3.2 Driving your Vehicle

Tiguan

Model year 2009

About this Booklet

This Booklet contains important information, tips, instructions, and WARNINGS about using your vehicle. For your own safety and for the safety of your passengers, you must also be aware of the information in this and other Owner's Literature Booklets.

Make sure that you always keep the complete Owner's Literature in the vehicle. This is especially important when you lend or sell the vehicle.

This manual describes **vehicle equipment** at the time of printing. Some equipment may not be available until a later date, or may be available only for certain markets.

At the beginning of this Booklet, you will find a **Table of contents** showing all the items described in this manual in the order that they appear.

An **Alphabetical index** is at the end of the Booklet.

Supplements to the Owner's Literature, if any, will be found in the binder right after the *Alphabetical Index* Booklet.

Illustrations may slightly vary from your vehicle. For this reason you should regard illustrations as a general guide.

Directions and positions (for example right, left, front, rear) always refer to the direction or position compared to the normal direction of travel of the vehicle unless another meaning is clearly stated.

Some sections of this Booklet do not apply to all vehicles. If this is the case, a text at the beginning of the section indicates the models and equipment to which it applies; for example “Applies to vehicles: with gasoline engine.”

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▶ The section is continued on the next page.

◀ Indicates the **end of a section**.

⇒ ⚠ Cross-reference to a “WARNING” within or outside of a section.

⇒ ⓘ Cross-reference to a “Note” within or outside of a section.

⚠ WARNING

Texts with this symbol contain important information on safety and how to reduce the risk of personal injury or death.

ⓘ Note

Texts with this symbol draw your attention to potential sources of damage to your vehicle.

For the sake of environment

Texts with this symbol contain information about the environment and how you can help protect it.

Tips

Texts with this symbol contain special tips and other information about getting the most out of your vehicle and its features.

Afterword

Volkswagen AG works constantly to develop and improve its products. We must therefore reserve the right to change any part of the vehicle, its equipment or technical specifications at any time. No legal commitment can therefore be derived from the information, illustrations or descriptions in this manual.

The texts, illustrations and standards in this manual are based on the information available at the time of printing.

Printed in Germany

For the sake of environment

This paper was bleached without the use of chlorine.

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Driving

Introduction

We would like to welcome you as a new Tiguan driver

Your Tiguan can been driven both on and off-road.

In this section, you will find important information about starting and stopping the engine, operating the transmission and the driver assistance systems.

You can find information about breaking in your vehicle, protecting the environment while driving, driving with a trailer and driving in foreign countries ⇒ page 46, “Driving and protecting the environment”

It is very important to review the off-road driving chapter before taking your vehicle off-road ⇒ page 58, “Driving off-road”.

Roll-over warning

A vehicle's **center of gravity** affects its roll-over characteristics. The Tiguan's center of gravity is higher than that of a passenger vehicle to give it better clearance when driving off-road. Because of its higher center of gravity there is an increased risk of roll-over while driving your Tiguan. Always keep this in mind when driving your Tiguan and follow safety tips and WARNINGS in this Booklet.

WARNING

Utility vehicles have a significantly higher rollover rate than other types of vehicles.

- **In a rollover crash, an unbelted person is significantly more likely to be seriously injured or even killed than a person wearing a safety belt.**
- **Your vehicle has a higher center of gravity and an increased risk of roll-over while driving than a standard passenger vehicle that is not suitable for occasional off-road use.**
- **Never drive too fast, particularly through curves, or attempt extreme driving maneuvers.**
- **Always adjust your speed and driving style to road, terrain, traffic and weather conditions.**
- **Transporting luggage or other items on top of your vehicle raises the center of gravity and can further increase the risk of roll-over.**
- **Always avoid driving crosswise on a slope.**
- **If stopped crosswise on a slope, never get out of the vehicle using the doors that face downhill. because the combined center of gravity of the vehicle and its contents (passengers and load) can shift, causing the vehicle to tip over and roll down the slope. Always exit the vehicle calmly using the doors that face uphill.**

Ignition lock

Ignition key position

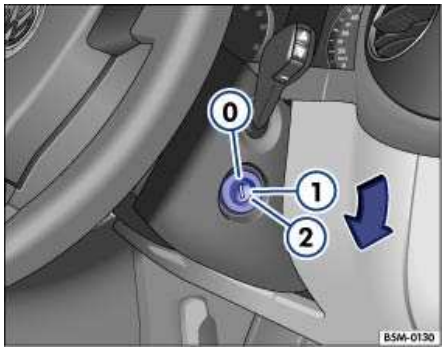

Fig. 1 Ignition switch key positions

(0) Ignition off

In position (0) the ignition is switched off and the steering column is locked ⇒ Fig. 1.

To positively **engage the steering lock**, remove the key from the steering lock and turn the steering wheel slightly until it locks into place. You should always make sure the steering wheel is locked when you leave your vehicle. Locking the steering makes it harder to steal the vehicle.

(1) Switching the ignition on

Turn the key to position (1) to switch the ignition on. If the key cannot be turned or is hard to turn from position (0) to position (1), move the steering wheel slightly (to take the load off the steering lock) until it turns freely.

(2) Starting the engine

Turn the key to position (2) to start the engine ⇒ page 12. Major electrical consumers (headlights, for example) will be switched off until the engine has started. Once the engine has started, let the ignition key return to position (1).

Switching the ignition off; stopping the engine

Turn the key to position (0).

Automatic switch-off of electrical components

Components that use a lot of electrical power (the seat heaters or rear window defogger, for example) will automatically be switched off when the ignition is on and the engine is not running. This helps prevent battery drain. Information text will appear in the instrument cluster.

Components that use little electricity are not switched off automatically. However, they can also drain the battery.

WARNING

Improper use of vehicle keys can result in serious personal injury.

- **Always take the key with you when you leave the vehicle. It can be used to start the engine and operate vehicle systems such as the power windows, leading to serious personal injury.**
- **Never leave children, disabled persons or anyone who cannot help themselves in the vehicle. The doors can be locked using the remote control key. This could result in people being trapped in the vehicle in an emergency. For example, depending on the time of year, people trapped in the vehicle can be exposed to very high or very low temperatures.**
- **Never remove the key from steering lock while the vehicle is moving or while it is rolling to a stop. The steering will lock and you will not be able to steer or control the vehicle.**

Note

You can damage the starter or the engine if you try to start the engine (key position (2)) when the vehicle is still moving, or if you try to start the engine immediately after switching it off.

Tips

- If you open the driver's door with the key still in the ignition switch, a buzzer will sound to remind you to take the key and lock your vehicle.
- For **vehicles with an automatic transmission or Direct Shift Gearbox**[1]: The key can be removed only with the selector lever in the P (Park) position. After the ignition key is removed, the selector lever is locked.

Applies to vehicles: with automatic transmission

Removing the key from the ignition lock

The key can be removed only with the selector lever in the P (Park) position.

To remove the key, the ignition must be off, you must depress the brake pedal, and the automatic transmission selector lever **must** be in the **P** (Park) position. Once you have removed the key, the selector lever will be locked. Please be sure to apply the parking brake whenever you remove the key.

Electronic immobilizer

The immobilizer helps to prevent unauthorized use of your vehicle.

The immobilizer is automatically activated when you remove the key from the ignition switch.

An electronic chip in the key automatically communicates with the immobilizer when you insert the key into the ignition switch, and lets you start the engine.

[1] where applicable

If an unauthorized key is used, the message **SAFE**[2] or **Immobilizer activ!**[2] will be shown in the instrument cluster display. The vehicle can no longer be operated with this key.

WARNING

Always take the key with you when you leave the vehicle. The key can disarm the electronic engine immobilizer and permit an unauthorized person to start the engine and enable operation of the vehicle systems such as power window or power sunroof leading to serious personal injury.

Tips

The engine can only be started with a genuine and correctly coded Volkswagen key.

Starting and stopping the engine

Applies to vehicles: with a gasoline engine

Starting the gasoline engine

The engine can only be started with a properly coded Volkswagen key, while depressing the clutch pedal (manual transmission) or brake pedal (automatic transmission).

Manual transmission

– Shift the transmission into neutral.
– Depress the clutch pedal and hold it down.
– Turn the ignition key to position (2) and start the engine ⇒ Fig. 1.
– Release the key when the engine starts.

Automatic transmission[3]

– Shift the selector lever to **P** (Park) or **N** (Neutral) ⇒ page 15.
– Depress the brake pedal.
– Push the ignition key to start the engine ⇒ Fig. 1 (2).
– Release the key when the engine starts.

A cold engine may be a little noisy for the first few seconds until oil pressure has built up in the hydraulic valve lifters. This is normal and no cause for concern.

If the engine does not start after 10 seconds, switch off the ignition, wait 30 seconds, then try again.

[2] where applicable
[3] where applicable

If your engine will not start, try jump-starting it using another vehicle's battery. Read and follow the instructions in ⇒ booklet 3.3 “Tips and Advice”, chapter “Emergency starting.”

WARNING

To reduce the risk of serious personal injury when starting and running the vehicle's engine.

- **Never start or let the engine run in a confined or enclosed area. Exhaust from the engine contains carbon monoxide, a poisonous, colorless and odorless gas. Carbon monoxide can cause unconsciousness and death.**
- **Never leave the vehicle unattended with the engine running. The vehicle could move suddenly or an unusual operating condition could occur resulting in property damage or personal injury.**
- **Never use “starting fluids.” They can be explosive and can cause a “run-away” vehicle condition.**

Note

You can damage the engine if you drive at high engine speeds (rpm), at full throttle, or by over-loading the engine when it is cold.

- Do not push or tow your vehicle for more than approximately 50 yards (50 meters) to start the engine. Fuel could enter the catalytic converter and damage it.

For the sake of environment

Do not warm up the engine by running it with the vehicle standing still. Drive off as soon as you start the engine. This helps the engine reach normal operating temperature more quickly, and helps reduce exhaust emissions.

Stopping the engine

– Let the vehicle come to a complete stop.

– Shift the automatic transmission[4] to **P** (Park).

– Push the ignition key in to release it, so it springs back to position ⇒ Fig. 1 (1).

– Be sure to apply the parking brake whenever you remove the key from the ignition.

After the engine has stopped, the radiator cooling fan may continue to run for up to 10 minutes, even with the ignition off. The radiator cooling fan can start automatically if the engine is hot and the coolant temperature rises, or if the sun heats up the engine compartment.

[4] where applicable

WARNING

Never stop the engine before the vehicle has come to a complete stop. You can lose control of the vehicle, crash and be seriously injured.

- **The airbags and safety belt pretensioners will not work when the ignition is switched off.**
- **The brake booster does not work when the engine is not running. A lot more brake pedal pressure will be necessary to stop the vehicle.**
- **The power steering system does not work when the engine is not running and you will need more force to steer the vehicle.**
- **When the key is removed from the ignition switch, the steering will lock and you will not be able to steer the vehicle.**
- **Never park where the hot exhaust system could ignite flammable materials, such as brush, leaves, dry grass, spilled fuel, etc.**

Note

- If the vehicle has been driven hard for a long time, the engine could overheat when it is stopped. To reduce the risk of engine damage, let the engine idle for about 2 minutes before you switch off the ignition.
- Because of the high temperatures reached by your catalytic converter, you should never park your vehicle in an area where there are highly flammable materials such as dry grass or spilled gasoline – fire hazard!

