

Winter weather. Mother Nature's road test.

Be prepared. Learn how to drive in winter conditions.

Winter weather challenges our driving skills. Make sure you're up to the test. The following winter driving tips could save your life when out on the road.

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 cars (at least four seconds).
2. **Drop 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 car will move on snow or ice always has an element of unpredictability.
3. **Watch for black ice.** Slow down when approaching icy areas such as shaded areas, bridges and overpasses as these sections of road freeze sooner than others in cold weather. Watch for "black ice", areas of the road with a thin, almost invisible coating of ice, as it can cause your vehicle to suddenly lose traction, braking, and cornering control.
4. **Accelerate and brake slowly.** 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, apply the brakes gently, and slowly add 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.
6. **Know how to handle a skid.** A skid happens when your wheels slide out of control on a slippery surface and is a result of driving too fast for road conditions. If you start to skid, ease on the brake or accelerator, look and steer smoothly in the direction you want to go. Be careful not to oversteer. If you are on ice and skidding in a straight line, step on the clutch or shift to neutral.
7. **See and be seen.** It is critical for drivers to see and be seen in low light conditions, and when blowing snow impairs visibility. Always drive with your headlights on.
8. **Be extremely cautious when approaching highway maintenance vehicles such as snow plows and salt or sand trucks.** Maintain a safe following distance. These vehicles throw up snow and spray, making it difficult to see.

Know before you go. Check [DriveBC.ca](https://www.drivebc.ca)

Disclaimer. This tip sheet does not take the place of professional occupational health and safety advice and is not guaranteed to meet the requirements of applicable laws, regulations, and rules, including workplace health and safety laws and motor vehicle and traffic laws. The members of the Winter Driving Safety Alliance and their respective employees, officers, directors or agents (collectively the "WDSA") assume no liability for or responsibility for any loss or damage suffered or incurred by any person arising from or in any way connected with the use of or reliance upon the information contained in this tip sheet including, without limitation, any liability for loss or damage arising from the negligence or negligent misrepresentation of any of the WDSA in any way connected with the information contained in this tip sheet. The information provided in this tip sheet is provided on an "as is" basis. WDSA does not guarantee, warrant, or make any representation as to the quality, accuracy, completeness, timeliness, appropriateness, or suitability of any of the information provided, and disclaims all statutory or other warranties, terms, or obligations of any kind arising from the use of or reliance upon the information provided, and assumes no obligation to update the information provided or advise on future developments concerning the topics mentioned.(09-2014)