

WINTER DRIVING CONDITIONS



Follow these Driving Tips when the temperatures drop and the roads are icy:

- Clear all snow from your car's windows, lights, license plates, and roof. Snow blowing from the roof of your car is a visibility hazard to the driver behind you.
- Back off. Have patience and give people more lead-time, especially if there's snow on the road. You'll thank yourself when the car ahead suddenly spins out.
- Give yourself a brake. If you go into a skid, take your foot off the gas, steer into the skid, and regain control. If you have to stop right away, pump your brakes - don't slam on them. If your car has anti-lock braking systems (ABS), apply steady pressure to the brake pedal.
- Prepare your car. Keep your gas tank close to full to avoid gas line freeze-up. Clean the inside of your windows thoroughly. Make sure your windshield washer system works and is full of an anti-icing fluid. Keep your tires properly inflated. Use your headlights so that others will see you.
- Watch carefully for "black ice." If the road looks slick, it probably is. This is especially true with one of winter's worst hazards: "black ice." Also called "glare ice," this is nearly transparent ice that often looks like a harmless puddle or is overlooked entirely. Test the traction with a smooth brake application or slight turn of the wheel.
- Carry a winter survival kit, especially on long trips or in isolated areas. Include matches and a candle, a parka and sleeping bag or emergency blanket, food, bottled water, first aid kit, jumper cables with safety goggles, gasoline antifreeze, fuel conditioner for diesel fuel, wrenches for minor repairs, a spare fan belt and radiator hose, spare spark plugs and spark plug wire.