



Winter Driving Tips—



Before leaving home: Prepare yourself and 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.

When you must drive, clear the ice and snow from your entire vehicle. Next remember to free up your windshield wipers. Be sure the windshield washer reservoir is adequately filled with a freeze resistant cleaning solution.

Refer to your owner's manual and inspect the following: battery, lights, antifreeze, defroster, heater, motor oil, tire pressure, wiper blades, windshield wiper fluid, brakes, and brake fluid.

Keep your gas tank full during winter storms, and stock your car with basic winter safety equipment like: snow chains, a tow chain, ice scraper and brush, jumper cables, a bag of sand or cat litter for tire traction.

Carry a "Break-Down" kit: road flares, blanket, gloves, boots, warm clothing, flashlight, extra batteries, food, water, first aid kit, and medications.

Plan Out Your Route

Check your local news for road conditions; this could be radio, television or a weather website. If there are hills you can avoid, do it. Check the city [Snow Map](#) for our sanding and plowing route.



Safe Travel on the Road

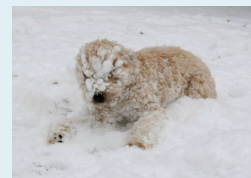
Winter conditions call for different driving tactics. Slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering, and slower braking are necessary. Give yourself plenty of time to reach your destination safely. It is not worth the risk of putting yourself or others in a dangerous situation just to be on time.

- Drive with your headlights on.
- Don't get overconfident with a 4-wheel drive vehicle. They don't stop any faster.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots. These are all places where black ice may have formed.
- Avoid abrupt actions while steering, braking or accelerating to lessen the chances of the vehicle going into a skid.
- Look farther ahead into traffic. Actions by other drivers will alert you to problems and give you more time to react.
- Big rigs take longer to stop so do not cut in front of them.
- Avoid using the cruise control or overdrive features. Don't let your car make a bad decision for you.
- Avoid skidding. To stop on snow and ice without skidding it will require 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. As you slow down, you may also want to shift into a lower gear. Either way, give yourself plenty of room to stop.



Safe Travel Around Snowplows

Distance: Give snowplows room to work, stay at least 4 car lengths back (50 feet). Don't tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution. A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted; you may see them, but they don't always see you.



Be safe;
Snow can restrict your vision!

If you find yourself stuck:

Turn your wheels from side to side a few times to push snow out of the way. Keep a light touch on the gas and ease forward. Spinning your wheels will just cause the vehicle to dig in deeper.

Rocking the vehicle is another way to get unstuck. Shift from forward to reverse and back again. Each time the vehicle is in gear, lightly touch the gas until the vehicle gets moving.



If you find yourself stranded:

Signal to other motorists that you're stranded by using flares or flashlights, or by tying a brightly colored cloth to your antenna. Keep snow clear of the tail pipe to prevent carbon monoxide buildup. Run the engine for heat about once every hour or half hour in severe weather. Stay in the vehicle until help arrives.

Remember, sand can make your vehicle slide too!

