



SAFETY MOMENT



WINTER DRIVING

Driving vehicles during the winter months can present additional challenges to drivers. Reduced visibility, adverse weather conditions and poor road surface are all contributing factors when it comes to driver safety on the roads.

If you need to drive, here's the advice:



- Re-fuel the night before the journey; check radio/TV for traffic and weather updates.
- Keep breakdown recovery contact numbers in the vehicle.
- Carry out sufficient vehicle checks prior to your journey.
- Remove ice and snow from all windows before moving off; keep windows clear thereafter.
- Set dashboard air outlets towards door windows to improve wing mirror visibility.
- Use dipped headlights so that others can see you.
- Only travel at a speed at which you will be able to stop within the distance you can see to be clear.
- Avoid harsh braking and acceleration or aggressive steering, as these actions can lead to skids; reduce your speed smoothly and use brakes gently.
- Drive in the highest gear as soon as possible but ensure it offers engine braking when the accelerator is released. This is crucial when descending slopes or hills.
- When in snow and ice, use engine braking through the gears; just touch the brake pedal lightly to show brake lights to others behind.
- A lack of road noise could indicate the presence of ice. Increase your following distance by ten times when driving on ice.
- Fresh snow can provide better grip at low speeds than compacted snow, which is effectively ice.
- On a journey, take a high visibility jacket, torch, mobile phone & charger, warning triangle, spare bulbs, serviceable spare tyre and first aid kit.
- Other essential equipment: de-icer & screen wash, shovel, non-slip carpet to place under driving wheels if stuck, warm clothes, drinking water, high grip boots/shoes, snow chains or tyre socks, jump leads and tow rope.

For more information and driver safety tips, visit the [HSE webpage](#) and download "Winter Driving – Safety Tips"



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