

# Winter Driving Tips

**Do your part to keep our highways safe and to help maintenance crews clear the roads as safely and efficiently as possible. Plan ahead and drive according to the conditions.**

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- **Unless travel is absolutely necessary, stay off the roads during major storms.**
  - Winterize your vehicles. This should include an examination of the spare tire, battery, belts, hoses, anti-freeze, tires, brakes, heater, defroster and windshield wipers.
  - Carry an emergency road kit.
  - Clear all snow and ice completely off windows, side view mirrors, headlights, taillights and licence plates.
  - Buckle up and adjust head restraints. The centre of your head restraint should be even with the top of your ears.
  - Keep your vehicles more than half full of fuel. The extra volume can help reduce moisture in your fuel system, which adds extra weight to your vehicle. A topped-up gas tank will also help if you become stranded.
  - Slow down. The posted speed limit is intended for ideal road conditions. Road signs may indicate 110 km/h, but icy or snow-covered roads warrant slower speeds.
  - Drivers are legally required to drive according to road conditions. You can be charged with a traffic offence you aren't driving to the conditions.
  - Stay back from snowplows. They will let you pass when it's safe to do so.
- Plan your destination ahead of time.
- Keep your headlights on so drivers behind you can see your taillights - don't rely on daytime running lights.
- Never use cruise control in winter conditions.
- On snowy roads, try driving outside of the previous tire tracks for extra traction.
- Signal early to let other drivers anticipate and react. Check your rear view and side mirrors, and always shoulder check before changing lanes.
  - Avoid sudden moves. Abrupt changes in direction or slamming on the brakes could cause you to spin out of control.
  - On wet /slick surfaces, allow at least three times the normal following distance.
  - Remember; bridge decks are often slicker than other parts of the highway are, due to greater temperature fluctuations.
  - Know your braking system and how it reacts on ice. Be gentle with braking pressure on slick roads.
  - Avoid braking on curves; rive through a safe, steady speed.
  - Accelerate slightly when approaching hills and then maintain a steady speed going up.
  - Gear down for both uphill climbs and downhill grades. This will avoid brake

wear and chances of sliding. Be careful of abrupt downshifting which can cause skidding, particularly when turning.

- Take your foot off the brake if you start to skid, and steer in the direction you want to go. When the wheels regain their grip, brake firmly and smoothly.
- When driving a rear-wheel drive, prepare to steer just enough in the opposite direction to prevent a counter skid.

## **CARRY AN EMERGENCY ROAD KIT INCLUDING:**

- First Aid Kit
- Fire Extinguisher
- Blanket
- Road Map and Compass
- Extra Clothing and Footwear
- Paper Towel or Rags
- Sand, Road Salt or non-clumping Kitty Litter
- Flashlight with Extra Batteries
- Emergency Food – anything that won't spoil like granola bars, nuts or chocolate
- Ice Scraper and Snowbrush
- Cell Phone
- Candle in a deep tin
- Waterproof Matches
- Shovel
- Booster Cables

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**Dial 5-1-1**

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