

Common Runway Errors

If you're having trouble with your takeoffs and landings, it's likely someone, somewhere has been there before you. Even if each time you're on a runway, there's no doubt about the operation's safe outcome, you may still want to review this list of common errors, borrowed from the FAA's *Airplane Flying Handbook* (AFH), FAA-H-8083-3A.



TAKEOFFS

- Failure to anticipate the airplane's left turning tendency on initial acceleration.
- Overcorrecting for left turning tendency.
- Relying solely on the airspeed indicator rather than developed feel for indications of speed and airplane controllability during acceleration and lift-off.
- Failure to attain proper liftoff attitude.
- Inadequate compensation for torque/P-factor during initial climb, resulting in a sideslip.
- Over-control of elevators during initial climbout.
- Using less than full aileron pressure into the wind initially on the takeoff roll.
- Mechanical use of aileron control rather than sensing the need for varying aileron control input through feel for the airplane.
- Premature liftoff, resulting in sideskipping.
- Excessive aileron input in the latter stage of the takeoff roll, resulting in a steep bank into the wind at liftoff.
- Inadequate drift correction after liftoff.



LANDINGS

- Failure to adequately compensate for flap extension.
- Poor trim technique on final approach.
- Attempting to maintain altitude or reach the runway using elevator alone.
- Focusing too close to the airplane, resulting in a too-high roundout.
- Focusing too far from the airplane, resulting in a too-low roundout.
- Touching down prior to attaining proper landing attitude.
- Failure to hold sufficient back-elevator pressure after touchdown.
- Excessive braking after touchdown.
- Inadequate compensation for wind drift on final approach.
- Unstabilized approach.
- Failure to compensate for increased drag during sideslip, resulting in excessive sink rate and/or too low an airspeed.
- Touching down while drifting.
- Excessive airspeed on touchdown.
- Failure to apply appropriate flight control inputs during rollout.
- Failure to maintain directional control on rollout.