

Shift into Winter

Tips for Winter Driving



Every day, BC workers are killed or injured while driving on the job. Not just couriers and truck drivers, but nurses, teachers, and others who drive while they're working. Motor vehicle incidents are responsible for more deaths than any other events that occur to workers on the job in BC today.

Driving in winter's rain, fog, snow and ice can put you at even greater risk. Brush up on your winter driving IQ to help you get there safely.

Drop your speed to match road conditions –

The posted speed is the maximum speed under ideal conditions. It is often safer in winter to drive below the posted speed. Use caution when passing and ease up on the gas – it won't take much longer to get there.

*Driving 20 km? At 80 km/h it takes 15 minutes.
At 60 km/h it takes only 5 minutes longer.*

Maintain a safe following distance – You've heard about the two-second rule. But in winter conditions, you need to at least double that to four seconds.

*Driving 80 km/h? That's 22 metres per second.
Leave at least 88 metres between your vehicle and the one in front. That's about 14 vehicle lengths or way longer than the length of a hockey rink!*

Watch for hidden dangers – Shaded areas, bridges and overpasses, railway crossings and intersections can be icy, even if other areas are not.

Think you'll see it in time? Maybe, but black ice is difficult to see. Why push your luck? Slow down as you get closer to these areas.

Avoid sudden moves – Sudden or abrupt

braking, accelerating or turning on wet, snowy or icy roads can make your car skid. Make your moves smoothly and steadily.

Think you can get away with it? Why take a chance that could result in your vehicle turning donuts in oncoming traffic?

Know how to handle a skid – If you start to skid, ease off the brake or accelerator, look and steer smoothly in the direction you want to go. You may overcorrect, causing your vehicle to then skid in the opposite direction. This may happen a few times. Repeat the procedure until you regain control. Once you do, proceed with caution.

Feel confident in your skid handling? Remember – every vehicle handles differently in each of winter's driving conditions. But the principle remains the same – look and steer smoothly in the direction you want to go.

Be cautious when approaching highway maintenance vehicles (e.g., snow plows, salt and sand trucks) – Maintain a safe following distance. These vehicles throw up snow and spray, making it difficult to see.

Tempted to pass? Think again. You won't be able to see what lies ahead as you pass. And passing on the right is a really bad idea. Other vehicles may be stopped on the side of the road.

Make sure you Shift into Winter.

WORK SAFE BC

WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
worksafebc.com