



WINTER DRIVING GUIDE

Essential tips for a safer journey

Driving in the winter is very different than driving at other times of the year and can be a challenge even for experienced drivers. A single journey may involve different weather, road and traffic conditions such as snow and ice, long dark nights and strong winds, so we need to adapt the way we drive to the conditions.

If you own an Electric Vehicle it's worth using the pre-heating features, which allow you to warm your vehicle before you leave. All of this can usually be done through a smartphone app, making it a highly efficient and convenient way of getting into a warm vehicle with an unfrozen windscreen every morning.

To help with any winter driving anxieties, we've got some great advice with our top tips.





Keep your distance

Your stopping distance on snow and ice increases significantly from what it usually is. What might usually be 2 seconds can increase to you needing to leave a 10+ second gap. This means that driving too close to the vehicle in front of you is not advisable as you simply won't be able to stop in time.



Select the right gears

Driving your vehicle in a higher gear will help you to keep control. If it's icy and you're struggling to get started, try pulling away in second gear. This should make it easier to get you going, as pulling away in first gear on ice won't give you as much grip.



Know how to use your lights and heating system

With the days getting shorter, you'll be using your lights more. Before setting off, check that your lights are working correctly, and you know which heating controls to use to de-ice the vehicle before you set off.

If you drive an Electric Vehicle, familiarise yourself with how to precondition it using the smartphone app. By using the preheat function you're not just warming the inside of the vehicle, you're pre-heating the battery so it's at its most efficient temperature when you set off.



Black ice

Be cautious during icy weather. Black ice is invisible on the roads, extremely slippery and hazardous. It makes driving incredibly difficult to identify and therefore, avoid.



The most obvious advice is if you're driving in freezing conditions, take it slow and steady and avoid doing any risky manoeuvres.



Recovering from a skid

If you lose control of the car, keep both hands on the wheel and avoid braking. You should also try to steer into the skid – this should help get you straight and back on track. In the moment of losing control of your vehicle, you may panic and forget what you need to do. Try your best to keep calm and be aware of your surroundings.



Pack essentials

Keeping essentials in your vehicle may not seem a priority, but you'll thank yourself if you do find yourself broken down at the side of the road. Take a blanket, torch, fully charged phone, water, snacks, and any other winter driving kit essentials you think you may need if you find yourself waiting to be recovered by the breakdown services in winter.