Applies to vehicles: with manual transmission

6-speed manual transmission

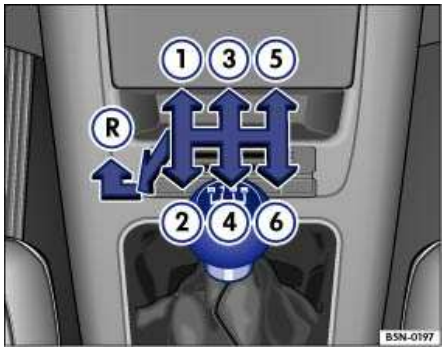

Fig. 2 Center console with 6-speed manual transmission.

Selecting Reverse gear

– The vehicle must be completely stopped with the clutch pedal fully depressed and the engine running at idle.

– Shift into Neutral.

– Press the shift lever down and to the left, then forward into Reverse gear (R) as shown on the shift knob ⇒ Fig. 2.

When the transmission is in Reverse with the ignition switched on:

- The back-up lights come on.
- Air conditioner automatically switches to recirculation mode.
- The rear wiper is also switched on, whenever you switch on the front windshield wipers.

WARNING

When the engine is running and a gear is engaged, the vehicle will start to move as soon as the clutch is released.

- **Make sure the vehicle is at a complete standstill before engaging Reverse, otherwise engine damage could result.**

Note

- Do not rest your hand on the gearshift lever knob while driving. Over time, the pressure could cause premature wear in the transmission.
- Always depress the clutch pedal all the way when changing gears.
- Do not hold the vehicle on a hill using engine power with the clutch partially engaged. This will cause premature clutch wear or permanent damage.

Automatic transmission

Applies to vehicles: with automatic transmission

Transmission programs

The automatic transmission has two programs – Standard and Sport.

Fig. 3 Center console with automatic transmission selector lever

Selecting the Standard program

– Move the selector lever to position **D** (Drive) ⇒ Fig. 3.

Selecting the Sport program

– Move the selector lever into position **S** (Sport).

D – Drive (standard)

With the standard program, you will be driving in the economy mode. The transmission upshifts and downshifts automatically at lower engine speeds. While coasting downhill in **D**, the engine does not help the vehicle to slow down.

S – Sport

With the Sport program, you will be driving in the performance mode. The transmission upshifts and downshifts automatically at higher engine speeds depending on engine load, your individual driving style, and vehicle speed. While coasting downhill in **S**, the engine does not help the vehicle to slow down.

For the sake of environment

Driving in **D** uses less fuel than driving in **S**.

Tips

The display in the instrument cluster shows the gear selected, and the transmission program being used (**D** or **S**).

Applies to vehicles: with automatic transmission

Automatic Shift Lock (ASL)

The shift-lock keeps the transmission from being accidentally shifted out of P (Park) or N (Neutral).

Fig. 4 Center console with selector lever with lock button

Releasing the shift lock

– Switch the ignition on.

– While holding the brake pedal down, press the release button in the selector lever handle ⇒ Fig. 4.

The shift lock is activated when:

- The selector lever is in **P**
- The selector lever is in **N** for more than about 1 second and you are driving slower than 3 mph (5 km/h)

The shift lock will not engage if you quickly move the selector lever through position **N** when shifting between **R** and **D**. This makes it possible to “rock” the vehicle back and forth if it is stuck in snow or mud.

Applies to vehicles: with automatic transmission

Driving with the automatic transmission

The transmission upshifts and downshifts automatically.

Fig. 5 Center console with automatic transmission selector lever

Starting the engine

– Start the engine with the selector lever in position **P** or **N**. For more information ⇒ page 12, “Starting and stopping the engine”.

Driving

– Press and hold the brake pedal.

– Release the parking brake.

– Press and hold the release button in the selector lever handle ⇒ Fig. 5.

– Move the selector lever to **R** (Reverse), **D** (Drive) or **S** (Sport).

– Release the button and wait for the transmission to engage (a slight movement can be felt).

– Release the brake and depress the accelerator ⇒ ⚠.

Stopping briefly

– Use the Auto Hold function ⇒ page 29 **OR**

– Use the foot brake to keep the vehicle from creeping forward, at a traffic light, for example. You do not need to move the selector lever to **P** (Park) or **N** (Neutral).

– Do not depress the accelerator.

Parking

– Depress and hold the brake pedal until the vehicle comes to a full stop ⇒ ⚠.

– Apply the parking brake ⇒ page 24.

– Press and hold the release button and move the selector lever to **P** (Park).

Driving down hills

– Select the Tiptronic® position.

– Pull the lever to the "–" (minus) position to downshift.

Stopping on a hill

– Use the Auto Hold function ⇒ page 29, **OR**

– Hold the vehicle in position with the brakes to keep it from rolling backward.

– Do not try to keep the vehicle from rolling backward by increasing engine speed with the transmission in a drive gear ⇒ ⚠.

Starting on a hill

– Apply the parking brake ⇒ page 24.

– With a gear engaged, release the brake and depress the accelerator. Also consider using the Auto Hold function ⇒ page 29.

The transmission automatically upshifts to keep the engine from over-revving. When driving downhill, you may need a lower gear to increase the braking effect of the engine. For example, you should use Tiptronic® and shift down to 3rd gear going down a steep hill. If the engine braking effect is not enough to help you maintain the desired speed, use the brakes to reduce speed ⇒ ⚠.

The Automatic Shift Lock (ASL) locks the selector lever in **P** or **N** when the ignition is switched on. You have to depress the brake pedal to move the selector lever out of **P** or **N**. This prevents unwanted vehicle movement caused by accidentally engaging a drive gear.

Always hold the vehicle with the foot brake if you stop while driving up a hill, to keep it from rolling backward.

The ignition key cannot be removed unless the selector lever is in **P** (Park).

Depress Brake Pedal Indicator light

If this indicator light comes on, the brake pedal has to be depressed. This is necessary when the automatic transmission lever is moved out of **P** (Park) or **N** (Neutral). You may also see a message in the instrument cluster display.

WARNING

Unintended vehicle movement can cause serious personal injury.

- **Never get out of the driver's seat when the engine is running, especially when the transmission is in a drive gear. If you must leave your vehicle with the engine running, always firmly set the parking brake and shift the transmission into P (Park).**
- **When the engine is running and a drive gear – D (Drive), S (Sport) or R (Reverse) – has been selected, always press and hold the brake pedal to keep the vehicle from moving. Power is transmitted to the wheels any time a driving gear is selected, and the vehicle may "creep" even at idle speed.**
- **Never depress the accelerator when moving the selector lever.**
- **Never shift into R (Reverse) or P (Park) when the vehicle is moving.**
- **Before you drive down a steep section of road, reduce speed and shift to a lower gear using Tiptronic® for better engine braking, and to reduce the load on the brakes.**
- **Do not ride the brakes or apply the brake pedal too often or too long. Constant braking causes the brakes to overheat and will substantially reduce braking performance, increase braking distance and can cause complete failure of the brake system.**
- **Never leave the vehicle in the neutral position N, it will roll down hills, regardless of wether the engine is running or not.**

WARNING

Never stop the engine before the vehicle has come to a complete stop. You can lose control of the vehicle, crash and be seriously injured.

- **The airbags and safety belt pretensioners will not work when the ignition is switched off.**
- **The brake booster does not work when the engine is not running. A lot more brake pedal pressure will be necessary to stop the vehicle.**
- **The power steering system does not work when the engine is not running and you will need more force to steer the vehicle.**
- **When the key is removed from the ignition switch, the steering will lock and you will not be able to steer the vehicle.**
- **Never coast down a slope with the transmission in Neutral.**

Note

- If you stop the vehicle on a hill, do not try to hold the vehicle in place by depressing the accelerator with the transmission in a drive gear. The transmission could overheat and be damaged. Apply the parking brake, depress the brake pedal or use Auto Hold to keep the vehicle from rolling.
- Never let the vehicle coast or roll down a hill in **N** (Neutral) and the engine not running. This will damage the automatic transmission.

Tips

If the transmission is unintentionally shifted into **N** (Neutral) while driving, take your foot off the accelerator pedal and wait until the engine speed has dropped to idle speed before shifting back into a drive gear.

Applies to vehicles: with automatic transmission

Shifting with Tiptronic®

Tiptronic® lets the driver upshift and downshift manually, or choose automatic gear selection.

Fig. 6 Automatic transmission selector in Tiptronic position

Shifting with Tiptronic®

– Move the selector lever from the **D** (Drive) position on the left to the Tiptronic® position on the right ⇒ Fig. 6.

– Briefly push the selector forward (+) to upshift.

– Briefly pull the selector lever back (–) to downshift.

When accelerating, the transmission automatically upshifts to the next higher gear before reaching maximum engine speed (rpm).

When selecting a lower gear, the transmission will downshift only when doing so will not over-rev the engine.

If Tiptronic® is selected while driving with the transmission operating in 3rd gear (selector lever position **D**), it will also be in 3rd gear in Tiptronic® mode.

Applies to vehicles: with automatic transmission

Instrument cluster display: selector lever position and drive gear

Automatic transmission information is shown on the display in the instrument cluster.

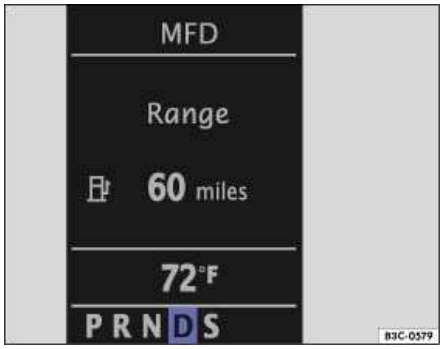

Fig. 7 Instrument cluster display showing selector lever position and drive gear

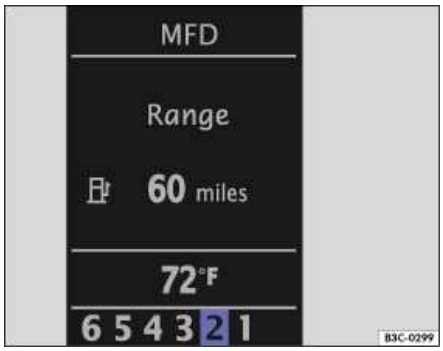

Fig. 8 Instrument cluster display in Tiptronic mode showing drive gear selected

Selector lever position

The selector lever position is shown next to the selector lever, and in the instrument cluster display ⇒ Fig. 7 (when not in Tiptronic® mode).

Gear selection display for Tiptronic®

If the automatic transmission is shifted manually using the Tiptronic® function, the gear selected is shown in the display ⇒ Fig. 8.

P – Park

When the selector lever is in **P**, the drive wheels are locked mechanically.

Shift into **P** only when the vehicle is completely stopped ⇒ ⚠.

When selecting and deselecting **P** you must press the release button in the selector lever handle *and* depress the brake pedal at the same time.

If the battery is dead, the selector lever cannot be moved out of **P**.

R – Reverse

Shift into **R** only when the vehicle is completely stopped ⇒ ⚠.

To move the selector lever to **R**, press the release button while depressing the brake pedal.

When the selector lever is in the **R** position and the ignition is on, the following functions are triggered:

- The back-up light comes on.
- The air conditioning automatically switches to recirculation mode.

