

Driving in Rainy Weather

Rain can be just as dangerous as snow or ice. Reduced visibility through your windshield is just part of the challenge. Add colder temperatures, reduced daylight hours, sleet, spray, and flooding – and your driving skills are going to be put to the test.

Here are a few tips for a safer drive during wet conditions:

- Windshield wipers are your first defense. Are they old or brittle? If so, replace them.
- Use your headlights even in light rain or overcast conditions. They help you see the road, and allow other drivers to see you.
- Change the way you use your brakes. If possible, when slowing down, take your foot off the accelerator instead of relying on your brakes.
- If you pass through deep water, check your brakes afterwards. They could be wet. To help dry them, drive really slowly while lightly braking at the same time. Make sure you're pulling evenly on all wheels before you build up speed again.
- Middle lanes are best. Water often pools in outside lanes. Try to drive in the tracks of the vehicle in front of you.
- Be extra cautious right after it rains. Water mixes with oil and other deposits on the road and increases your chance of slipping or skidding.
- Stay well back from large trucks or buses. Their large tires spray. If you have to pass a large vehicle, do it quickly and safely.
- Watch for hydroplaning or aquaplaning. It's when water on the road gathers in front of your vehicle faster than your tires can push it away, and usually happens at speeds over 60 km/hr. Your car can lose contact with the road, and in less than a second you could slide out of your lane.

Know before you go.

Before heading out:

- Visit [DriveBC.ca](https://drivebc.ca) for current road conditions.
- Visit our [Driving for the Conditions Tool Kit](#) for tips on ways to safely drive in different weather conditions..

