

Winter is the most difficult driving season for many reasons, including ice, snow, lower temperatures, fewer daylight hours and decreased visibility.

- Drive slower and increase your following distance. Roadway conditions may vary depending upon the sun, shade or roadway surface.
- Do not use the cruise control if the pavement is wet, icy or snowy.
- Remove all snow and ice from your vehicle. Clear all windows, and do not start driving until your windshield is defrosted and clear. Be sure you have non-freezing windshield washer liquid and that your headlights and taillights are visible.
- Properly maintain your vehicle. Lights, brakes, windshield wipers, defrosters, radiator and other parts should be in good working order.
- Use snow tires and/or chains (where allowed). Snow tires give you extra traction, and chains increase safety on snow or ice packed roads. Neither tires nor chains allow you to drive on bad roads at normal speeds.



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# Driving in the Winter



**Tips & Tricks you need to drive safely this winter season!**

## Tips to help you ace winter driving:

### Make sure your car is prepared!

Check tires, antifreeze, batteries, oil, BRAKES! Etc.

Have a spare tire, jumper cables, bag of salt, a flashlight, ice scraper and snow brush as well as a shovel in the trunk.

### Careful Driving!

Decrease speed and leave plenty of space in between your car and the car in front of you.

Brake gently; try not to slam the brakes to avoid them to lock up!

Use low gears to keep traction especially on hills, bridges and overpasses where there may be patches of ice.

Do not pass snow and salt trucks!



## Emergency Situations:

### If your front wheels skid:

- 1) Take your foot off the gas and shift to neutral, but don't try to steer immediately.
- 2) As the wheels skid sideways, they will slow the vehicle and traction will return. As it does, steer in the direction you want to go. Then put the transmission in "drive" or release the clutch, and accelerate gently.

### If your rear wheels skid:

- 1) Take your foot off the accelerator.
- 2) Steer in the direction you want the front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If they're sliding right, steer right.
- 3) If your rear wheels start sliding the other way as you recover, ease the steering wheel toward that side. You might have to steer left and right a few times to get your vehicle completely under control.
- 4) If you have standard brakes, pump them gently.
- 5) If you have anti-lock brakes (ABS), do not pump the brakes. Apply steady pressure to the brakes. You will feel the brakes pulse — this is normal.

### If you get stuck:

- 1) Do not spin your wheels. This will only dig you in deeper.
- 2) Turn your wheels from side to side a few times to push snow out of the way.
- 3) Use a light touch on the gas, to ease your car out.
- 4) Use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the car.
- 5) Pour sand, kitty litter, gravel or salt in the path of the wheels, to help get traction.
- 6) Try rocking the vehicle. (Check your owner's manual first — it can damage the transmission on some vehicles.) Shift from forward to reverse, and back again. Each time you're in gear, give a light touch on the gas until the vehicle gets going.

## Winter Driving Equipment:

Tire Chains



Window Scraper



Salt



Anti-Freeze



Snow Brush



Jumper Cables