N – Neutral

In **N** (Neutral), no power is transmitted to the wheels, and engine braking cannot help to slow down the vehicle.

To move the selector lever out of **N**, you must depress the brake pedal and drive slower than 3 mph (5 km/h) ⇒ ⚠.

Never use **N** to coast down a hill because the engine will not slow the vehicle down and you will have to rely only on the foot brake.

You could damage the automatic transmission if you drive down hills with the selector in position **N** and the engine not running.

D – standard driving position (standard Drive program)

If you select the standard program you will be driving in the economy mode and will reduce fuel consumption. The transmission upshifts and downshifts at *lower engine speeds*. While driving downhill in **D**, the engine does not brake the vehicle. The display shows the selector lever position (**D**) ⇒ Fig. 7.

To switch from **N** to **D**, the brake pedal must be depressed at speeds below 3 mph or when the vehicle is stationary ⇒ ⚠.

S – standard driving position (Sport program)

The transmission upshifts and downshifts at higher engine speeds depending on engine load, your individual driving style and vehicle speed. While driving downhill in **S**, the engine does not brake the vehicle. The display shows the selector lever position (**S**).

To engage **S**, you must depress the release button.

⚠ WARNING

Never stop the engine before the vehicle has come to a complete stop. You can lose control of the vehicle, crash and be seriously injured.

- **The airbags and safety belt pretensioners will not work when the ignition is switched off.**
- **The brake booster does not work when the engine is not running. A lot more brake pedal pressure will be necessary to stop the vehicle.**
- **The power steering system does not work when the engine is not running and you will need more force to steer the vehicle.**
- **When the key is removed from the ignition switch, the steering will lock and you will not be able to steer the vehicle.**
- **Never coast down a hill with the transmission in Neutral.**

Note

Never let the vehicle coast or roll down a hill with the selector lever in **N** and the engine not running. This will damage the automatic transmission.

Tips

- If the selector lever is unintentionally moved into **N** while driving, take your foot off the accelerator pedal and wait until the engine has dropped to idle speed before selecting a driving position.
- If the whole selector lever position display has a light background, there is a fault in the system and it is using an emergency shift program. The transmission must be checked by an authorized Volkswagen dealer or a qualified workshop as soon as possible.

Applies to vehicles: with automatic transmission

Kick-down function

The kick-down function permits maximum acceleration when the selector lever is in D, S or Tiptronic® mode.

If you push the accelerator pedal all the way down, transmission kick-down permits maximum acceleration. It will automatically downshift if necessary, depending on road speed and engine speed (rpm).

With kick-down actuated, the transmission will stay in gear longer and not upshift until the engine reaches maximum rpm.

WARNING

Accelerating on slippery roads can cause loss of vehicle control and serious personal injury.

- **Be very careful when using the kick-down feature, especially on slippery surfaces. Rapid acceleration may cause wheelspin and loss of control.**
- **Use the kick-down feature only when traffic and weather conditions permit.**

Parking brake

Operation

Your vehicle is equipped with an electronic parking brake, which helps keep the vehicle from moving when it shouldn't.

Fig. 9 Button for electronic parking brake on center console.

Always apply the parking brake when you park or leave your vehicle.

Applying the parking brake

– Pull the (P) button until the indicator light (P) in the button comes on. In addition, the BRAKE or (!) warning light appears in the instrument cluster when the parking brake is engaged ⇒ ⚠.

Releasing the parking brake

– Switch the ignition on.

– Press the (P) button while depressing the brake at the same time. The lights in the button and the instrument cluster go out when the parking brake is released.

Releasing the parking brake when the engine is running

– With the engine running, press the (P) button while either pressing the brake pedal strongly or slightly pressing the gas ⇒ ⚠. The indicator lights in the button and instrument cluster go out. The parking brake is now released.

Your vehicle is equipped with an electronic parking brake instead of a more common lever-operated parking brake. The parking brake helps keep the vehicle from accidentally rolling away.

Whenever you leave the vehicle, be sure you apply the parking brake and shift the transmission into 1st gear (manual) or Park (automatic).

Automatic parking brake release when start driving

When you start driving your vehicle, the parking brake automatically releases itself only if the driver's door is closed and the driver's safety belt is fastened ⇒ page 27, “Dynamic starting assist”. If you're driving a **manual transmission** vehicle, the clutch must be fully depressed before starting off so that the system realizes that the parking brake should be disengaged.

Emergency brake

The electronic parking brake includes an emergency brake function, used to help bring your vehicle to a safe stop in case the main brake system should fail ⇒ page 28, “Emergency brake function”.

Warning lights

- If the parking brake is engaged with the ignition **switched on**, the warning light BRAKE or (!) in the instrument cluster and the indicator light (P) in the button come on.
- If the parking brake is engaged with the ignition **switched off**, the warning light BRAKE or (!) in the instrument cluster and the indicator light (P) in the button come on for about 30 seconds and then go out.
- The warning light in the instrument cluster comes on to tell you that you must depress the brake pedal to release the parking brake.
- For additional information ⇒ booklet 3.3 “Tips and Advice”, chapter “Brakes.”

There may be a message in the instrument cluster display telling you what to do.

WARNING

Improper use of the parking brake can seriously injure you and your passengers.

- **Never use the parking brake to slow down the vehicle when it is moving, except in an emergency. The braking distance is much longer because only the rear wheels are braked. Always use the foot brake.**
- **Never activate the throttle manually from the engine compartment when the engine is running and the automatic transmission is in gear. The vehicle will start to move as soon as the engine speed increases even if the parking brake is on.**
- **Always read and heed the information and all WARNINGS ⇒ page 26, “Parking”.**

Note

Manual transmission vehicles: if you release the clutch pedal in Neutral while depressing the accelerator pedal at the same time, the electronic parking brake will automatically release.

- Do not use the area in front of the electronic parking brake ⇒ Fig. 9 for storage (coins, for example). Small objects could block the button or damage it.

Tips

- It is possible to engage the parking brake at any time – even when the ignition switched off.
- To release the parking brake when the engine is not running, switch on the ignition and depress the brake pedal.
- To release the parking brake when the engine is running and the vehicle is not moving (for example when stopped at a red light), depress the brake pedal.
- It is not possible to release the parking brake when the vehicle has no power. Jump start the vehicle ⇒ booklet 3.3 “Tips and Advice”, chapter “Emergency starting.”

- Noises when switching the parking brake on or off are normal and are no cause for concern.
- If the parking brake has not been used for a long time, the system performs an automatic check at irregular intervals on the parked vehicle. Noises when the parking brake is engaged or released are normal and are not cause for concern.

Parking

Always securely engage the parking brake when parking.

– Stop the vehicle using the brake pedal.

– Pull the (Ⓟ) button so the indicator light Ⓟ in the button comes on. The (!) warning light comes on in the instrument cluster when the parking brake is applied ⇒ page 25.

– Shift into 1st gear (manual transmission) or Park (automatic transmission).

– Stop the engine and remove the key from the ignition lock.

– Always take your key with you when you leave the vehicle ⇒ ⚠.

When parking on a hill

Before stopping the engine, turn the steering wheel so that if the vehicle starts to roll, it will roll into the curb:

- Facing *downhill*, turn the front wheels so that they point toward the curb.
- Facing *uphill*, turn the front wheels so that they point away from the curb.
- Apply the parking brake and shift the transmission into 1st gear (manual) or Park (automatic).

⚠ WARNING

Parking improperly can cause serious personal injury for you or your passengers.

- **Never remove the key from ignition switch while the vehicle is moving or rolling to a stop. The steering will lock and you will not be able to steer or control the vehicle.**
- **Never park where the hot exhaust system could ignite flammable materials, such as brush, leaves, dry grass, spilled fuel etc.**
- **Always apply the parking brake when parking your vehicle.**
- **Never leave anyone behind in your vehicle. Children left in a parked vehicle can release the parking brake and move the selector lever or gear shift and cause the vehicle to move, causing a crash and serious personal injuries.**
- **Always take the key with you when you leave the vehicle. The engine can be started and vehicle systems such as the power windows can be operated leading to serious personal injury.**
- **Never leave children, disabled persons or anyone who cannot help themselves in the vehicle. The doors can be locked using the remote control trapping passengers in the vehicle in an emergency. Depending on the time of year, people trapped in the vehicle can be exposed to very high or very low temperatures.**

Note

- Always be careful when you park in areas with parking barriers or curbs. These vary in height and could damage your bumper and related parts if the front of your vehicle hits a barrier or curb that is too high, as you park or as you back out of a parking spot. To help prevent such damage, you should stop short of having the front tires of your vehicle touch a parking barrier or curb.
- Always be careful when you drive up or down steep ramps, or drive over curbs or other obstacles. Parts of the vehicle close to the ground such as bumper covers, spoilers, suspension or exhaust system parts may be damaged.

Dynamic starting assist

The starting assist function automatically switches off the parking brake.

As you accelerate, the parking brake is automatically released when the vehicle starts to move. See also ⇒ page 29, “Auto Hold”.

Requirements for using the starting assist function

- The driver's door must be closed.
- The driver's safety belt must be fastened.
- The engine must be running.
- Manual transmission vehicles: depress the clutch completely before driving off

Starting with parking brake applied

As you accelerate, the parking brake is automatically released when the vehicle starts to move. See also ⇒ ⚠.

Starting on a hill

The dynamic starting assist function helps keep the vehicle from rolling back when starting on a hill. When you start driving, the parking brake will automatically be switched off. Be sure to give it enough gas ⇒ ⚠.

Starting with a trailer (manual transmission)

Depending on the grade and the total weight, a heavy vehicle and trailer can roll back as you release the clutch to drive off. To help prevent this:

- Pull the button (P) and hold it as you would with a conventional handbrake when starting on a hill. The parking brake is applied and prevents the trailer from rolling back.
- Depress the clutch pedal and select a gear.
- Press the accelerator and release the clutch slowly. Do not release the button until you have engaged the clutch and pressed the accelerator to make sure the engine has sufficient power to move off ⇒ .

WARNING

The intelligent technology of the dynamic starting assist function cannot overcome the laws of physics. Never let the increased convenience provided by the dynamic starting assist function tempt you into taking risks.

- **Unintended vehicle movement can cause serious personal injury.**
- **Dynamic starting assist function cannot replace careful and attentive driving.**
- **Never activate the throttle manually from the engine compartment when the engine is running and the automatic transmission is in gear. The vehicle will start to move as soon as the engine speed increases even if the parking brake is on.**

Note

If you release the clutch pedal on a vehicle with a manual transmission and simultaneously press the accelerator while a gear is not engaged, the parking brake is automatically released.

Tips

The dynamic starting assist function only releases the parking brake if the driver's door is closed and the driver's safety belt is fastened. With a **manual transmission**, you must depress the clutch pedal all the way before you start driving so the system recognizes that the parking brake should be released.

Emergency brake function

With the (P) button on center console, you can slow the vehicle down with the parking brake if the footbrake should not work.

– Pull and hold the (P) button to slow the vehicle with the parking brake in an emergency. A warning sounds.

– As soon as you release the button or accelerate, the braking process stops.

If you pull the (P) button when driving faster than 5 mph (8 km/h), you will activate the emergency braking and the hydraulic brake system will brake all four wheels ⇒ ⚠.

To help prevent inadvertent activation of the emergency braking function an acoustic warning signal sounds when the button is held down.

