

# Winter Driving Safety

Winter driving can 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. Follow these steps to keep yourself safe and collision free while winter driving.

## **Make sure your vehicle is prepared for winter driving.**

- Winter tires will provide greater traction under snowy or icy conditions.
- Keep a snow brush/scrapper in your car, along with emergency items such as a lightweight shovel, battery jumper cables and a flashlight.
- Make sure mirrors, windows, and the top of your vehicle are free of snow or frost.

## **Drive smoothly and slowly.**

- Don't make any abrupt turns or stops. It can cause your vehicle to lose control and skid.
- Drive slowly and carefully on snow and ice covered roads.

## **Don't tailgate.**

- 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.
- Brake slowly before making turns.

## **Learn how to control skids.**

- When skidding, go against your natural instincts and turn into the skid and accelerate. This transfers your vehicle's weight from the front to the rear and helps regain control.

## **Lights on.**

- Turn on your lights to increase your visibility to other motorists.

## **No Cruise Control.**

- If your car hydroplanes, your car will try to accelerate and you may lose control of your vehicle.

## **Don't "pump" the brakes.**

- If your vehicle is equipped with an anti-lock breaking system (ABS), apply constant pressure and let the system do its work.

## **Pay attention.**

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

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