



# SafetyAlert

We're Serious About Safety

## Winter Driving Techniques

It's that time of year again. Time to cope with the dangers of winter driving. To adequately prepare for the slipping and sliding associated with winter driving, you must understand how road conditions vary from season to season. For example, traction for accelerating and braking can be reduced to 1/8th of their normal capacity on snow-covered roads, which means it will take you longer to start and longer to stop. What follows are tips and techniques for winter driving.



### 10 Tips for Driving Safely in Winter Conditions

1. Most importantly... Reduce your speed! Your vehicle will behave much differently on ice and snow. Posted speed limits are intended for ideal road conditions.
2. Increase your following distance to four car lengths. It allows for greater reaction time in slippery conditions and will help to keep your windshield clear of flying spray or ice from the car in front.
3. Accelerate, brake and turn gradually. Sudden braking, acceleration and turning can lead to a loss of traction and loss of control.
4. Be aware of "shady spots" where ice and snow may still be present such as under bridges and overpasses.
5. Take extra caution behind or around snowplows. Operators may need to make sudden stops or maneuvers to avoid obstacles or stranded vehicles.
6. Do not attempt to pass snowplows working in tandem in front of you.
7. Be alert during very windy conditions. Blowing snow can cause 'white-out' conditions even during daylight hours. If possible, pull over until weather conditions improve. Be familiar with how your anti-lock brakes function in slippery conditions.
8. Avoid the use of "cruise control" in snowy or icy conditions or during inclement weather.
9. Limit cell phone usage during inclement weather to avoid distractions and remain focused on your driving.

#### As a General Rule:

- Check the weather reports the night before. If snow is in the forecast, give yourself plenty of extra time for traveling. Expect delays.
- Plan ahead and call your destination or appointment to let them know you may be delayed.

#### Vehicle Tips

- Clear the snow off your entire vehicle, including roof and hood, to prevent snow or ice from flying onto other vehicles while driving.
- Clear headlights and taillights each time you enter the vehicle to help you to see and be seen.
- Keep your windshield wiper reservoir full of anti-freeze fluid not water.
- Replace worn or improperly working wiper blades early in the season.

#### Winter Safety Kit Checklist

- Properly inflated spare tire
- Jumper cables
- Windshield wiper fluid
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Shovel
- Blanket
- Flares
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Tool kit
- Tow rope
- Tire chains
- Reflective triangle
- Ice melt or kitty litter
- First Aid Kit
- Non-perishable snacks



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