WARNING

Improper use of the emergency braking feature can lead to loss of control and serious personal injury.

- **Use the emergency braking function only in an emergency, when the foot brake is not working or when the brake pedal is blocked.**
- **Brakes and other systems cannot overcome the laws of physics.**
- **On curves and in poor road or weather conditions, heavy braking can cause the vehicle to break away at the rear, to skid or to leave the road, which can cause a crash and serious personal injury.**

Auto Hold

Auto Hold keeps the vehicle from rolling without having to hold your foot on the brake pedal.

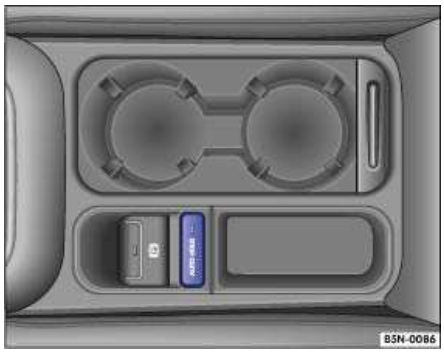

Fig. 10 Auto Hold button on center console.

Requirements for engaging Auto Hold

– The driver's door must be closed.

– The driver's safety belt must be fastened.

– The engine must be running.

– The Electronic Stabilization Program (ESP) must be on ⇒ booklet 3.3 “Tips and Advice”, chapter “Brakes”.

Engaging Auto Hold

– Press the AUTO HOLD switch on the center console so the indicator light in the button comes on.

Disengaging Auto Hold

– Press the AUTO HOLD button on the center console so the indicator light in the button goes off.

– Auto Hold disengages automatically whenever you open the driver's door, unfasten the driver's safety belt, switch the engine off or switch off the ESP. If this happens when the vehicle is completely stopped, the parking brake ⇒ page 24 will engage automatically to hold the vehicle ⇒ .

Auto Hold helps you keep the vehicle at a standstill with the engine running – on a hill, at a traffic light or in stop-and-go traffic, for example. When stopped with Auto Hold on, it takes over and holds the vehicle in place so you can take your foot off the brake pedal.

When the driver presses the accelerator to drive off, the brake is automatically released ⇒ page 27, “Dynamic starting assist”.

If one of the requirements for engaging Auto Hold in no longer met while the vehicle is stopped, Auto Hold disengages, the indicator light in the button goes out, and the parking brake is automatically applied to hold the vehicle.

WARNING

The intelligent technology of Auto Hold cannot overcome the laws of physics. Never let the increased convenience provided by Auto Hold tempt you into taking risks.

- **The Auto Hold function cannot hold the vehicle in all hill start situations (for example, if the ground is slippery or icy).**
- **Auto Hold must be engaged again each time the engine is started.**
- **Never leave the vehicle with Auto Hold engaged and the engine running.**

Note

- If you switch the Electronic Stabilization Program (ESP) off, Auto Hold disengages.
- If you open the driver's door, unfasten the driver's safety belt, stop the engine or switch off ESP when Auto Hold is on, the parking brake will be applied automatically to hold the vehicle.
- If you depress the brake pedal while Auto Hold is disengaged, the parking brake is **not** automatically applied. If you then release the brake pedal, it will **not** keep the vehicle from rolling.
- Always switch the Auto Hold off before taking your vehicle through a car wash.

Tips

- When Auto Hold is on, there is no forward “creep” when the automatic transmission is in gear and the brake pedal is released.

Driver assistance systems

Rear view camera

Applies to vehicles: with rear view camera

Description

The rear view camera in the tailgate helps the driver when backing into a parking space or maneuvering. The Navigation system screen shows a section of the area behind your vehicle.

Fig. 11 The rear view camera in the tailgate located near the license plate lights.

Fig. 12 Controls: screen (1), function buttons (2), menu knob (3), cancel button (4), source selection button (5)

How does the rear view camera switch on?

- Switch the ignition on or leave the engine running.
- Select reverse gear. The screen switches on automatically.

Once the reverse gear has been engaged or **R** selected, **Mode 1** always displayed.

Which display options are available?

- **Mode 1** for assistance when parking in a garage or parking space, ⇒ page 36, “Reversing assist “mode 1””.
- **Mode 2** for assistance when parking at the edge of the road, ⇒ page 38, “Reversing assist “mode 2””.

When does the image in the rear view camera switch off again?

The image in the rear view camera can be switched off manually at any time by pressing one of the source selection buttons ⇒ Fig. 12 (5). To see the image in the rear view camera again, you first have to disengage reverse gear and then select it again.

When maneuvering into a parking space, the image remains on the screen both while backing up and while driving forward as long your speed does not exceed 7 mph (10 km/h).

The image in the rear view camera switches off automatically when **driving forward** for one second at the latest or when your speed exceeds about 10 mph (15 km/h).

Cleaning the lens on the rear view camera

Keep the lens clean and free of snow and ice so that you can clearly see the space behind the vehicle on the screen ⇒ ⚠.

- Dampen the lens with a household alcohol-based glass cleaner and clean the lens with a dry cloth.
- Remove snow with a hand brush.
- Remove ice, preferably with de-icing spray ⇒ ⓘ.

WARNING

Improper reliance on the rear view camera can cause collisions with people, especially small children and other vehicles that can cause serious personal injuries.

- **The rear view camera cannot replace actually looking to the rear and sides of the vehicle and proper use of the rear view mirrors.**
- **Always actually turn around and look where you are going and make sure it is safe to maneuver and particularly to back up.**
- **The rear view camera has blind spots where objects cannot be detected. Watch out especially for small children and animals. The rear view camera cannot always detect them.**
- **Do not allow yourself to be distracted from traffic by the rear view camera and the images on the screen.**
- **Do not orient yourself only by the screen when maneuvering or parking. Due to the resolution of the screen, certain objects may not be displayed or may be displayed poorly, for example, narrow posts or screen fences.**
- **Use the rear view camera only when it provides a good, clear image. The image may be obscured, for example, by light reflected into the lens, dirt on the lens, or because the lens is broken.**
- **If the image is hazy or the area behind the vehicle is not visible (for example, because of a dirty or broken lens), do not use the rear view camera when maneuvering.**
- **The rear view camera provides only a two-dimensional view to the rear. Remember that depressions in the ground and protruding parts on the other vehicles or objects that are sticking out of the ground are more difficult to detect, or cannot be detected at all because of the lack of spatial depth on the screen.**
- **If the position and the installation angle of the camera has changed, for example, after a rear end collision, do not use the rear view camera.**
- **Only use the rear-view camera when the rear hatch is completely closed. Make sure that objects mounted on the rear do not obscure the camera view.**
- **Read and follow the information and warnings on how to use the rear view camera ⇒ page 41.**

Note

- Never remove snow or ice from the camera lens with warm or hot water – you risk cracking the lens.
- Never use cleaners containing abrasives when cleaning the lens.

Applies to vehicles: with rear view camera

Selecting a park mode

Switching between park “mode 1” and park “mode 2”.

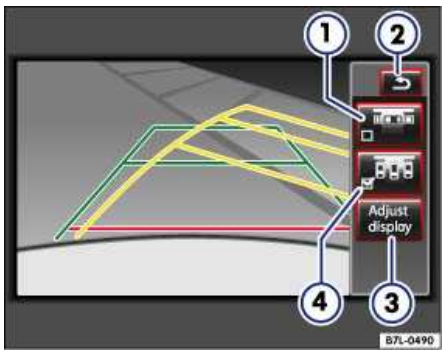

Fig. 13 Parking modes: exit the current display (2), mode 2 (1), display settings (3) and mode 1 (4).

Changing “mode 1” and “mode 2”

– Switch the ignition on or leave the engine running.

– Put the vehicle in reverse gear or select **R**. The display will be turned on or the mode switched. **Mode 1** is always shown as the default.

– Press the function button (1) to switch to “mode 2”. The selected mode is indicated by a check mark in the box.

– Press the function button (4) to switch back to “mode 1”.

– Press the function button Adjust display (3) to change the display settings on the screen ⇒ page 35.

Applies to vehicles: with Reversing assist (Rear scan)

Display Settings: Color, Contrast and Brightness

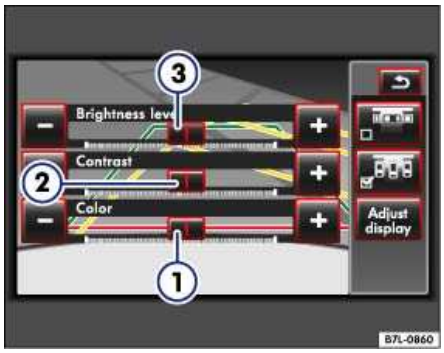

Fig. 14 Display settings: color 1, contrast 2 and brightness 3.

Adjusting screen color, brightness and contrast

– Switch the ignition on or leave the engine running.

– Select reverse gear. The display will be turned on or the mode switched.

– Press the function button Adjust display ⇒ Fig. 13 (3) to change the brightness contrast or the color of the screen. A sliding lever is provided for each setting ⇒ Fig. 14.

– Hold your finger down on the lever and slide it across within the +/– range. The screen view changes accordingly.

– Alternatively, press on + or - next to one of the sliding levers to change the corresponding setting in increments.

– Press the function button ⮌ to exit the display settings.

Applies to vehicles: with rear view camera

Reversing assist “mode 1”

“Mode 1” can be used, for example, to assist when pulling into a parking space.

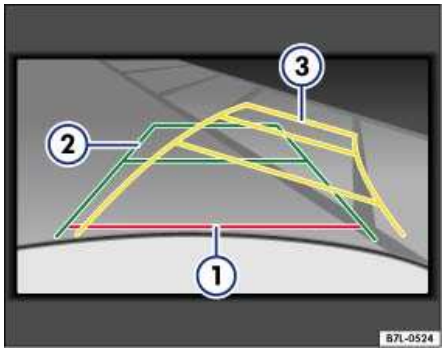

Fig. 15 Representation of the parking area behind the vehicle with static (1), (2) and dynamic (3) orientation lines

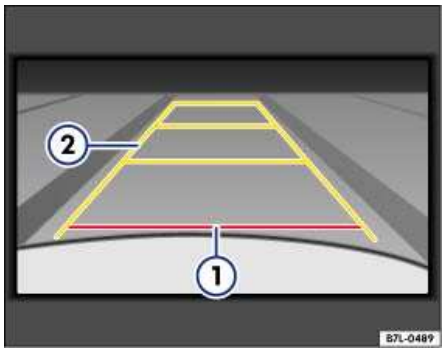

Fig. 16 Aligning the vehicle with the help of orientation lines.

The image displayed on the screen shows the area behind the vehicle and is similar to the view through the interior rear view mirror. The image from the camera remains visible as long as the ignition is switched on and the reverse gear is engaged.

Parking with the reverse assist in “mode 1”

– Position your vehicle in front of a parking space.

– Put the vehicle in reverse gear or select **R**.

– With the vehicle stationary, select the suitable steering wheel angle for the parking space with the help of the yellow orientation lines ⇒ Fig. 15 (3).

– Back up and, while driving, adjust the steering wheel angle to the parking space with the help of the yellow orientation lines (3) ⇒ .
– Align your vehicle with the yellow orientation lines ⇒ Fig. 16 (2).

