

# Winter Driving: Get Prepared

## Essential tips to navigate winter roads safely and confidently



Cold temperatures, icy conditions and reduced visibility all pose significant risks that make winter driving particularly challenging.

However, through proper preparation and by taking the right precautions, you can ensure your vehicle is ready for the season. Follow these key safety practices to ensure you navigate the winter roads with total peace of mind.

### Prepare Your Vehicle

As the saying goes, “fail to prepare, prepare to fail,” and this is especially true when it comes to winter driving. A well-maintained vehicle is your best defence against harsh conditions, reducing the risk of breakdowns or accidents:

- ✓ Inspect your vehicle’s battery, heated windscreen, and lights to ensure they are functioning correctly.
- ✓ Clean your windscreen and wipers, making sure the washer fluid reservoir is filled too.
- ✓ Verify tyre pressures and confirm that all the tyres are in good condition.
- ✓ Ensure that the brakes are fully operational.
- ✓ Check that all other fluids are adequately topped up.
- ✓ Monitor your fuel level to ensure vehicle engine can be kept running should you get stuck.

### Prepare Your Journey

While verifying your vehicle’s mechanical status is critical, it is also vitally important you are also ready for whatever your journey may throw at you:

- ✓ Map out your route – along with an alternative journey – and stay updated on weather and traffic conditions.
- ✓ Ideally, allow for extra time before setting off.
- ✓ Inform someone of your destination and your expected arrival time.
- ✓ Pack spare clothes, a flashlight, drinking water, and a snack in case of breakdown.
- ✓ Make sure your phone is fully charged and that you have a charger with you.
- ✓ Dress suitably for the weather, including a hat, scarf, and winter coat.
- ✓ Choose comfortable and dry footwear for driving.

### Winter Driving Essentials

- ✓ Ice scraper
- ✓ Shovel
- ✓ De-icer
- ✓ Anti-freeze

- ✓ Washer fluid
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Snowbrush
- ✓ AdBlue

- ✓ Bulb kit
- ✓ Rock salt

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### Winter Driving Advice – Snow & Ice

Conditions can change quickly in all seasons, but especially during the winter. Once you've started your journey, stay extra cautious and aware of the environment around you:

- ✓ Start moving gradually, easing off the clutch to prevent wheel spin.
- ✓ Maintain a steady speed and try to minimise gear changes.
- ✓ Drive cautiously and make slow, gentle driving inputs.
- ✓ In snow and ice, stopping distances can be ten times longer than in dry conditions.
- ✓ When braking is necessary, apply the brakes carefully.
- ✓ Look ahead to prevent any sudden braking or steering.
- ✓ Keep a safe speed and distance from other vehicles and avoid tailgating at all costs.
- ✓ If you find yourself stuck in the snow, straighten the steering wheel and clear any snow from the tyres and rims. Placing a sack or an old rug in front of the driving wheels can provide the tyres with additional grip.
- ✓ Driving in the dark can be exhausting; take breaks to ensure your safety.

### Did you know?

Rule 123 of the Highway Code states that:

- ✓ You **MUST NOT** leave a parked vehicle unattended with the engine running or leave a vehicle engine running unnecessarily while that vehicle is stationary on a public road.

Rule 229 of the Highway Code states that before you set off:

- ✓ You **MUST** be able to see, so clear all snow and ice from all your windows
- ✓ You **MUST** ensure that lights are clean and number plates are clearly visible and legible
- ✓ Make sure the mirrors are clear and the windows are demisted thoroughly
- ✓ Remove all snow that might fall off into the path of other road users
- ✓ Check your planned route is clear of delays and that no further snowfalls or severe weather is predicted.

### Just a call away...

Remember, if you need assistance while on the road, are in an emergency situation or simply have a question, Fraikin's dedicated service team is available 24/7, 365 days a year.

YOUR DEDICATED  
SERVICE TEAM:  
**0300 200 3911**



ALTERNATIVELY, FRAIKIN  
EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER:  
**0800 650 650**

Stay safe, and don't hesitate to get in touch  
if you need support during your journey.