

Winter Driving Tips

Keep salt spray at bay

Road salt can quickly coat your windscreen and headlights, reducing your ability to see, and others' ability to see you. Rinse off the salt at every opportunity, and keep your screenwash topped up.

Beware hidden ice

Even when it's just above zero, beware shaded areas where temperatures are lower, and roads with little traffic: invisible ice could still be present, especially in the early morning.

Smoothly does it

Make your steering, acceleration and braking as smooth and progressive as possible to maintain road grip in all conditions.

Keep your distance

Wet roads can double the distance needed to stop safely, while snow and ice can multiply stopping distance by 10 times.

Does grit mean grip?

Grit may be unevenly spread, and does get washed away, leaving sections of road untreated and slippery. Grit loses its effectiveness against ice below -10C, so take care on particularly cold days.

Always take extra care on winter roads. Allow extra time for your journey as you may need to deal with slow-moving traffic or diversions. Most importantly, relax and maintain your focus so you have time to deal with winter hazards. Stay frosty!

iam
RoadSmart

Winter Driving Prep

Keep the right clothing and equipment with you

Your winter driving kit should include an ice scraper or de-icer, warm clothes, sturdy footwear, a torch, shovel, something to eat and drink in case you get stuck, and a fully charged mobile phone.

Screenwash

You'll be using a lot of screenwash to clear frost and road salt. Make sure you keep it topped up using a type suitable for sub-zero conditions.

Don't get snowed under

Snow tumbling off your roof could obscure your vision or cause a hazard to others. Clear all the snow off your vehicle before driving.

Defrost all windows

Clear your windscreen and all windows for full visibility before you set off. Make sure your wipers aren't stuck before you use them!



Don't ignore those warning lights

A breakdown in winter could mean being stuck in hostile conditions. Make sure your vehicle has been well maintained.

Check your tyres

Replace worn tyres before winter strikes and consider changing to winter or all-season tyres. At least 3mm tread is recommended.

Prepare yourself and your vehicle for a winter of safe travels. A little preventative maintenance and a few minutes' effort before each journey will help keep you and your passengers safe and comfortable.