Meaning of the orientation lines on the screen

The orientation lines are projected into the image from the rear view camera by the system and help to orient the driver when backing up and maneuvering. The orientation lines are superimposed on vehicles or objects displayed on the screen when the vehicle is closer than the distances shown.

As long as a trailer remains attached to the factory-installed trailer hitch[5] or the rear hatch is open, no orientation lines are displayed.

All the distances indicated for the orientation lines refer to a vehicle standing on a horizontal surface.

Color	**Meaning of the orientation lines ⇒ Fig. 15**
Red line (1)	*Static display:* Identifies an area on the ground behind the vehicle about 16 in. (40 cm) from the rear bumper.
Green (2)	*Static display:* Depicts an extension of the external contours of the vehicle to the rear when driving straight, but widened by about 10 in. (25 cm) on the right and left. The position of the green rear orientation line is about two meters away on the ground, measured from the rear bumper on a horizontal surface.
Yellow (3) or ⇒ Fig. 16 (2)	*Dynamic display:* Guided by steering wheel angle, the yellow orientation lines shift in the direction in which the vehicle is backing up. They match the steering wheel angle. The rear yellow orientation line is about 9 $^{3}/_{4}$ ft (3 m) away on the ground, measured from the rear bumper on a horizontal surface.

[5] where applicable

WARNING

Improper reliance on the reversing assist can cause collisions with people, especially small children and other vehicles that can cause serious personal injuries.

- **The camera of the reversing assist cannot replace actually looking to the rear and sides of the vehicle and proper use of the rear view mirrors.**
- **Always actually turn around and look where you are going and make sure it is safe to maneuver and particularly to back up.**
- **The camera has blind spots where objects cannot be detected. Watch out especially for small children and animals. The camera cannot always detect them.**
- **Objects that do not touching the ground can appear to be farther away than they really are (for example, the bumper of a parked vehicle, a trailer hitch, or the back of a truck). If you are approaching objects that do not touch the ground, do not use the guide-assist lines to estimate distance.**
- **Always keep enough distance to vehicles and other objects near your vehicle so that your outside mirror or a corner of your vehicle does not collide with anything near your vehicle.**
- **Always keep the vehicle and its surroundings in view.**
- **Never orient yourself only with the rear camera when maneuvering or parking. because some bystanders or objects may not be displayed or may be displayed poorly, for example, small children, narrow posts or chain link fences.**

Note

The path of the rear of the vehicle is shown on the screen in relation to the steering wheel angle. The vehicle front swings out more than the vehicle rear.

Applies to vehicles: with rear view camera

Reversing assist “mode 2”

“Mode 2” can be used, for example, to help when parallel parking at the edge of the road.

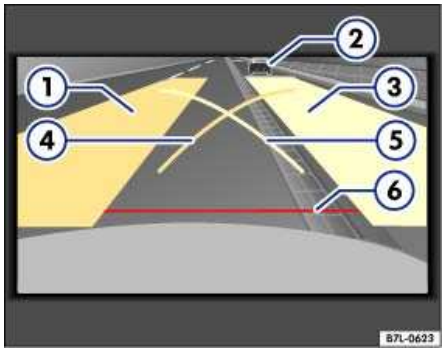

Fig. 17 Illustration of the parking area behind the vehicle right (1), and left (2)

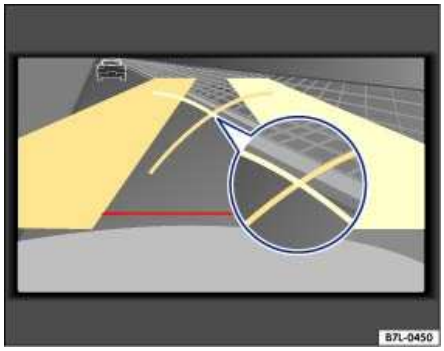

Fig. 18 Curve reaches curb – turning point reached.

The image displayed on the screen shows the area behind the vehicle and is similar to the view through the interior rear view mirror. The image from the camera remains visible as long as the ignition is switched on and the reverse gear is engaged.

Parking with the reverse assist in “mode 2”

– Position your vehicle parallel to the edge of the road, approximately 3 ft. (1 meter) from a parked vehicle.

– Put the vehicle in reverse gear or select **R**.

– Switch on **mode 2**.

– Back up and align your vehicle in such a way that the light yellow surface shown on the screen ⇒ Fig. 17 (3), ends in front of a possible obstacle (e.g. another vehicle) (2). The surface represents the required space to park and must therefore fit completely into the parking space.

– With the vehicle stationary, turn your steering wheel as far as it will go in the direction of the parking space.

– Back up until the light yellow line ⇒ Fig. 18 touches the side limit of the parking space (e.g. a curb).

– Stop your vehicle.

– While the vehicle is stationary, turn your steering wheel in the opposite direction (left) as far as it will go.

– Continue to back up until your vehicle is parallel to the edge of the parking space (e.g. a curb). When backing up, also keep an eye on the front of your vehicle ⇒ .

Orientation lines and marked surfaces on the display

The system projects orientation lines from the rear view camera into the image to help orient the driver when backing up and maneuvering. The orientation lines are superimposed on vehicles or objects displayed on the screen when the vehicle is closer than the distances shown.

When either the right or left turn signal is on, the orientation lines and marked surfaces left ⇒ Fig. 17 (1) and (4), or right (3) and (5) are switched off for the current parking maneuver. During the next parking

maneuver, the orientation lines and marked surfaces are displayed on both sides until the turn signal is activated.

As long as a trailer remains attached to the factory-installed trailer hitch[6] or the rear hatch is open, no orientation lines are displayed.

All the distances indicated for the orientation lines refer to a vehicle standing on a horizontal surface.

Color	Meaning of the orientation lines and marked surfaces ⇒ Fig. 17
Yellow surfaces (1) and (3)	*Static display:* Highlights the parking area on the ground required for the parking operation, laterally and parallel behind the vehicle. When the turn signal is turned on, the unneeded surface to the left or right is hidden.
Yellow lines (4) and (5)	*Static display:* The curves displayed identify the point in the parking maneuver when the steering wheel direction has to be changed ⇒ Fig. 18. If the curve touches the curb or another limit of the parking space, the reversing point has been reached and the steering wheel should be turned all the way in the opposite direction.
Red line (6)	*Static display:* Highlights an area on the ground behind the vehicle about 16 inches (40 cm) from the rear bumper.

WARNING

Improper reliance on the reversing assist can cause collisions with people, especially small children and other vehicles that can cause serious personal injuries.

- **The camera of the reversing assist cannot replace actually looking to the rear and sides of the vehicle and proper use of the rear view mirrors.**
- **Always actually turn around and look where you are going and make sure it is safe to maneuver and particularly to back up.**
- **The camera has blind spots where objects cannot be detected. Watch out especially for small children and animals. The camera cannot always detect them.**
- **Objects that do not touching the ground can appear to be farther away than they really are (for example, the bumper of a parked vehicle, a trailer hitch, or the back of a truck). If you are approaching objects that do not touch the ground, do not use the guide-assist lines to estimate distance.**
- **Always keep enough distance to vehicles and other objects near your vehicle so that your outside mirror or a corner of your vehicle does not collide with anything near your vehicle.**
- **Always keep the vehicle and its surroundings in view.**
- **Never orient yourself only with the rear camera when maneuvering or parking. because some bystanders or objects may not be displayed or may be displayed poorly, for example, small children, narrow posts or chain link fences.**

Note

The path of the rear of the vehicle is shown on the screen in relation to the steering wheel angle. The vehicle front swings out more than the vehicle rear.

[6] where applicable

Applies to vehicles: with rear view camera

Information and safety tips for using the rear view camera

We recommend that you practice parking with the rear view camera in a traffic-free location or parking lot to become familiar with the system, the orientation lines, and their use. Make sure that you have good light and weather conditions to do this ⇒ ⚠.

When you should not use the rear view camera:

- when the air suspension[7] is not working properly,
- when the rear view camera does not provide a reliable image, e.g. in poor visibility conditions or if the lens is dirty,
- when the image on the screen is not visible because of strong sunlight,
- when the vehicle is loaded and too heavy at the rear,
- if you are not familiar with the system.

When do objects or a vehicle appear closer or farther away in the image than they really are?

- when you drive in reverse away from a horizontal surface onto an upgrade or a downgrade,
- when the vehicle is loaded and too heavy at the rear,
- when you are backing up towards protruding objects These objects may disappear from the camera's view when backing up.

[7] Where applicable

WARNING

Improper reliance on the rear view camera can cause collisions with people, especially small children and other vehicles that can cause serious personal injuries.

- **The rear view camera cannot replace actually looking to the rear and sides of the vehicle and proper use of the rear view mirrors.**
- **Always actually turn around and look where you are going and make sure it is safe to maneuver and particularly to back up.**
- **The rear view camera has blind spots where objects cannot be detected. Watch out especially for small children and animals. The rear view camera cannot always detect them.**
- **Do not allow yourself to be distracted from traffic by the rear view camera and the images on the screen.**
- **Do not orient yourself only by the screen when maneuvering or parking. Due to the resolution of the screen, certain objects may not be displayed or may be displayed poorly, for example, narrow posts or screen fences.**
- **Use the rear view camera only when it provides a good, clear image. The image may be obscured, for example, by light reflected into the lens, dirt on the lens, or because the lens is broken.**
- **If the image is hazy or the area behind the vehicle is not visible (for example, because of a dirty or broken lens), do not use the rear view camera when maneuvering.**
- **The rear view camera provides only a two-dimensional view to the rear. Remember that depressions in the ground and protruding parts on the other vehicles or objects that are sticking out of the ground are more difficult to detect, or cannot be detected at all because of the lack of spatial depth on the screen.**
- **If the position and the installation angle of the camera has changed, for example, after a rear end collision, do not use the rear view camera.**
- **Only use the rear-view camera when the rear hatch is completely closed. Make sure that objects mounted on the rear do not obscure the camera view.**
- **Read and follow the information and warnings on how to use the rear view camera ⇒ page 41.**

Cruise control

Applies to vehicles: with cruise control

Description of cruise control

The cruise control system helps maintain a set speed above about 18 mph (30 km/h).

When the desired speed is reached and set, you can take your foot off the accelerator.

Cruise control does not work when the transmission is in 1st gear (manual), or in the **P, N** or **R** positions (automatic).

The **CRUISE** or indicator light comes on in the instrument cluster when cruise control is actively controlling your speed.

WARNING

Using the cruise control when it is not possible to drive safely at a constant speed can be dangerous, and can lead to an accident causing serious personal injury to you and your passengers.

- **Never use the cruise control when driving in heavy or varying traffic, or on steep, winding or slippery roads (snow, ice, streets covered with standing water or gravel, for example).**
- **Always adapt your speed and the distance to the vehicles ahead while considering the traffic situation. This is the duty of the driver. The cruise control is merely an aid to the driver.**
- **To prevent unintended operation of the cruise control, switch the system off when it is not being used.**
- **It is dangerous to use the "Resume" feature when the previously set speed is too high for the existing road, traffic or weather conditions.**
- **Never use the cruise control when driving off-road.**
- **When traveling downhill, the cruise control may not be able to maintain a constant speed. The vehicle will speed up because of its own weight. Downshift and/or use the foot brake to slow the vehicle.**

Note

For vehicle with a manual transmission, do not move the gearshift lever into neutral without depressing the clutch fully when the cruise control is activated. Otherwise the engine could rev up and be damaged.

