



Guide to Driving in the Rain

According to recent research, every rainy day sees an average of 16 serious injuries on UK roads as drivers fail to adapt to the conditions. Read our guide which provides helpful tips to help keep you safe on the road.

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Drivers need to be cautious of changing weather conditions throughout the year, as surprising showers can pose a big risk. Below are our top 10 tips to help you adapt to rainy conditions and keep you safe on the road.



Vehicle maintenance

Regularly check your tyres and make sure they're properly inflated and have good tread to grip on slippery road surfaces.



Put your lights on

Use dipped headlights so other road users can see you.



Stopping distance

It takes longer to stop when the roads are wet and slippery. Allow at least double the usual separation distance between you and the car in front.



Slow Down

Keep your speed down when driving in showers. Wipers struggle to keep up in a heavy downpour so your visibility will be reduced. Drive slower and you'll have more time to react to hazards.



Avoid abrupt movements

Avoid abrupt acceleration, braking and steering movements. Sudden stops and turns may result in skidding.



Stop

If the shower is really heavy and visibility is poor, pull over somewhere safe and wait out the rain.



Flooded roads

If the rain is particularly heavy, you may find yourself on flooded roads. If it looks too deep stop, turn round in a safe place and find an alternative route.



Aquaplaning

This happens when your tyres lose traction from the road. Roads with lots of surface water pose the biggest risk. Reducing your speed will help.



Steamed up car

Make sure any heat is going straight on to your windscreen to stop it getting misted up and to keep visibility good.



Pedestrians and cyclists

Be mindful of other people on the road, particularly cyclists and pedestrians. If you splash a pedestrian, you could face a fine; the maximum punishment being a level five fine of £5,000 in instances where driving "amounts to a clear act of incompetence, selfishness, impatience or aggressiveness".

In most cases, you are more likely to be issued with a £100 fixed penalty notice and three penalty points if you are caught but if you refuse to pay and take the matter to court you could see the maximum fine of £5,000 imposed.