



TRANSPORTATION: DRIVING SAFETY TIPS

PREPARE FOR WINTER DRIVING

- ☁ Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- ☁ Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- ☁ Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car
- ☁ If using all-season tires, check the tread on your tires and replace if less than 2/32 of an inch
- ☁ Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- ☁ Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
- ☁ Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
- ☁ Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze
- ☁ Keep your car's emergency preparedness kit fully stocked, too.

Before You Start Out

- ☁ Clean your car's external camera lenses and side view mirrors so you'll be able to see what's around you
- ☁ Remove dirt, ice and snow from sensors to allow the assistive-driving features like automatic emergency braking to work
- ☁ In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive it
- ☁ To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in your garage – even with the garage door up
- ☁ If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm if possible
- ☁ Share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave

How to Avoid a Crash

- ☁ Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions
- ☁ Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to overcorrect to stay in your lane
- ☁ Accelerate and decelerate slowly
- ☁ Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds
- ☁ If possible, don't stop when going uphill
- ☁ If visibility is severely limited due to a whiteout, pull off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve
- ☁ Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an absolute emergency. Slick roads and limited visibility means other vehicles might hit you

If You Get Stuck and Stranded

- ☂ Do not overexert yourself trying to move your vehicle
- ☂ Keep a bag of generic cat litter to add weight to the back end of the car and to use for traction if you get stuck on a slick spot
- ☂ If you become stranded, do not leave your car
- ☂ Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow, mud or objects.

Know Your Car's Capabilities

Traction control is now standard on most new vehicles. This function helps your vehicle gain traction on snowy, icy or wet surfaces, particularly when accelerating from a stopped or slowed position, or when trying to make it up a slippery hill.

Anti-lock braking system (ABS) helps you steer in emergencies by restoring traction to your tires and is standard on most new vehicles as well. ABS may vibrate or pulse when engaged. This is normal. Continue to press and hold pressure to the brake pedal.

Know Your Capabilities

You are your car's best safety feature. Make wise decisions if you feel you need to drive in wet, slick or snowy conditions. It is better to postpone a trip, no matter how long or short, if there is a chance you might not be able to arrive safely at your destination.

Some tips adapted from AAA and the National Safety Council