



Be Prepared

Driving in the winter months is very different from other times of the year. Adverse weather and longer periods of darkness make driving much more hazardous. When temperatures start dropping and the roads become icy it is even more important that we undertake our pre-journey checks:

- ▶ Listen to the local / national weather bulletins so that you can prepare for the conditions ahead
- ▶ Check that your tyres have the right tread depth and are at the right pressure
- ▶ Check that your lights and fog lamps are in working order and are free from dirt
- ▶ Check that your windscreen wiper blades are in good conditions and are working
- ▶ Make sure you have plenty of screen wash and de-icer
- ▶ Fill up with fuel so that you don't run out
- ▶ Reduce your speed when driving the chances of skidding are much greater
- ▶ Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle with the following:
Torch, warm clothes, boots, water and energy bars



Driving in Snow & Ice

It is important when driving in snow or ice that you adapt your driving for the complex weather conditions:

- ▶ Increase the distance between you and the vehicle in front, you may need up to ten times the normal distance for braking
- ▶ When braking on snow or ice use a low gear earlier than normal, allow your speed to fall and use your brakes gently
- ▶ In snow, stop frequently to clean the windows, wheel arches, lights and number plates
- ▶ Keep your vehicle well ventilated, your car heater can make you drowsy

Fog & Poor Visibility

Fog is one of the most dangerous weather conditions, an accident involving one vehicle can quickly involve many others:

- ▶ Keep your speed down and leave a good distance between you and the vehicle in front
- ▶ Beware of speeding up when visibility improves, in patchy fog you can quickly find yourself driving blind again
- ▶ Do not 'hang on' to the rear lights of the car in front as you will be too close to be able to brake safely
- ▶ If you break down inform the police and get your vehicle into a position of safety as soon as possible

Heavy Rain

Driving in heavy rain greatly reduces your visibility and increases the distance needed to slow down and stop:

- ▶ Remember you will need at least twice your normal braking distance
- ▶ Use windscreen wipers, washers and dipped headlights
- ▶ Drive smoothly and plan your moves in plenty of time
- ▶ Always allow extra time for your journey

Flooded Roads & Aquaplaning

Aquaplaning is caused by driving too fast into surface water, implement the following precautions:

- ▶ If you are not sure of the water's depth look for an alternative route
- ▶ Be aware of the bow wave from approaching vehicles and operate an informal give way
- ▶ If aquaplaning occurs ease off the accelerator and brakes until your vehicle tyres to make contact with the road again