

Driving on Icy Roads

When the roads are icy, you not only have to watch yourself, you have to watch for others sliding into your path. Learn how to drive on ice before you get behind the wheel.

Here are a few more tips:

- Watch for black ice, a thin layer of transparent ice that forms when it's near freezing. How can you tell it's out there? Often, you can't. If there's ice build-up on your windshield, it's a clue that black ice is probably on the road.
- Slow down when you approach shaded areas, bridges and overpasses. These sections freeze sooner than others. Also watch for sections of the road that appear black and shiny. Any of these areas can cause a vehicle to suddenly lose traction and skid.
- If you begin skidding, gradually release pressure from whichever pedal you're using (brake or accelerator). Smoothly steer in the direction you want the car to go. Smooth steering is the key to recovering from a skid.
- Slow down, especially when approaching an intersection. It takes longer to stop on ice. As well, watch for vehicles sliding through the intersection.
- When starting up, accelerate slowly to avoid spinning your wheels.
- Watch for hills. Pick a path that provides the most traction. Unpacked snow or powder provide a better grip. Watch the cars ahead of you to see where they're spinning their wheels or sliding so that you can avoid those spots.



Know before you go.

Before heading out:

- Visit [DriveBC.ca](https://drivebc.ca) for current road conditions.
- Visit [RoadSafetyAtWork.ca/Winter](https://roadsafetyatwork.ca/winter) for tips on ways to prepare yourself, your vehicle, and how to drive safely on winter roads.

