

Winter Safe Driving Tips



Driving in the winter means snow, sleet, and ice that can lead to slower traffic, hazardous road conditions and unforeseen dangers. Drive defensively and be prepared for an emergency. Always have your cell phone and charger with you.

Before the winter season begins, have your car tuned up and have your battery and voltage regulator checked, be sure to switch to a winter-weight oil if you're not already using an all-season oil and put these items in the trunk:

- Snow shovel
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Jumper cables
- A properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench, and jack
- Sand, cat litter, or another abrasive material for traction
- Tow chain or strap
- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Flares or reflective triangles
- Candles or matches
- Sleeping bags or blankets
- High-energy foods such as dried fruit and nuts

Here are some points to remember while driving:

- Listen to the weather report before going on the road.
- Bridges and overpasses can be slippery. Drive carefully over these areas.
- When driving in heavy snow, turn your wheels from side to side to push snow out of the way. Remember, starting up on snow and icy roads calls for a gentle touch. Taking it easy on the gas pedal will help provide the traction needed to get moving on slippery surfaces.
- If you get stuck, don't spin your wheels. You will only dig deeper in the snow.
- Gentle rocking might help get your car loose; however, to avoid transmission damage, check your owner's manual for its recommended procedure.
- Driving slowly and avoiding abrupt changes in speed or direction will help you move safely on slippery surfaces.
- Ice is twice as slippery at 30 degrees as it is at 0 degrees. If you hit an icy spot and start to slide, don't hit the brakes. Take your foot off the gas and steer in the direction you want to go.
- Always leave extra room between you and the car in front of you.
- Slow down gradually.
- When braking without anti-lock brakes, pump the brakes by depressing and releasing the pedal a few times. Don't lock up the brakes because that will cause loss of steering control. Depress and hold anti-lock brakes, don't pump.
- Don't drive when you are tired.
- Don't drink and drive. If you have too much to drink, ask a non-drinking friend to drive or call a cab.



**Greater
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