

Safe Winter Driving Tips



Before Leaving Home: Prepare Yourself and Your Vehicle

Before leaving home, find out about the driving conditions and prepare your vehicle. Safe drivers know the weather, and they know their limits. If the weather is bad, remember, **Ice and Snow, Take it Slow, or just don't go.**

- You should keep your vehicle in top operating condition all year round for safety and fuel economy. Read your owner's manual and inspect the following:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Battery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Filters |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lights | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motor oil |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antifreeze | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tire pressure |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Defroster | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wiper blades |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heater | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Windshield washer fluid |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Belts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brakes |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hoses | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brake fluid |

- Keep your gas tank full.
- Stock your car with basic winter safety equipment:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency cash | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scraper and brush |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small shovel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jumper cables |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tow chain | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bag of sand or cat litter for tire traction |

- Carry a break-down kit:

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|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Road flares | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extra batteries |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blanket | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Food |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gloves | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Boots | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First aid kit |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warm clothing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Medications |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flashlight | |

- Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights – even the hood and roof – before driving.

Safe Travel on the Road

Winter conditions call for different driving tactics. **Ice and Snow, Take it Slow**—slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering, and slower braking. Give yourself extra time to reach your destination safely. It's not worth putting yourself and others in a dangerous situation just to be on time.

- Drive with your headlights on.
- **Ice and Snow—Take it Slow.** Drive for conditions. Don't get overconfident with four-wheel drive. It won't help you stop any faster.
- Drivers should allow additional room between their vehicles and others. Winter road conditions often result in longer stopping distances.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots. These are all candidates for developing black ice—a thin coating of clear ice that can form on the pavement surface that may be difficult to see.
- Avoid abrupt actions while steering, braking or accelerating to lessen the chances of losing control of the vehicle.
- Look farther ahead in traffic. Action by other drivers will alert you to problems and give you extra time to react.
- Trucks take longer to stop. Don't cut in front of them.
- Avoid using cruise control or overdrive. Don't let your car make a bad decision for you.
- Stopping on snow and ice without skidding requires extra time and distance. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal. Either way, give yourself plenty of room to stop.

Safe Travel Around Snowplows

Snowplows are usually spreading anti-icing materials from the back of the truck and may need to stop or take evasive action to avoid stranded vehicles. If you find yourself behind a snowplow, stay behind it or use caution when passing. The road behind a snowplow will be safer to drive on.

- Don't crowd the plow. Snowplows plow far and wide—sometimes very wide. The front plow extends several feet in front of the truck and may cross the centerline and shoulders during plowing operations.
- Plows turn and exit the road frequently. Give them plenty of room. Stay at least 15 car lengths (200 feet).
- On multiple lane roads, watch for snowplows operating in either lane.
- Snowplows can throw up a cloud of snow that can reduce your visibility to zero in less time than you can react. Drive smart. Never drive into a snow cloud - it could conceal a snowplow.
- A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them but they may not see you.