



Winter Driving

Toolbox Talk

We all have a responsibility to ensure that if an activity cannot be performed safely, then it shouldn't be performed at all



Winter driving

- Driving in winter can present us with extreme weather and dangerous road conditions. In particular this will mean we are faced with increased hazards such as reduced daylight, heavy rainfall, high winds, dazzling sun and cold weather with fog, snow and ice.
 - Stay safe and be prepared!
 - Before setting off on your journey, check weather updates and think!
 - Do you REALLY need to drive?
 - If travel is unavoidable during bad weather allow extra time to get to your destination or try and wait until conditions improve. Even after roads have been treated via snow clearing or gritting, it's still possible you could encounter slippery spots on the roads, so driving with care will reduce the risks to you, other motorists and pedestrians.



Winter driving - essentials



- **Check your tyres** – tread depth should be at least 2.0 mm but in wet or icy conditions and tread depth of at least 2.5 mm will provide additional traction
 - Tyres should also be inflated to the pressure recommended by the manufacturer
- **Inform someone** – of your intended route and expected time of arrival
- **Check wipers and lights** – ensure wipers are working correctly. If your wiper blades are showing signs of wear, this is a good time to replace them. Check all vehicle lights work correctly for example full beam and dipped beam is available to you and keep them clean
- **Clean windscreen, windows and mirrors** – and keep them clear of snow, ice or condensation.



Winter driving – essentials

- **Coolant / antifreeze / windscreen washer fluid** – coolant protects your engine from freezing, guards against corrosion. A 50-50 mix of coolant and water is sufficient to avoid your engine freezing up. Be sure to keep the windscreen washer reservoir full. During bad weather, you could use up to 2 litres of fluid on one trip
- **Consider your route** – You can reduce the risk of being involved in an incident if you can stick to using main roads which have been cleared or gritted.



Winter driving

- In bad weather you will lower your risk of being involved in a road traffic incident if you:
 - Increase the distance between you and the vehicle in front of you by 6-8 seconds to allow extra stopping distance
 - Use your signals and indicators early and clearly, and make sure you have plenty of time and space when turning or changing lanes
 - Slow down before you reach bends in roads, steer through a bend at a steady speed and don't accelerate or brake until you have driven through the bend.



Year round essentials

- Fully-charged mobile phone and in-car charger
- Sunglasses – to deal with glare from the winter sun or snow
- Personal medication
- Warning triangle
- Spare bulbs
- First aid kit
- Road atlas – in case of diversions
- Sat-nav or printed route for unfamiliar journeys
- Breakdown membership number available.



Winter emergency kit

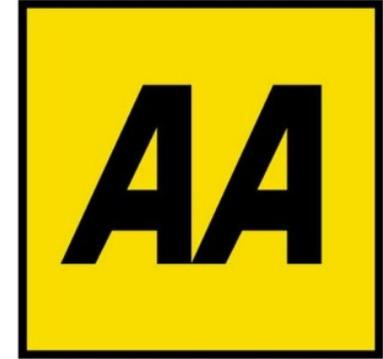


- Blanket, rug or sleeping bag
- Shovel
- Bits of carpet or thick cardboard to place under driven wheels to help regain traction on ice or snow
- Salt, sand or cat litter – to help clear snow and ice
- Reflective jacket(s)
- Ice scraper and de-icer
- Torch and batteries
- Tow rope
- Snow chains (if you live in a remote or rural area)
- Battery jump leads
- Bottled water
- Snacks – chocolate or cereal bars
- Extra screen wash.



Winter driving

- Further winter driving advice is available from the AA via their website & other motoring organisations:
http://www.theaa.com/motoring_advice/seasonal/winter_motoring.html
- **Stuck in the snow?**
 - Don't panic! If the engine is running, make sure the exhaust pipe stays free of drifting snow, and open a window slightly for fresh air.
 - Remember to use your emergency flashers or a flare if available to warn other drivers you are stationary – especially if the visibility is poor.



Poor visibility

- Your driving visibility will be affected in blizzards, fog or low level sunshine in winter
- Remember to allow plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front. Use your fog lights and leave your brake lights on, checking your rear view mirror and wing mirrors on a regular basis, as this could help you to take evasive action and avoid a rear end collision.



Winter darker evenings and mornings



- It may sound obvious but switch on your lights as soon as it starts to get dark as you may not be as visible to other motorists and pedestrians as you think!
- In urban areas remember its good practice to use dipped beams
- Be aware that pedestrians are harder to spot in the dark and may not be visible until they are very close. In particular, take care when driving near schools and homes.

