



Driving in Inclement Weather

Severe weather creates challenging driving conditions. When the weather may affect your ability to drive, practice the following:

- Inspect and service your vehicle routinely
- Always wear a seat belt
- Check road conditions before you depart – if possible, delay travel until conditions improve
- Share your travel plans and routes with family, friends and co-workers
- Keep windshield clean to improve vision
- Turn headlights on
- Maintain a safe distance between other cars
- Be extra careful on curves and at intersections
- Increase following distance by at least two car lengths
- If you're having trouble, pull completely off the road and use flashing hazard lights
- Maintain an emergency kit (blanket, phone charger, flashlight, flare, food, water, medications)
- Ensure vehicle fluids are full and breaks and tires are working properly
- Fully concentrate on the road – resist making or taking phone calls

After taking these precautions, it's also important to acknowledge there are specific weather conditions that can cause significant risks when driving. Keep in mind these particular tips for the following conditions:

Rain

- Reduce speed
- Use your windshield wipers
- Do not brake heavily
- Avoid standing water

Ice and Snow

- Winterize your car
- Carry tire chains if possible
- Reduce speed to allow more control
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- Slow down for turns
- Don't stop if you can avoid it
- Don't power up or stop on hills – slow and steady wins the race
- Be aware of black ice on bridges, overpasses and shaded areas of the road
- If you begin to slide, take your foot off the accelerator and allow the vehicle to slow down
- If you still do not have control of the vehicle, very gently press the break

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