

January

BULLETIN

Driving advice for winter weather



As winter is upon us then we should look to reassess our driving styles and adjust to suit any wintry conditions. Here are a few points to remember before you get in your car.

When it's **snowy**: Only drive if absolutely necessary. Make sure your car is clear of snow and ice, including the roof – braking may cause snow to slip onto the windscreen and obscure your view. Slow down and turn on your lights. Leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front.

When it's **foggy**: Fog lights! If you can't see through the fog, slow down as others won't be able to see you. Importantly, don't forget to turn off your fog lights when they are no longer needed.

When it's **flooded**: As a rule, if you can't see the road, don't try and drive through the water. Drive slowly through shallow floods and stay in a low gear.

When it's **sunny**: A low winter sun can dazzle! Watch out for glare if the roads are wet and slow down. Make full use of sun visors and remember to keep sunglasses in the car.

When it's **windy**: Take note of any 'cross winds' signs and reduce your speed. Keep your distance from high sided vehicles and take care around motorbikes and cyclists who may be blown off course.

When it's **cold**: It may be icy. Make sure your windscreen and windows are clear before you set off. We salt the roads when road temperatures drop below zero, but salt isn't magic, so reduce your speed and drive carefully. Be mindful of black ice!

When it's **rainy**: Turn on your lights and leave extra space between you and the car in front - remember braking distances are increased when road surfaces are wet.

When it's **dark**: Remember it gets dark earlier during the winter! Turn on your lights and drive with caution, especially if you are not familiar with the road. Also remember to dip your headlights when you come across approaching traffic, it's easy to dazzle other road users.

Always make sure your vehicle is road-ready. Check your tyres are properly inflated and they have enough tread, your washer fluid is topped up, your wipers are in good working order and your lights work, including your indicators and brake lights.



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