



The Driver: Tips for Wintertime Driving

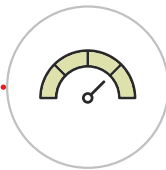
Driving in winter presents a variety of weather-related hazards. Preparing ahead of time and being alert are critical to safety amid weather changes, poor visibility, and wet or slippery road conditions. Communicate your travel plans before leaving, so others know where you are going and when you expect to arrive.

1 Manage Reduced Visibility



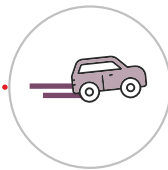
- Clean all snow and ice off your **windshield**, other windows, outside mirrors, lights and reflectors.
- Use proper lights. Amid poor visibility and winter's early dusk, never drive with parking lights instead of headlights, as oncoming drivers may think you are farther away than you are.
- Confirm that your vehicle is equipped with defrosters, good wipers and wiper arms that exert enough pressure to ensure a clean sweep. Keep headlights clear of snow, ice and dirt, which can greatly reduce your visibility during dark driving hours.

2 Adjust Speed & Following Distances



- Drive at a **safe speed** for current weather conditions. Slow down when roads are snow- and ice-covered or if they've been recently cleared or appear wet, as these are prime conditions for black ice.
- Increase your following distance and don't tailgate, as stopping times increase on wet, slick or snow-covered roads.
- Heavy trucks require a longer stopping distance on slippery roads than cars. Consider nearby vehicles when driving, braking, turning and following others.

3 Adapt to Brake Nuances



- For newer vehicles with **brake-assist** and other winter-weather driving features, ensure these features are turned on and working properly before driving.
- Know if your vehicle has an antilock brake system and learn to use it properly. Antilock brake systems prevent your wheels from locking up during braking.
- Brake when approaching curves, as unseen hazards around the bend may require evasive action.

4 Address Your Personal Safety



- **Plan** your route ahead of time. Use navigation and adjust for any approaching adverse weather.
- Be prepared if your vehicle breaks down or slides off the road. Make sure to have a charged cell phone, flashlight, shovel, ice scraper, blankets, critical medicines and food/water. Stay with your vehicle, make sure the exhaust pipe is clear, only run the vehicle as much as necessary and place a bright marker on the antenna.
- Be able to share your location using GPS, a cell phone or another method.

5 Be Careful Near Snowplows & Other Large Vehicles



- As with all large vehicles operating in poor weather conditions, **snowplows** tend to have many blind spots, so be especially aware when driving in nearby.
- Provide advanced signal warnings when braking or changing lanes, as snowplows and other large vehicles are more difficult to maneuver than cars, especially in icy conditions.
- Plow trucks generally drive slowly while performing salting operations, and often kick up clouds of snow that may reduce visibility in adjacent lanes. Remain several car lengths behind a snowplow, both to improve your visibility and ensure the plow driver can see you.