

Winter Driving: Tips and Trips

*Avoiding driving in wintery and icy conditions is always the best way to stay safe; however; our work often dictates that we **MUST** drive in these conditions. These simple tips will help ensure you and your vehicle are well prepared for the trip.*

- **Pay close attention to vehicles ahead**
 - If the road looks wet, but no mist or spray is coming from vehicles' tires, the road is likely icy
 - Leave at least three times more space than usual between you and vehicles ahead
- **Check your side mirrors**
 - If they are icy, the road is also likely to be icy
- **Use your vehicle's outside thermometer, if it has one**
 - Icy roads are slipperiest when the air temperature is between 26° and 32° Fahrenheit
- **Always be aware of your speed**
- **Brake gently to avoid skidding; if your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake**
- **Keep your headlights on to increase your visibility to other motorists**
- **Keep your lights and windshield clean**
- **Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills**
- **Refrain from using cruise control**
- **Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first**
- **Do not pass snow plows and salting trucks**
 - With limited visibility, the road in front of them is likely worse than the road behind

Stuck in the Snow?

- Do not spin the wheels, as this will only dig the vehicle in deeper
- Turn wheels from side-to-side a few times to push snow out of the way
- Use a light touch on the gas, to ease the car out
- Use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the car
- Pour sand, kitty litter, gravel or salt in the path of the wheels, to help get traction



ALWAYS apply sound judgment when driving in winter weather conditions. If roads are in very poor condition, or work is located in an inaccessible area, contact your manager for instructions.

Do not take chances that could endanger you or the public!