



## *Safety Tips*

### **Vehicle Safety- Winter Driving Tips**



The best advice for driving in wintery conditions is not to drive at all but Hazardous Conditions are often unavoidable. Business and Industry may slow, at times, but it does not stop during this time of year and you may find yourself driving in snow, sleet, and icy conditions. Many winter driving tips and best practices can contribute to safely driving to and from your destination.

**“The road was icy” is no excuse for an accident...**

#### **Tips for driving in snow and ice:**

1. Allow yourself extra time to reach your destination and **SLOW DOWN!** Slowing down is the single most important factor that allows you to maintain control of your vehicle and prevent it from breaking traction. Breaking traction leads to wheel-spin under acceleration, wheel lock during braking and sliding while cornering.
2. Keep your speed as low as practically possible and leave adequate space to stop. It is a generally accepted best practice to maintain three times the usual following distance, a following distance of 12 seconds.

**References: [weather.com](http://weather.com), [drivingfast.net](http://drivingfast.net), National Safety Council, New York State DMV, Washington State Government Information & Services**

3. Maintaining traction is paramount. Good traction starts with good tires. Keep in mind that snow tires are made of softer rubber than all-weather tires and provide better grip. Tire treads and design patterns make a difference in traction on ice and snow.
4. Brake gently to avoid skidding. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake.
5. Snow chains can provide better traction on icy roads. It may prove useful to maintain a set in your vehicle and be familiar with how to use them by reading manufactures suggested guidelines.
6. Four-wheel drive vehicles can navigate icy roads better than those with two-wheel drive, although they too need proper tires and or chains to maintain traction on icy road conditions.
7. Be mindful of bridges & Overpasses and infrequently traveled roads, which will freeze first.
8. If your rear wheels skid, then take your foot off the accelerator. Steer in the direction you want to front wheels to go. If your rear wheels are sliding left, steer left. If sliding right, steer right.
9. If your front wheels skid take your foot off the gas but do not try to steer immediately. As the wheels skid sideways, they will slow the vehicle and traction will return. As it does, steer in the direction you want to go.

#### **Useful Items for your vehicle:**

Jumper Cables, Tow Strap, Tire Chains, Bag of Salt or Cat Litter, Working Flashlight, Reflective Triangles, Ice Scraper & Snow Brush