka Kotahi NZTA guidance highlights that some braking systems, such as cardan shaft (driveline) park brakes, can fail and should not be relied on as the sole method of holding a vehicle stationary.

Wheel chocks should always be used as a secondary restraint — do not rely on the park brake alone.

More broadly, wheel chocks should be used wherever there is a risk of vehicle movement — particularly on slopes, during loading/unloading, when working around vehicles, or when vehicles are unattended.

Practical Reality: Braking systems — including air and park brakes — can lose effectiveness or fail. There is no substitute for a physical restraint.

If it can roll, it will — chock it.

How to Use Wheel Chocks Safely

1. Bring the vehicle to a complete stop and apply the handbrake firmly
2. Keep your foot on the brake until chocks are in place
3. Where possible, have a second person place the chocks
4. Position the chock firmly and centred against the tyre
5. Ensure the person placing the chock stays clear of any potential movement

Important: Never rely on the handbrake alone where there is any risk of movement.



Where to Position Wheel Chocks

- Uphill: Behind the rear wheels
- Downhill: In front of the front wheels
- Flat surface: Both sides of at least one wheel

For heavy vehicles, trailers, or high-risk environments, use multiple chocks.



Correct Placement

Chock centred and firmly against the tyre

Incorrect Placement

Not centred
Not fully contacting the tyre
Positioned too far away



Highway 1 Wheel Chocks

At Highway 1, we supply wheel chocks designed for real-world site conditions — not just minimum compliance or lowest cost. The wrong chock — or a low-quality product — can deform, slip, or fail when you need it most.

Our chocks are selected for:

- High durability and load resistance
- Reliable grip on a range of surfaces
- Consistent performance in demanding environments

We can help you select the correct chock for your vehicle type, site conditions, and risk level.

Care, Storage & Practical Tips

Wheel chocks are often overlooked, but poor condition or handling can reduce effectiveness and create safety risks.

Storage & Care:

- Store chocks in a clean, dry area when not in use
- Avoid prolonged exposure to oils, fuel, or chemicals that may degrade material
- Regularly check for cracks, deformation, or excessive wear
- Replace any chock that no longer holds its shape or grip

Handling & Setup Tips:

- Adding a rope or handle allows safer placement and removal — keeping hands clear of the wheel path
- Connecting two chocks with a rope can allow removal from the side of the vehicle, reducing exposure to risk
- Ensure ropes or handles do not interfere with correct placement against the tyre
- Keep chocks easily accessible in vehicles so they are actually used on site

Site Reality: Wheel chocks only work if they are used correctly and consistently. Having the right setup (and making them easy to use) greatly improves compliance on site.

Need Advice or Pricing? We're happy to recommend the right setup for your operation.

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