



NAVIGATING WINTER ROADS:

A Guide to Safe Driving

Navigating winter roads can be challenging due to snow, ice, and freezing temperatures. Assessing conditions early and preparing for risks can be life-saving.

Safely navigate winter roads with these tips to **Protect What Matters Most** -- you, your family, and others.

Drive Slowly for Safe Winter Navigation:

Reduce your speed and avoid sudden movements. Slowing down gives you more time to react to icy patches, low visibility, and unexpected obstacles — helping ensure safer winter driving.

Maintain a Safe Following Distance:

Increase the distance between your vehicle and the one ahead of you. A larger gap provides more time to brake and avoid collisions if another driver stops suddenly.

Ensure Clear Visibility While Winter Driving:

Before driving, clear all windows, mirrors, and lights of snow and ice. Remove thick snow from the roof to prevent it from sliding onto your windshield or obstructing visibility for other drivers.



Your Tires Matter in Winter Weather:

Regularly check tire pressure and ensure all tires meet recommended levels. Adequate tread depth is essential for traction on snow and ice-covered roads.

Use Your Lights Wisely: Turn on headlights during snowfall or low-light conditions to improve visibility. Avoid high beams in heavy snow, as reflected light can reduce your ability to see the road.

Watch for Ice on the Roads: Stay alert for black ice — especially on bridges, ramps, and overpasses, which freeze faster than other surfaces. Slow down when approaching these areas.

Brake Smoothly: Apply brakes gently to avoid skidding. If your vehicle is equipped with ABS, follow recommended braking practices to maintain control on icy roads.

Prepare Before You Go: Keep an emergency kit in your car with a blanket, flashlight, ice scraper, water, and non-perishable snacks. Having essentials ready prepares you for unexpected delays or emergencies.

Stay Updated on Weather and Road

Conditions: Monitor weather forecasts and local road reports. If conditions worsen, delay travel until it's safe to continue.

Gas Up: A full tank reduces air and moisture in the fuel lines, lowering the risk of fuel line freeze-ups in extreme cold.

Check Your Car's Battery for Winter

Readiness: Cold weather drains battery power. Have a professional inspect your battery, charging system, belts, and any components that may need repair before winter travel.

Safely Buckle Up Children: Bulky winter coats can affect the proper fit of car seat harnesses. Dress children in thin, warm layers and place blankets or coats over the harness after they're secured.

If an Emergency Happens: Stay Safe

If you're stopped or stalled in winter weather, stay calm and prioritize safety for everyone in the vehicle:

- Remain inside your car.
- Improve visibility by placing bright markers on your antenna or windows and keeping the interior dome light on.
- Prevent carbon monoxide buildup by ensuring the exhaust pipe is clear of snow. Run the car only intermittently to maintain warmth.

