

Principles for Underground Parkade Design

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The District of North Vancouver is exploring principles to enhance the experience in underground parking facilities.

1. Locations of **parkade entries** should be well signed.
2. Introduce **natural lighting, openness, and visual permeability**, as much as possible.
3. Use of art, colour, music, or other elements can **enhance the experience in the parkade**.
4. **Lighting** must be uniformly distributed to avoid dark areas with sufficient overlap of light distribution.
5. Consider using advanced technologies to provide **information on availability of parking spaces**.
6. **Exit routes** should be well-marked.
7. Design of parking facility driveways should **promote internal circulation and safety on the surrounding street network**.
8. Where possible, **orient parking aisles parallel to pedestrian desire lines**, so that pedestrians of all ages and abilities are comfortable moving between their vehicle and the destination.
9. Sight lines should provide a **clear view of surroundings**.
10. **Availability of help** should be clearly marked with signage.
11. Active security measures like alarm buttons, video cameras and security patrols in parking facilities **enhance security monitoring**.
12. **Share parking between complimentary land uses**. Design features like how security gates are located can make a difference to the success of shared parking programs.



(Adapted from Safety Design Guidelines for Parking Facilities, ICBC, 1998)