

TOOLBOX TALK



DISCUSSION TOPIC: Winter Driving Safety

Winter driving can sometimes be a daunting task, especially when conditions are snowy or icy. If road conditions are dangerous, consider making alternate travel arrangements or postponing your trip until conditions improve. Follow these steps to keep yourself safe and collision free during the next few blustery winter months.

Step 1: Make sure that your vehicle is prepared for winter driving

- Winter tires are a good option, as they will provide greater traction under snowy or icy conditions
- Keep a snow brush/scrapper in your car, along with possible emergency items such as a lightweight shovel, battery jumper cables, and a flashlight

Step 2: Drive smoothly and slowly

- Don't make any abrupt turns or stops when driving. Doing so will often cause your vehicle to lose control and skid
- Driving too quickly is the main cause of winter collisions. Be sure to drive slowly and carefully on snow and ice covered roads

Step 3: Don't tailgate

- Tailgating becomes much worse in winter weather. Stopping takes much longer on snowy and icy roads than on dry pavement, so be sure to leave enough room between your vehicle and the one in front of you

Step 4: Brake before making turns

- Brake slowly to reduce speed before entering turns. Once you have rounded the corner you can accelerate again

Step 5: Learn how to control skids

- When skidding, you actually need to go against your natural instincts and turn into the skid and accelerate. Doing so transfers your vehicle's weight from the front to the rear and often helps vehicles to regain control

Step 6: Be Seen

It is difficult to see other vehicles during dark, wintry days

- Daytime running lights are dimmer than headlights
- Taillights do not turn on with your daytime running lights
- Make sure to turn your vehicle lights all the way on - headlights and taillights

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Step 7: No Cruise Control

- Never use cruise control if conditions are snowy, icy, or wet, because if your car hydroplanes, your car will try to accelerate and you may lose control of your vehicle

Step 8: Don't "pump" the brakes

- If your vehicle is equipped with an anti-lock braking system (ABS), do not "pump" the brakes. Apply constant pressure and let the system do its work

Step 9: Pay attention

- Manoeuvres are more difficult to make in the snow. Be sure to anticipate what your next move is going to be to give yourself lots of room for turns and stopping

Step 10: Be Prepared

You never know when your car may break down or an accident will occur. That is why it is a good idea to have a few supplies in your car. Some good items to have in your car at all times if you are traveling in the snow and ice are:

- A blanket to stay warm while waiting on help
- Have gloves, scarves, and a jacket
- Water bottles to have something to drink
- Non-perishable foods to eat
- A flashlight
- Something to scrape ice off your windshield

