

Winter Driving Safety

Winter driving can be dangerous. Follow these tips to stay safe and warm.

Driving in Winter Conditions

- Be prepared every time you drive during the winter.
- Do not leave without a full tank of gas.
- Carry a charged cell phone.
- Keep a winter survival kit in your trunk in case of emergencies.
 - See the back for a list of contents for your survival kit.
- Let someone know of your plans for travel.
- Download the NDDOT travel app and check road conditions before you leave.
- Never use cruise control on wet or icy roadways.
- Be cautious of snow fog created by passing trucks.
- NEVER pass a snow plow.
- If you start skidding, steer “into the skid” by turning the steering wheel toward the direction that the back of your car is skidding.
- Do not slam on your brakes to slow down in wet or icy conditions. Instead, let go of the gas and slowly start braking to prevent skidding.
- Remember that bridges and shaded spots will build up ice faster and stay icy longer than the rest of the roadway.



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Winter Survival Kit Contents


- Always keep a survival kit in your car while driving in the winter. You never know when or how long you could be stranded.
- Stock your kit with the following items:
 - Jumper cables
 - A small shovel
 - Sand or cat litter for tire traction
 - Flares or reflective triangles
 - A whistle to signal for help
 - A cell phone charger
 - A large candle or coffee can furnace with matches
 - Use this as a source of heat
 - Boots
 - Ice scraper/brush
 - Newspapers
 - For insulation of your clothing
 - Small tool kit
 - First aid kit
 - Non perishable food
 - Such as granola bars and sports drinks
 - A blanket
 - A rope



What to Do if You Get Stranded

- Stay with your vehicle.
- Save gas by running your engine for 15 minutes every hour.
 - Adjust this time if gas is running low.
- Keep your exhaust pipe clear of snow.
- Keep your feet off the floor if your heater is not on.
- Never fall asleep with the engine running.
- Tie something colorful to your car antenna or set out reflective triangles to make your car visible in a blizzard.
- If you need to leave the car during the storm, tie a rope to the car and yourself so you can find your way back.
- Move your survival kit from the trunk to the interior of the car so you don't need to get out of the car more than once.
- Put on extra clothing before you get cold.
 - It is easier to maintain warmth than to regain it once you're cold.
- Charge your phone while the car is running to make sure your battery doesn't die.

Source: www.dot.nd.gov

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