Applies to vehicles: with cruise control

Using the cruise control

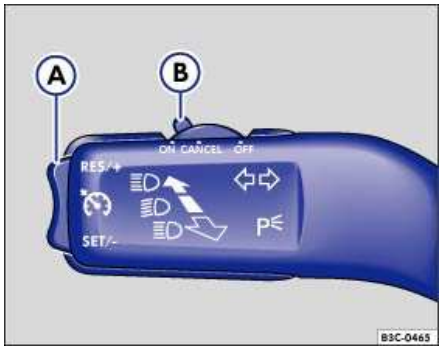

Fig. 19 Controls for operating the cruise control.

Switching on the cruise control

– Move the cruise control switch to the left, to the **ON** position ⇒ Fig. 19 (B).

Switching off the cruise control

– Move the cruise control switch to the right, to the **OFF** position. When the cruise control or the ignition is switched off, the set speed is cleared from the system's memory.

Setting the speed

– Briefly press the SET/- at the bottom part of button (A) once briefly while driving at the desired speed. The current speed is set and will be held constant. The CRUISE or indicator light comes on in the instrument cluster when cruise control is actively controlling your speed.

Increasing the speed

– Press and hold RES/ + at the upper part of button (A) until the desired speed is reached, then release. The vehicle will maintain this higher speed.

Lowering the set speed

– Press and hold SET/- at the lower part of button (A) until the desired speed is reached, then release. The vehicle will maintain this new lower speed. Speed is reduced by coasting and engine braking; the system does not apply the brakes.

If you speed up for a short time, the cruise control will automatically return to the set speed after you release the accelerator. The cruise control will not automatically resume the set speed if it has been exceeded for too long, but the set speed is still saved and can be resumed as described above.

WARNING

Using the cruise control when it is not possible to drive safely at a constant speed is dangerous ⇒ ⚠ in "Description of cruise control" on page 42.

Tips

Switch the cruise control system off completely at the end of each trip.

Applies to vehicles: with cruise control

Switching off cruise control temporarily

You can temporarily switch off the cruise control as follows:

– Press the brake pedal, **OR**

– Depress the clutch pedal (manual transmission), **OR**

– Move the cruise control switch ⇒ Fig. 19 (B) to the right, to the **OFF** position, **OR**

– Shift the automatic transmission into **N** (only in an emergency).

With the cruise control switched off temporarily, as described above, the set speed remains in memory. To resume the speed set earlier, release the brake pedal, move the cruise control switch to the left, to the **ON** position (⇒ Fig. 19 (B)) and press **RES/ +** at the upper part of button (A).

WARNING

Using the cruise control when it is not possible to drive safely at a constant speed is dangerous ⇒ ⚠ in “Description of cruise control” on page 42.

Driving and protecting the environment

Break-in period

Breaking in a new engine

The engine needs to be carefully broken in during the first 1000 miles (1500 km).

For the first 600 miles (1000 km)

– Do not drive faster than 3/4 of the top speed shown on the speedometer.
– Do not use full throttle.
– Avoid high engine speeds.
– Do not tow a trailer.

From 600 to 1000 miles (1000 to 1500 km)

– Speeds can be *gradually* increased to the maximum vehicle speed or maximum permissible engine speed (rpm).

During the first few hours of driving, the engine's internal friction is higher than it will be later when all the moving parts have been broken in.

For the sake of environment

If the engine is broken in gently, the life of the engine will be increased and its oil consumption reduced.

Breaking in new tires and brake pads

New tires should be broken in carefully for the first 350 miles (560 km). New brake pads should be broken in carefully for the first 150 miles (240 km).

During the first 150 miles (240 km), you can adjust for the reduced braking effect by applying more pressure to the brake pedal. If you need to make an emergency stop, the braking distance will be longer with new brake pads than with brake pads which have been broken in.

WARNING

New tires and brake pads do not provide maximum grip, control or braking ability.

- **To reduce the risk of losing control, a collision and serious personal injuries, drive with special care for the first 350 miles (560 km).**
- **New brake pads do not have the best stopping power for the first 150 miles (240 km) and must be broken in. You can adjust for the slightly reduced braking effect by putting more pressure on the brake pedal.**
- **Never follow other vehicles too closely or put yourself into other situations that might require sudden, hard braking especially when the brake pads have not been broken in.**

Braking power and braking distance

Driving situations and road conditions affect braking performance and stopping distances.

Worn brake pads will not provide good braking. Brake pad wear depends mainly on operating conditions and the way the vehicle is driven. If you do a lot of city driving, often drive short distances or have a sporty driving style, we recommend that you have your brake pads checked by an authorized Volkswagen dealer more often than recommended as scheduled maintenance.

Wet brakes caused by driving through water, after heavy rainfall or after washing the vehicle, will not brake well. Stopping distances will be longer when brake discs are wet or, in winter, maybe even icy. Wet brakes must be dried as soon as possible by gently applying the brakes.

Brake fluid absorbs water and should be changed every two years. Heavy use of the brakes can cause vapor lock if the brake fluid is too old. Vapor lock reduces braking performance, increases stopping distances and can even cause total brake failure.

WARNING

- **New tires and new brake pads do not provide maximum grip, control or braking performance.**
- **To reduce the risk of losing control, a collision and serious personal injuries, drive with special care for the first 350 miles (560 km).**
- **New brake pads do not have the best stopping power for the first 150 miles (240 km) and must be broken in. You can adjust for the slightly reduced braking performance by driving with care and putting more pressure on the brake pedal.**
- **Never follow other vehicles to closely or put yourself into other situations that might require sudden, hard braking especially when the brake pads have not been broken in.**

WARNING

Wet brakes or brakes coated with ice or road salt react slower and need longer stopping distances.

- **Carefully apply brakes for a test.**
- **Always dry brakes and clean off ice and salt coatings with a few cautious brake applications.**
- **Always read and heed all WARNINGS ⇒ ⚠ in “Breaking in new tires and brake pads” on page 46.**

WARNING

Overheated brakes will reduce the vehicle's stopping power and increase stopping distances.

- **Always avoid overheating the brakes!**
- **When driving downhill, the brakes have to work hard and heat up quickly.**
- **Before driving down a long, steep hill, always reduce speed and downshift to a lower gear. This will let the vehicle use engine braking and reduce the load on the brakes.**
- **Always change the brake fluid at least every two years. Hard braking with old brake fluid may cause a vapor lock. Vapor lock reduces braking power, increases stopping distances and can even cause total brake failure.**
- **A damaged front spoiler or a non-standard spoiler can reduce airflow to the brakes and make them overheat.**
- **Always see an authorized Volkswagen dealer or a qualified workshop if you think that you may have damaged the front spoiler.**
- **Be sure to read and heed all WARNINGS and the information ⇒ booklet 3.3 “Tips and Advice”, chapter “Accessories, new parts, repairs and modifications” before buying accessories.**

Operate your vehicle safely

For driving safety, always follow the scheduled maintenance intervals in your maintenance Booklet ⇒ booklet 1.1 “Maintenance” – especially for changing the brake fluid. Hard use, frequent stop-and-go driving, operating in very dusty areas, trailer towing and other conditions may make it necessary to shorten maintenance intervals – see your authorized Volkswagen dealer.

Your vehicle’s condition is directly related to driving safety.

Before you drive off, always:

- Check lights and turn signals.
- Check fuel level.
- Make sure that all lights and windows are clean.
- Adjust the mirrors.
- Make sure that the air inlet slots between the hood and windshield are free of leaves, snow and ice, and other debris.
- Check warning symbols and indicator lights when starting the engine.

Your personal driving style and attitude have a lot to do with safety.

For your own safety:

- Wear your safety belts and wear them properly, even if you are just driving in the city or to the corner store ⇒ booklet 2.1 “Safety First”, chapter “Safety belts.”
- Make sure that all passengers wear their safety belts properly, even those sitting in the rear ⇒ booklet 2.1 “Safety First”, chapter “Safety belts.” Passengers not wearing safety belts endanger not only themselves in a crash, but also the driver and other passengers.
- Make sure that children always sit on the rear seat, properly restrained by a restraint system appropriate for their size and age.
- Never transport a child in a rear-facing child or infant seat on the front passenger seat ⇒ booklet 2.1 “Safety First.”
- Adjust your seat so that you can easily reach all controls while you are as far away from the steering wheel airbag as possible, but no closer than 10 inches (25 cm) ⇒ booklet 2.1 “Safety First” and ⇒ booklet 3.1 “Controls and Equipment.”
- Seating position is very important to airbag performance ⇒ booklet 2.1 “Safety First”, chapter “Airbag system.”
- Always adjust head restraints to the correct height. For maximum protection, adjust the head restraint so that the upper edge is as even with the top of your head as possible. The back of your head should be as close as possible to the head restraint ⇒ booklet 2.1 “Safety First.”
- Always make sure that nothing keeps the pedals from moving freely ⇒ booklet 2.1 “Safety First”, chapter “Pedal area.”
- Store luggage and light items properly in the luggage compartment and on the roof ⇒ booklet 3.1 “Controls and Equipment”, chapter “Luggage compartment” and ⇒ booklet 3.1 “Controls and Equipment”, chapter “Roof rack.”

If you drink, do not drive!

Alcohol, drugs and some medications will seriously impair perception, reactions and driving ability, substantially increasing the risk of an accident, crash and personal injury.

Do not drive if you are tired.

Make frequent rest stops, at least after every two hours of driving.

Always adjust your vehicle speed to traffic, road and weather conditions.

Remember that, especially on smooth, slippery roads, vehicle handling and braking depend on your tires’ ability to grip the road. Driving too fast on wet roads, the front tires can hydroplane, riding on a cushion of water instead of the road surface. If this happens, you will not be able to steer or brake properly.

WARNING

- **Always observe posted speed limits and use common sense. Your good judgment can mean the difference between arriving safely at your destination and being seriously injured in a crash or other kind of accident.**
- **Always read and heed all WARNINGS and additional information about safety ⇒ booklet 2.1 “Safety First.”**

Trailer towing

Technical requirements

Your Volkswagen was mainly designed for carrying passengers. If you plan to tow a trailer, please remember that your vehicle will be performing a service for which it was not primarily intended. The additional load will affect durability, handling, fuel economy and performance.

Trailer towing not only places more stress on the vehicle, it calls for more concentration from the driver.

For these reasons, always follow the operating and driving instructions given, and use common sense.

Trailer hitch

Use a weight-carrying hitch designed for the gross weight of the trailer you want to tow. The hitch must be suitable for your vehicle and trailer and be securely bolted to appropriate place on the vehicle's chassis. Use only a trailer hitch with a removable ball mount. Always check with the trailer hitch manufacturer to make sure that you are using the correct hitch. Never install a *weight distributing* or *load equalizing* trailer hitch on your vehicle ⇒ ⚠.

Do not use a bumper hitch.

A hitch must not interfere with the impact-absorbing bumper system. Do not make any changes to the vehicle exhaust and brake systems. From time to time, check that all hitch-mounting bolts are securely fastened.

When you are not towing, remove the trailer hitch ball. This helps keep the hitch from causing damage if your vehicle is hit from behind.

Engine cooling system

Towing a trailer makes the engine work harder. It is important that the engine cooling system is up to the job. Make sure that the cooling system has enough coolant.

