Since versus Because

Usage recommendations following

The Chicago Guide to Grammar, Usage and Punctuation

Garner (2016) in his “word usage” section includes since in his listing of “troublesome words and expressions.” His recommendation (Garner 2016, p 313) is as follows

Since. This word may relate either to time {since last winter} or to causation {since I am a remote sensor, I know what a pixel is}. Some writers erroneously believe that the word relates exclusively to time. But the causal since was a part of the English language before Chaucer wrote in the fourteenth century, and it is useful as a slightly milder way of expressing causation than because. But if there is any possibility of confusion with the temporal sense, use because.

Garner (2016) also includes because his listing of “troublesome words and expressions.” His recommendation (Garner 2016, p 243) is as follows

Because. This word is normally a subordinating conjunction that introduces a dependent clause that expresses cause, reason, or motive {I re-sent the message because it kept bouncing back}. When because follows a negative, it is preceded by a comma if the because-clause explains the negative {I did not call yesterday, because I was traveling all day [without the comma, the suggestion might be that I did not call for a different reason]}.

References