



Winter Driving Conditions

Read our guide to help prepare you for winter driving conditions and ensure you drive safely on the roads.

Winter Driving Conditions

Driving in low visibility on icy or wet roads requires a very different driving style. Below are some simple steps to help ensure your safety when exposed to the different driving hazards.

In low visibility

- When driving in heavy rain, snow or hail, use your dipped headlights and reduce your speed

In winter sun

- Glare from the low winter sun can be dangerous and obscure your vision so make sure you use your visor and keep a pair of sunglasses in your vehicle

Icy or slushy roads

- Remember that it can take ten times longer to stop so drive slowly, allowing extra room to slow down and stop
- When accelerating, use the highest gear possible to prevent your wheels from spinning
- Manoeuvre gently, avoiding harsh braking and acceleration
- To brake without locking your wheels, use a low gear earlier than normal so your engine will smoothly reduce your speed and use your brake pedal gently
- If you do start to skid, ease off the accelerator and do not brake suddenly



Foggy conditions

- Expect visibility to deteriorate rapidly as fog drifts quickly and is often patchy
- Drive very slowly and use your dipped headlights
- Use fog lights if visibility is seriously reduced, but remember to switch them off when visibility improves
- Don't hang on to the tail lights of the vehicle in front, as you may well be driving too close
- Don't speed up suddenly, even if it seems to be clearing, as you can suddenly find yourself back in thick fog

Wet Weather conditions

- Stopping distances will be at least doubled as your tyres have less grip on the wet road, so leave more distance between you and the vehicle in front to increase your ability to see, plan ahead and brake
- If your steering becomes unresponsive, the water may be preventing your tyres from gripping the road, so ease off your accelerator and slow down gradually
- The rain and spray from vehicles may make it difficult to see and be seen, so increase the distance between you and the vehicle in front and use your dipped headlights

Flooded roads

- If the water seems too deep, find another route instead of risking breakdown by attempting to cross it
- Remember to test your brakes when you are through the flood before you drive at normal speed