



# Drive Assured

during the winter weather

## Driving in Snow and Ice

The best advice for driving in bad winter weather is not to drive at all, if you can avoid it. Don't go out until the snow plows and sanding trucks have had a chance to do their work, and allow yourself extra time to reach your destination.

If you must drive in snowy conditions, make sure your car is prepared, and that you know how to handle road conditions.

- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Don't pass snow plows and sanding trucks.
- Check your tires. To have adequate snow traction, a tire requires at least 6/32-inch deep tread, according to The Tire Rack. If you live where the roads are regularly covered with snow, use snow tires.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean. Replace windshield wiper blades. Make sure your windshield washer system works and is full of an anti-icing fluid.
- Run the air-conditioner. In order to remove condensation and frost from the interior of windows, engage your air-conditioner and select the fresh air option.
- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists. Make sure your headlights and taillights are clear of snow.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake. Learn how



to get maximum efficiency from your brakes before an emergency.

- Watch carefully for "black ice." If the road looks slick, it probably is.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first.
- Avoid rear-tire slides. First, choose a car with electronic stability control. Next, make sure your rear tires have at least as much tread as your front tires. Finally, if you buy winter tires, get four.
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

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