



DRIVING ON SNOW AND ICE

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The best advice for driving on snow and ice is to avoid it if you can. If you can't, it's important to make sure your vehicle is prepared, and that you know how to handle the road conditions. The following tips will help make your drive safer on snow and ice.

Driving safely on icy roads:

- Decrease your speed and leave yourself plenty of room to stop. You should allow at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Brake gently to avoid skidding.
- Turn on your lights so that other drivers can see you.
- Keep your lights and windshield clean.
- Use low gears to keep traction, especially on hills.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.
- Be especially careful on bridges, overpasses and infrequently traveled roads. These areas will freeze first. Even at temperatures above freezing, if the conditions are wet, you might encounter ice in shady areas.
- Don't pass snow plows and sand trucks. The drivers have limited visibility, and you're likely to find the road in front of them worse than the road behind them.
- Don't assume your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles can encounter trouble on winter roads.

If your vehicle starts to skid:

- Remain calm.
- Take your foot off the accelerator.
- If you have standard brakes, pump them gently.
- If you have anti-lock brakes, do not pump them, but apply steady pressure to the brakes. You will feel the brakes pulse; this is normal.
- Steer to safety.

If you get stuck:

- Use a light touch on the gas to ease your car out.
- Don't spin your wheels. This will only dig you in deeper.
- You may want to try rocking the vehicle. Give a light touch on the gas pedal and then release it. Repeating this action will start a rocking motion and could free your vehicle.
- If necessary, use a shovel to clear snow away from the wheels and the underside of the vehicle.
- Pour sand, kitty litter, gravel or salt in the path of the wheels to increase traction.

Keep in mind that winter brings adverse weather conditions. Be prepared to operate your vehicle in a defensive manner, and watch out for other vehicles on the road. Driving on snow and ice can be tricky, but can be done safely. Remember: Think safety and act safely.

[Download the recording form here.](#)