An 80,000-pound, fully-loaded semi can weigh 20 times more than an average car or truck. Even with terrific braking systems, trucks simply can’t stop as quickly as passenger vehicles.

**DO THE MATH**

Total stopping distance for a car or truck can be calculated as follows:

**Perception**
How far you travel before you understand what’s happening

**Reaction**
How far you travel before your foot hits the brake

**Braking**
How far your car travels once the brakes engage before the car stops

Semis also have to factor **brake lag**, or the time it takes for all the brakes on a truck to fully engage.

**TOTAL STOPPING DISTANCES**

**Comparison of Stopping Distances at 65 mph**

Stopping distance can be greatly affected by road surfaces, weather conditions or debris. Give yourself even more room when driving around big rigs.