

DRIVING IN BAD WEATHER

(Information Source – Highways Agency website Jan '09 – <http://www.highways.gov.uk/>)

Driving through ice and snow

Remove snow from the roof of your vehicle as it can slip down over the windscreen and obscure your view.

If your tyres are making virtually no noise, you could be driving on ice.

If your vehicle starts to skid, turn the steering wheel into the direction of the skid and when your vehicle straightens, steer along the road.

Do not brake! It'll lock up your wheels and you'll skid further.

Driving in the rain

Wet roads are slippery and it can take up to 10 times longer to stop. So, drop your speed, and give yourself as much time and space as possible to slow down and stop.

If your vehicle loses its grip on surface water (aquaplanes), take your foot off the accelerator to slow down. Don't brake or steer suddenly, because you have no control of either.

Floods

If you can avoid it, don't drive through lying surface water, as you could easily damage your engine. If you do have to, use first gear and move forward immediately to avoid stalling the engine. Keep your revs high and depress your clutch when you need to.

Remember that the deepest water is usually nearest the kerb. Always test your brakes after passing through the water

Driving through fog

Use dipped headlights so other drivers can see you. If there's less than 100m visibility, switch your fog lights on. Remember fog is often patchy, so don't speed up as visibility improves until you are absolutely sure you're out of it.

Driving in windy weather

High-sided vehicles are particularly affected by windy weather, but strong gusts can blow a vehicle, cyclist or motorcyclist off course. This happens most commonly on open stretches of road exposed to strong crosswinds, or when passing bridges and high-sided vehicles.

Emergency Kit

Your emergency kit should contain:

- a map
- battery jump leads
- a torch
- a warning triangle
- an ice scraper and de-icer
- a first-aid kit
- food and water and warm clothes

And in case of seriously bad weather :

- a shovel
- a pair of boots
- a blanket
- and any relevant medication you might need.

How about you gather it all together, pack it in a bag and put it in your boot today?