Trailer brakes

If your trailer has its own brakes, make sure it meets all regulations. The trailer brake system must never be directly connected to the vehicle's brake system.

Safety chains

Always use safety chains between your vehicle and the trailer.

Trailer lights

Trailer lights must meet all regulations ⇒ ⓘ.

Never connect the trailer lights directly to the lighting system of your vehicle. Be sure to check with your authorized Volkswagen dealer about correct wiring, switches and relays.

Mirrors

If you cannot see the traffic behind you using the regular outside mirrors, then you must install extended mirrors. It's vital that you always have clear vision to the rear.

Maximum power consumption for the trailer

Do not exceed the power ratings listed in the chart below ⇒ ⓘ.

Electrical load	Max. power
Taillights total	50 Watt
Turn signals per side	54 Watt
Brake lights total	84 Watt
Backup light total	42 Watt

WARNING

An improperly installed or incorrect trailer hitch can cause a trailer to separate from the tow vehicle and cause serious personal injuries.

- **Never install a "weight distributing" or "load equalizing" trailer hitch on your vehicle. The vehicle was not designed for these kinds of trailer hitches. The hitch attachment can fail causing the trailer to tear loose from the vehicle.**

WARNING

When you don't have to tow a trailer any more, remove the entire trailer hitch. Always seal all bolt holes to prevent water and deadly exhaust fumes from getting into the vehicle.

Note

- Do not use a trailer with LED (light emitting diodes) taillights, as they can damage your vehicle's electrical system.
- If the trailer lights are not connected properly, the vehicle's electrical system may be damaged.
- If the trailer uses too much electricity (⇒ page 50), the vehicle's electrical system may be damaged.
- Never connect the electrical system for the trailer directly to the electrical connections for the rear lights or to any other unsuitable power sources. Use only a suitable connector to provide power to the trailer.

Operating instructions

Maximum trailer weight

You can only tow a typical Class I or Class II trailer with your vehicle.

The maximum gross trailer weight and the tongue weight must never exceed the specifications listed in ⇒ booklet 3.5 "Technical Data."

Never exceed the vehicle's Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR), which is the total weight of the vehicle, including driver, passengers, luggage, trailer hitch and tongue weight of the loaded trailer.

Please see ⇒ booklet 3.3 "Tips and Advice", chapter "Tires and wheels – Determining correct load limit " for an example of how to calculate the total weight of passengers and luggage or other things that you plan to transport, and make sure that your vehicle will not be overloaded.

At altitudes above 3,000 ft. (1,000 m), combined towing weight (vehicle plus trailer) should be reduced by 10% for every 3,000 ft. (1,000 m).

Trailer load distribution

Be sure the load in the trailer is held securely in place to guard against shifting forward, backward or sideways. A load that shifts can make it hard or even impossible to control your vehicle, particularly in an emergency situation.

With the tow vehicle empty and the trailer loaded, weight distribution is especially bad. If you absolutely must drive with this combination, drive with extra care and at a suitably slow speed.

Tongue weight

For best vehicle handling when towing a trailer, adjust the trailer load so that the tongue weight is at the maximum allowable or slightly lower. You can estimate tongue weight using a bathroom scale, or you can measure the load at a trucking company or weigh station.

Tongue weight increases the load on the rear axle and, in turn, reduces the remaining load your vehicle can carry ⇒ ⚠.

Tire pressure

When towing a trailer, inflate your vehicle's tires to the cold tire inflation pressure listed on the sticker inside the driver's door. Inflate trailer tires to the trailer and tire manufacturers' specifications ⇒ booklet 3.3 "Tips and Advice", chapter "Tires and wheels."

Lights

Before driving off, always check headlight aiming with the trailer connected. Adjust as necessary so that you can see the road ahead but not blind oncoming traffic.

Make sure that all vehicle and trailer lights are working properly – especially the brake lights.

Safety chains

Be sure trailer safety chains are properly connected from the trailer to the hitch on the vehicle. Leave enough slack in the chains to turn corners. Make sure they will not drag on the road while driving.

The chains should cross under the trailer tongue to keep it from dropping to the ground if the trailer separates from the hitch.

Electronic Stabilization Program (ESP)

Always leave the ESP switched on when you tow a trailer. The ESP makes it easier to stabilize the trailer if it starts to swerve or sway.

Starting on hill

To make starting on an incline with a trailer easier, use the Auto Hold function[8] ⇒ booklet 3.1 "Controls and Equipment", chapter "Parking brake."

Auto Hold helps the driver when the vehicle is stationary and when starting from rest by automatically preventing the vehicle from rolling.

Press the AUTO HOLD switch on the center console to engage Auto Hold. The indicator light in the button comes on.

With Auto Hold engaged, the vehicle is automatically prevented from rolling without the need for you to constantly apply the footbrake. In order to have the **right conditions** for activating the Auto Hold function, the driver's door must be closed, the driver's safety belt must be fastened and the engine must be running.

[8] where applicable

WARNING

Always adjust your speed and driving style to road, traffic and weather conditions. Never let the extra safety that ESP and ASR can provide tempt you into taking extra risks.

WARNING

Riding in a trailer is dangerous and may be illegal.

- **A person who is not properly restrained in a moving vehicle risks serious personal injury and even death in a crash.**
- **Never let anyone ride in your vehicle without being properly restrained.**
- **Never allow a passenger to ride in a trailer.**

WARNING

Exceeding the maximum permissible weight ratings and maximum permissible trailer weights can cause accidents and serious personal injury.

- **Never let the actual weights at the front and rear axles exceed the permissible Gross Axle Weight Ratings. Never let the combined front and rear weights exceed the Gross Vehicle Weight Rating.**
- **Always remember that the vehicle's handling will be affected by the extra load. Therefore, adjust your speed accordingly.**

Tips

- Never tow a trailer during the vehicle break-in period.
- If you tow a trailer, your vehicle may need maintenance more often because of the extra load it has to move.
- Always check local regulations about trailer towing.

Driving tips

For the best handling of vehicle and trailer:

- A balanced vehicle and trailer is easier to drive and control. This means that the tow vehicle should be loaded first keeping the trailer as light as possible. When possible, transfer some cargo to the luggage compartment of the tow vehicle while following tongue weight requirements and vehicle loading considerations.
- Higher speeds make the vehicle and trailer harder to control. **Do not drive at the speed limit** ⇒ ⚠.
- Drive defensively, watch traffic up ahead, and always brake sooner than you would without a trailer in tow. When driving downhill, downshift into a lower gear to use the engine braking to slow down the vehicle. Using the brakes alone can cause them to overheat and fail.
- Engine cooling cannot be increased by downshifting because radiator cooling fan speed does not change with engine speed. When driving uphill, drive in the highest possible gear with the lowest engine

speed. If the coolant temperature warning light in the instrument cluster starts flashing in red, pull off the road, stop and let the engine idle for about 2 minutes to prevent a heat buildup and engine damage.

WARNING

Improper trailing towing can cause loss of vehicle control and serious personal injury.

- **Reduce your speed even more under unfavorable load, weather or wind conditions – particularly when going downhill.**
- **Be especially careful when passing other vehicles. Reduce vehicle speed immediately if the trailer shows the slightest sign of swaying.**
- **Never try to stop the swaying by accelerating.**
- **Always obey speed limits. In some areas speed limits for vehicles towing trailers are lower than for vehicles without trailers.**

Trailer towing tips

Never tow a trailer during the vehicle break-in period.

Your vehicle handles differently when towing a trailer because of the additional weight and different weight distribution. Safety, performance and fuel economy will depend on how carefully you load and operate your vehicle and trailer.

Before you actually tow the trailer, practice turning, stopping and backing up in an area away from traffic until you learn how your vehicle and trailer “rig” reacts to acceleration and braking.

Backing up with a trailer is not easy and requires practice. Steering while backing up is usually opposite of that when backing up without a trailer.

Keep more distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you. You will need more room to stop.

You will need a larger than normal turning radius when towing a trailer.

When passing, remember that you cannot accelerate as fast as you normally would because of the added load. Make sure you have enough room to pass. After passing, allow plenty of room for your trailer before changing lanes again.

Avoid jerky starts, sharp turns and sudden lane changes.

Parking

After parking, always block the wheels of both vehicle and trailer. Do not park with a trailer on a slope. If it cannot be avoided, be sure to:

- Apply the foot brake.
- Have a helper place chocks to block both vehicle and trailer wheels.
- With the chocks in place, slowly release brakes until the chocks absorb the load.
- Turn the wheels toward curb (when facing downhill) or toward the street (when facing uphill).
- Firmly apply the parking brake.
- Shift the automatic transmission into **P** (Park).

If you shift the automatic transmission to **P** (Park) before applying the parking brake and before blocking the wheels, you may need more force to shift out of the Park.

Restarting

When restarting after parking on a slope, reverse the procedure:

- Start the engine.
- Shift the transmission into gear.
- Release the parking brake and slowly move away from the wheel chocks.
- Stop and have a helper retrieve the chocks.

Tips

- If you tow a trailer, your vehicle may need maintenance more often because of the extra load it has to move.
- Always check local regulations about trailer towing.

Applies to vehicles: with anti-theft alarm system and a trailer towing set

Linking your trailer to the vehicle’s anti-theft alarm system

The anti-theft alarm system will be triggered as soon as the electrical connection between the trailer and your locked vehicle is broken.

The electrical system of your vehicle **must be modified** by an authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop, if you want to integrate your trailer to the vehicle’s anti-theft alarm system ⇒ .

Connecting your trailer to the anti-theft alarm system

If you vehicle was built to include both the anti-theft alarm system and a trailer towing package, then the trailer towing package (if available) is integrated into the anti-theft alarm system. This is what you must do if you are going to tow a trailer:

- Insert the trailer connector completely into the vehicle trailer socket.
- Lock the vehicle with the remote key.
- The trailer is now integrated into the anti-theft alarm system

For more information about the anti-theft alarm system ⇒ booklet 3.1 “Controls and Equipment”, chapter “Anti-theft alarm system.”

Disconnecting your trailer from the anti-theft alarm system

- Unlock the vehicle with the remote key.
- The anti-theft alarm system is now off.

Note

Modifying the electrical system improperly can cause expensive damage to the vehicle's electrical system. We recommend you have your authorized Volkswagen dealer or qualified workshop perform any service on the electrical system.

Drive economically and help protect the environment

General notes

Fuel consumption depends on your personal driving style.

Fuel economy, environmental impact and wear on the engine, brakes and tires depend largely on three things:

- Personal driving style.
- Road and weather conditions.
- Vehicle condition.

By driving with economy in mind and planning ahead for traffic conditions, you can easily increase fuel economy by 10-15%. This section suggests some ways to reduce the impact on the environment while reducing operating costs.

Think ahead

A vehicle uses more fuel when accelerating. If you think ahead about traffic and road conditions, you will be able to brake less and accelerate less. When possible, let the vehicle coast slowly to a stop, when approaching a red light, or when traffic ahead is slowing or stopped, for example.

Regular maintenance and service

Having your vehicle serviced regularly by an authorized Volkswagen dealer or a qualified workshop helps you get better fuel economy even *before* you start driving. A well-maintained engine gives you **better fuel efficiency**, maximum reliability and greater resale value.

An engine that is not properly maintained can use up to 10% more fuel than necessary.

