



November 2011

## Winter driving tips

1. **Maintain a safe following distance.** It takes longer to stop on a slippery road. Look ahead and keep plenty of distance between you and other vehicles (*at least four - six seconds*). Having good winter tires will improve your stopping distance.
2. **Slow your speed to match road conditions.** The posted speed is the maximum speed under ideal conditions. In winter, it is safer to drive below the posted speed. No matter how much experience you have, the way your vehicle responds on snow or ice always has an element of unpredictability.
3. **Watch for black ice.** Slow down when approaching shaded areas, bridges and overpasses, as these areas of road freeze faster than others in cold weather. Watch for "black ice", a thin coating of ice, which is almost invisible but very hazardous. *It may appear as wet black patch on the road surface.* It can cause your vehicle to suddenly lose traction, braking and cornering control. Look for other vehicles that may be experiencing trouble ahead.
4. **Accelerate and brake gradually.** When starting from a stop on slick roads, start slowly and accelerate gradually to maintain traction and avoid spinning your wheels. When stopping, plan well in advance and apply the brakes gently, slowly adding pressure rather than braking suddenly.
5. **Avoid sudden moves.** Slow down and steer smoothly and gradually to avoid skidding. Accelerate gently, turn slowly, and brake carefully and early. Avoid unexpected quick movements that could put you in a spin. Anticipate turns, stops, and lane changes well before they occur.



### Suggested winter survival kit include:

- Cell phone
- Flashlight / reflectors
- Ice scraper / washer fluid
- Extra clothing and footwear / blankets
- Candle / matches and a small tin can
- Non-perishable energy foods (*granola bars/juice/bottled water*)
- First aid kit
- Booster cables