

Stay safe on the roads this winter

With lower temperatures, and shorter days, it's important to take extra care when driving in the winter. Follow our top tips for staying safe during the darker, wintry days this season.



Golden rules for winter roads

- Allow extra time for journeys.
- Bad weather can lead to congestion and unexpected delays, so, make sure you have enough fuel.
- De-ice your vehicle using a de-icer and a scraper. Remember don't use boiling water as the sudden temperature change can cause your windscreen to crack.
- Keep a safe distance from other vehicles.
- Check your tyres have a tread depth of over 1.6mm to ensure good grip. In snow, aim for 3mm.

What should I do if there's...

...wind?

- Drive slowly to maintain control and hold the steering wheel firmly.
- Open areas are most susceptible to strong gusts of wind. Smaller roads are prone to strong side winds and wind tunnel effects.
- In extremely high winds, avoid overtaking and ensure you give other road users, especially cyclists extra space.

...flooding?

- Is there an alternative route you can take? Only attempt to cross a flooded road as a last resort.



Driving at night

We all know we need to use our car headlights at night, but don't forget your sidelights and rear registration plate lights too.



- Stop and assess. Check the depth of water and the state of the road underneath. Check for other hazards including, floating debris or downed power lines, where the electric current could be conducted by water.
- Avoid passing other drivers as larger vehicles can create waves higher than expected.
- Aim for the highest part of the road (usually the middle), as most roads are designed to let water drain off the sides.
- Look out for hidden dips where water could be deeper.
- Park on high ground, ideally at the top of a hill or slope. Don't forget to apply your handbrake securely.

...fog?

- Clean your mirrors and demist both of your windscreens.
- When you're approaching fog, check your mirrors and slow down if it's safe to do so.
- Make sure to take a high-vis jacket and a warning triangle in case of an accident.
- The Highway Code (rule 226) says you can turn fog lights on when visibility has dropped below 100m.
- Whilst it's not illegal to drive without fog lights, it's best to do so, to ensure other drivers can see you.
- Make sure you switch off your fog lights when visibility improves.
- You are legally obligated to use your headlights in foggy conditions.



Winter-proof checklist

- ✓ Get your vehicle serviced.
- ✓ Check your tyres tread depth and air pressure.
- ✓ Make sure your lights are working properly.
- ✓ Check your wipers blades' condition.
- ✓ Top up your engine coolant.
- ✓ Use an anti-freeze screen wash.