

DRIVING ADVISORY WINTER DRIVING

RED
CORPORATE
DRIVER TRAINING



Planning for your journey

If your journey is necessary, it is useful to carry the following items, in case you get stuck or your vehicle breaks down:

- De-icer / ice scraper
- Anti freeze
- A torch
- Warm drink and emergency food
- Warm clothing and boots
- A first aid kit
- A fully charged mobile phone
- A spade or shovel



Before setting out

You should give yourself plenty of time to clear the car of any snow or ice. You should also ensure all lights are clean and free from snow. You should also wait until your demister and heater are working well enough to keep the whole of the inside of your windscreen and rear window clear.

FIVE SIMPLE WAYS TO STAY SAFE THIS WINTER...



Don't Rush

Leave more time for your journey and make sure your car engine is warmed up before you start your journey. Ensure you have de-iced the vehicle thoroughly and you can see clearly through all windows in your vehicle before you set off.



Slow down

No matter how experienced a driver you are, driving at speed on an icy road is not possible. High speeds can make your vehicle difficult to control and even more difficult to stop. Only drive in ice if your journey is necessary too – it's best to stay off the roads if you can.



Take it up a gear

If you have to drive on an icy surface (and particularly set off on ice), it may be beneficial to drive in a higher gear, as this can help your tyres to grip to the ice.



Give it space

Stopping distances can be up to 10 times more than usual in snow and ice, so leave a large gap between the vehicles in front and go slowly. If traffic in front of you starts to slow, apply your breaks gently, as slamming them on can cause you to lose control.



Stay calm in a skid

If your car skids, press down on the clutch and turn the steering wheel into the direction of the skid. When you start to straighten up, steer along the road. Resist the temptation to brake – it will cause your wheels to lock and you'll skid further.

Winter hazards which could catch you out...

The months of November, December and January have the highest volume of vehicle insurance claims – and long-term data shows that there is a 25% increase in the number of claims made in November compared to April (statistically the lowest month for claims).

BEWARE THESE WINTER DRIVING TRAPS



1 Icy bridges

In very cold weather bridges are the first parts of the road to ice up, and the last to thaw. That's because the cold gets at the road surface from above and below, dropping the temperature quicker and holding it low for longer.



2 Microclimates

On cold days, road surface temperatures can change rapidly between those sections in sunshine and those in shade. That means you get huge changes in grip over short distances.



3 Puddles and standing water

Puddles and standing water increase the risk of aquaplaning – and can also hide potholes. Where possible, and only if it is safe to do so, try and avoid the centre of large bodies of standing water.



4 Motorway spray

Low sun and spray from standing water is a terrifying combination, blinding drivers and causing panic. Instead of slamming on the brakes, lift off the throttle and very lightly and gently braking over a longer period.



5 Tightening bends

When grip is lessened, and road conditions prone to change, the bend that tightens is the most dangerous, as drivers carry too much speed and slide off. Watch the point at which the two sides of the road meet in the distant part of the corner. If that point is moving towards you, you are travelling too fast.



6 Dark car parks

In winter, when it is dark, visibility is poor, reversing cameras are covered in mud and lights refract in windows and mirrors, the car park is a difficult location. To counter this, drive slowly and, if necessary, get out of your car to clean off reversing cameras.

TOP TIP!

When clearing the screen, take care not to damage the wiper blades as these may have been frozen to the screen. Never use boiling water to clear the windscreen; you could break the glass. Instead, use water that is barely lukewarm or even cold – this is still warmer than ice and will start the defrosting process.



WINTER EV TIPS

- Batteries are less effective in colder weather - plan charges and stops pre journey.
- Consider the additional weight of an electric vehicle can affect dynamics and braking distances in wet/ icy road conditions.
- Regenerative braking may be less effective in icy conditions, change up your driving style to rely more on traditional braking methods to keep you safe whenever the roads turn slippery.
- Torque is generally greater and on demand in an EV, but on wet icy roads consider how this may effect traction.
- Most EVs have an eco-mode to extend range, but beware it might reduce the power of the motor, and heater.
- Use the preconditioning mode most EVs have, to get defrosted and demisted, the cabin warmed, and batteries up to ideal operating temperature before you get in. Often you can just plug in and then use an app to start this mode remotely.



For more information visit:
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