

Driving Safely this Winter

The last two winters have been particularly severe, as a result motorists have struggled with dangerous road and adverse weather conditions. To help you prepare with travel this season please see tips and guidance for safer winter driving.



Maintenance and Servicing

With winter weather approaching it is highly recommended to service your vehicle. Regular maintenance and checks are important to reduce your chances of breaking down. Before setting out on any journey make sure your vehicle is in running order and check the following:

- Lights are clear and check the bulbs
- Top up on anti freeze and screen wash
- Make sure your battery is fully charged
- Oil – Ensured filled to correct Level
- Ensure your tyres are fully inflated and have adequate tread.

Tyres

Check all tyres for condition and pressure. In winter you should ideally have a minimum tread depth of 3mm. If winter tyres are fitted, you may be required to notify your insurer. Please check with your insurance broker/account handler if this is required.

Have you a Winter Emergency Vehicle Kit?

In extreme weather conditions make sure you carry the following:

- Map
- Jump Leads
- Torch
- Warning Triangle
- Ice Scraper and de-icer
- Warm Clothes and blanket
- Food and warm drink
- A snow shovel
- Pair of Boots
- Any medication you may need

*Recommended by the Highway Agency

Prepare for Your Journey

Always ask yourself if travel is necessary or if you can delay your journey until the weather conditions improve. If you must travel, please consider the following:

- Check the weather forecast and your planned journey route
- Check live traffic information for road and listen to regular updates on local radio
- Plan your route and let someone know your destination and expected arrival time
- Leave extra time and prepare your vehicle before you set off
- Clear all windows and roofs of snow, ice and dirt
- Always carry your mobile phone, ensuring it is fully charged
- Ensure you have enough fuel in case of unexpected delays
- Prepare a winter emergency kit to keep in your vehicle

Driving in Snow

Driving conditions in winter are challenging and when roads are slippery it can take an extra 10 times longer to stop. Please ensure the following steps are taken when driving in adverse weather conditions:

- Gentle manoeuvres are key , particularly when braking
- Select second gear when pulling away , select higher gears for travelling downhill
- Always apply the brakes gently
- If you start to skid, press the clutch, steer into the skid as you straighten steer back along the road.
- Black ice can appear visually as a wet patch , so be cautious when driving
- **Always put your safety first**