

## Staying Safe While Winter Driving

Every year, there are over 1,000 people killed and 75,000 people injured in auto accidents while driving in slush, ice and snowy road conditions. In fact, most weather-related crashes happen on wet pavement (around 70%) and during rainfall (46%).

## Winter Driving Tips

- Keep these items in your vehicle:
  - A first aid kit
  - A windshield scraper and a small broom
  - A small sack of sand or kitty litter for generating traction under wheels
  - A shovel
  - Matches in a waterproof container
  - High visibility items such as a brightly colored (preferably red) cloth to tie to the car antenna, reflective tape, glow sticks or flares
  - Spare medication
  - Non-perishable snacks
  - A reflective vest
  - Single use heat packs (lots of them)
  - Extra windshield wiper fluid



- A basic automotive tool kit, including jumper cables
- A flashlight with extra batteries
- A blanket and extra winter weather gear such as gloves, hats, and scarf
- Always keep your vehicle's gas tank at least half full to keep the gas line from freezing
- Don't use cruise control when driving in winter weather
- Keep in mind that ramps, bridges, and overpasses freeze before roadways and can be extra slippery

### **What To Do if You Get Stuck or Stranded**

- Contact the State Highway Patrol by dialing \*HP (\*47) on your phone.
- Don't spin your wheels. Doing so will only dig your tires in deeper. Instead, turn your wheels from side to side to help clear the snow, then turn the steering wheel so that the tires are as straight as possible.
- Spread non-clumping kitty litter, sand or salt in the cleared areas around your tires. This will help you gain traction.
- Ensure that the exhaust on your car is clear of snow to prevent carbon monoxide build-up in the car. Also, check the exhaust every time you turn your car on to ensure that snow has not accumulated.
- Keep your seatbelt on and put your hazard lights on—even if you have pulled over as a car can still hit you.

<https://policyadvice.net/insurance/insights/winter-driving-statistics/>

<https://blog.directenergy.com/stay-safe-7-winter-driving-tips/>

<https://www.heraldsun.com/news/weather/article257033262.html>