Check the **oil level** every time you fill the fuel tank ⇒ booklet 3.3 “Tips and Advice”, chapter “Checking and filling”. Oil consumption varies with engine load and engine speed.

Short distances

The engine and catalytic converter must reach **normal operating temperature** to properly control exhaust emissions.

A cold engine is less efficient, and will use more fuel until it reaches normal operating temperature. Colder outside temperatures also increase fuel consumption.

Warranty coverage

Your Volkswagen is covered by the following warranties:

- Limited New Vehicle Warranty
- Limited Powertrain Warranty
- Limited Warranty Against Corrosion Perforation
- Emission Control System Warranty
- Emissions Performance Warranty
- California Emissions Control Warranty[9]
- California Emissions Performance Warranty[9]

Your Warranty Booklet has detailed information about these warranties.

[9] where applicable

Driving off-road

Driving under difficult conditions and off-road

We would like to welcome you as a new Tiguan driver

Your Tiguan can been driven both, on and off-road. In this chapter “Driving” you will find important information on driving your vehicle. However, it is very important to review the off-road chapter before taking your vehicle off-road.

Roll-over warning

A vehicle's **center of gravity** affects its roll-over characteristics. The Tiguan's center of gravity is higher than that of a passenger vehicle to give it better clearance when driving off-road. Because of its higher center of gravity there is an increased risk of roll-over while driving your Tiguan. Always keep this in mind when driving your Tiguan and follow safety tips and warnings in this Booklet.

WARNING

Utility vehicles have a significantly higher roll-over rate than other types of vehicles.

- **In a roll-over crash, an unbelted person is significantly more likely to be seriously injured or even killed than a person wearing a safety belt.**
- **Your vehicle has a higher center of gravity and an increased risk of roll-over while driving than a standard passenger vehicle that is not suitable for occasional off-road use.**
- **Never drive too fast, particularly through curves, or attempt extreme driving maneuvers.**
- **Always adjust your speed and driving style to road, terrain, traffic and weather conditions.**
- **Transporting luggage or other items on top of your vehicle raises the center of gravity and can further increase the risk of roll-over.**
- **Always avoid driving crosswise on a slope.**
- **If stopped crosswise on a slope, never get out of the vehicle using the doors that face downhill. The combined center of gravity of the vehicle and its contents (passengers and load) can shift, causing the vehicle to tip over and roll down the slope. Always exit the vehicle calmly using the doors that face uphill.**

Information and safety tips

Your Tiguan is not off-road vehicle only. Although your vehicle is suitable for off-road driving, it was not designed for “expeditions”.

Never drive the vehicle in terrain which is not suitable for the vehicle, or which exceeds your driving skills. Never take any unnecessary risks!

Before you drive off-road

- Check the oil level and top off to the MAX mark if necessary. This ensures the engine has enough oil when it is at steep angles ⇒ booklet 3.3 “Tips and Advice”.
- Fill up your fuel tank before you drive off-road. Off-road driving uses more fuel than normal driving conditions.
- Fill up the windshield washer fluid container.
- Stow gear as low and as evenly as possible in the vehicle, put heavy items as far forward in the luggage compartment as possible; secure all loose items.

After off-road driving

- Check under the vehicle for possible leaks and damage. If you suspect that the vehicle has been damaged, contact your authorized Volkswagen dealer immediately.
- Check the tires and axles for damage. Remove dirt, stones and other objects from the brakes and tire treads if necessary.
- Clean the turn signals, lights, license plates and all windows.
- Remove caked-on dirt from under the vehicle.

WARNING

Inadequate experience and knowledge of the demands of off-road driving can lead to critical situations and cause serious personal injury.

- **Properly worn safety belts can reduce the risk of injury during sudden braking or vehicle maneuvers and accidents. Therefore, always wear safety belts properly and make sure all of your passengers do too whenever the vehicle is moving.**
- **Not wearing safety belts, or wearing them improperly will increase the risk of serious injuries when driving off-road. Holding the steering wheel improperly will reduce your ability to control the vehicle and can also increase the risk of injury when driving off-road.**
- **Never wrap your thumbs around the steering wheel rim. When driving off-road, obstacles in front of the wheels can make the steering wheel jerk suddenly in your hands and cause personal injury. Rest your thumbs pointing up on the surface of the steering wheel at the 3 and 9 o'clock positions.**
- **Never take routes or risks that could put you or your passengers in danger. If you cannot go on or have doubts about the safety of your route, go back and take a new route.**
- **The technology in the Tiguan cannot change the laws of physics. Despite the ABS, adverse terrain can cause instability through blocked wheels – for example, if you brake hard when driving on a loose gravel road. Difficult terrain may also prevent the ESP from doing its job.**
- **To reduce the risk of loss of control and serious personal injury, never use the cruise control when driving off-road.**
- **Even terrain that looks easy can be difficult and dangerous, putting you and your passengers in a critical situation.**
- **Drive with special care and think ahead in off-road terrain. If you drive too fast, or fail to maneuver the vehicle properly, you could cause personal injury and damage the vehicle.**
- **Never drive faster than is appropriate for the prevailing terrain, road conditions, traffic and weather conditions.**
- **Never drive too fast along embankments, ramps or slopes - the vehicle could become airborne. If that happens, you will not be able to steer and can lose control.**
- **If your vehicle becomes airborne, always keep the front wheels pointing straight ahead. If the wheels are not pointing straight ahead when the vehicle lands, it could roll over.**
- **Spinning wheels can turn stones, pieces of wood or other items under the wheels including things used to improve traction on slippery ground into dangerous projectiles.**
- **Never drive off-road if you are low on fuel. The fuel supply to the engine could be interrupted when you drive over bumps, across slopes, and up or down hills. Interrupting fuel flow to the engine could stall the engine during a maneuver in difficult terrain causing loss of control.**
- **After driving through water or mud, the braking effect can be reduced due to moisture on the brake discs and brake pads. A few careful brake applications should dry off the brakes.**

Note

- Always be aware of the vehicle's ground clearance. Steering, suspension and other parts of the vehicle can be severely damaged if the vehicle bottoms out.
- Never drive off-road if you are low on fuel. The fuel supply to the engine could be interrupted damaging the catalytic converter.
- Do not slip the clutch or rest your foot on the clutch when driving off-road. When travelling over uneven ground, you could press the clutch by mistake, and lose control of the vehicle. A slipped clutch

also prevents power being transferred from the engine to the transmission. Driving with the clutch partially engaged causes premature wear to the clutch lining.

- Never just drive over a large rock. A large rock can damage important parts on the bottom of your vehicle and cause a major breakdown. You could be stuck far away from help. To avoid these problems, never let a large rock pass between the wheels and under the vehicle. If there is no way around the rock, and you cannot drive over it, back up and find another route.
- Even objects, which are lower than the available ground clearance, can come into contact with the underbody and cause damage and vehicle breakdown. This is particularly true if there is a dip or soft ground behind the object or you drive over the object too fast and the shock absorbers are compressed.
- If you drive through water, parts of the vehicle, such as the engine, drive train, transmission and vehicle electrics, could be severely damaged.
- Never drive through salt water. Salt causes vehicle corrosion. Thoroughly rinse with fresh water all components that were exposed to salt.

For the sake of environment

“Tread lightly” is an educational program designed to increase public awareness of land use regulations and responsibilities in our nation's wilderness areas. Volkswagen supports the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management in encouraging you to preserve our national forests and other public and private lands by “treading lightly.”

- Leaking engine oil and brake fluid can pollute the environment.

Tips

Fuel supply and fuel consumption

- Fuel consumption can be higher than normal when you drive off-road. This is particularly true in difficult terrain. Take this higher fuel consumption into account when you calculate whether you have enough fuel for your trip. Please remember that the nearest gas station may be far away.

Technical terms

The technical data in the table below only apply to ideal conditions. These maximum values do not apply, for example, to off-road situations and will also be lower on hard, firm surfaces if ideal conditions do not exist. As the driver, you are always responsible for deciding if your vehicle is able to deal with a particular situation ⇒ ⚠.

Term	Explanation	Technical data
Approach/departure angle	Transition from horizontal plane to a slope, or from a slope to flat ground. Maximum angle in degrees the vehicle can be driven at low speed along an embankment without the bumper or underbody scraping.	maximum approach / departure angle front: 18° rear: 25°
Ground clearance	This is the vertical distance between the level ground and the lowest item on the vehicle between the axles	maximum ground clearance: 6.5 inches (165 mm)

Term	Explanation	Technical data
Breakover angle	Maximum permitted angle given in degrees that a vehicle driven at low speed can clear a ramp without the underbody of the vehicle scraping the ramp.	maximum breakover angle: 21 degrees

WARNING

Never exceed the recommended maximum values in the above chart. Exceeding these values will result in serious personal injury and/or damage to your vehicle.

- **All values listed above are for ideal conditions and assume firm, even surfaces that are dry and not slippery.**
- **Off-road conditions will always be less than ideal. Always leave an adequate margin of safety between the actual off-road conditions and the ideal maximum values listed in the table above.**
- **Always read and heed all WARNINGS ⇒ page 58, "Information and safety tips"**

General rules and tips for driving off-road

When driving under difficult conditions or off-road remember: Drive with clear sight and slowly!

When driving off-road, observe the following:

– Never drive the vehicle in terrain which is not suitable for the vehicle, or which exceeds your driving skills. Never take any unnecessary risks!

– Drive slowly and with clear sight!

– Pay attention to the **ground clearance** of your vehicle!

Difficult terrain and off-road

Never drive in areas that are not familiar to you and drive slowly when off road and be prepared and expect the unexpected (e.g. potholes, boulders, tree stumps, etc.).

To prevent the vehicle from bottoming and avoid damage to the underbody, you should drive straight across severe bumps in the ground with only one side of the vehicle so that only two of your wheels cross the bumps.

Drive quickly through sandy or marshy offroad sections and do not stop, if at all possible.

Driving through water

Wet terrain, for example due to rain, is no problem for the Tiguan. Driving through flooded terrain could result in damages to your vehicle. Check the depth of the water before driving through water.

Water with a depth to the bottom edge of the body, for example puddles or shallow water, can be driven through carefully with the Tiguan. You should drive at walking pace to prevent the water splashing up. Never stop the vehicle or drive backwards in water and never switch off the engine.

Water levels above the bottom edge of the body can damage the vehicle and should be avoided.

If you have to drive through water, you should have the vehicle checked for damage as soon as possible by an authorized Volkswagen dealer.

Driving on a slope

If you ever find yourself **not** able to climb a slope, do not try to turn around, drive back down in **reverse**. Otherwise you run the risk of tipping over.

If the vehicle threatens to tip over when driving across a slope, you must immediately steer downhill in the direction of the slope.

Do **not** park your vehicle on steep slopes or grades.

To reduce the risk of tipping over, drive on slopes in the direction of the downward slope (fall line) - **never crosswise**.

If the vehicle stops when traversing a slope, and you and your passengers have to get out of the vehicle, all vehicle occupants must get out of the vehicle using the doors pointing up the slope. This applies even if it is difficult to open the doors.

Driving over snow-covered terrain

Always mount winter tires when the street conditions call for them. Before driving on unploughed stretches of deep snow, install snow chains. For technical reasons, snow chains may be only mounted on the front wheels.

WARNING

Always read and heed all WARNINGS ⇒ page 58, “Information and safety tips”

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