



# It's winter in Michigan. Plan ahead. Drive defensively. Arrive safe.

**Winter in Michigan brings every kind of driving condition, wet to slick to snow-covered roads, and downpours to white outs. Your best defense is to be prepared.**

- **GIVE YOURSELF** a cushion of time to deal with wintry conditions.
- **CLEAR SNOW AND ICE** from all windows, lights, hood, and roof, before starting out. Keep your lights and windshield clean throughout your travels.
- **TURN ON YOUR LIGHTS** to increase your visibility to other motorists.
- **POSTED SPEED LIMITS** are for dry pavement. Decrease your speed on icy or snow-covered roads. Allow extra distance (at least three times the norm) between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.
- **WATCH THE TRAFFIC** well ahead for extra time to react safely.
- **USE LOW GEARS** to maintain traction, especially on hills.
- **STAY WELL BACK** of maintenance vehicles and snowplows – at least 200 feet (it's the law!) – and don't pass on the right. Use extreme caution when passing in a passing lane.
- **AVOID ABRUPT LANE CHANGES.** There may be a snow ridge between lanes. Also, the passing lane may be in worse shape than the driving lane.

- **BRAKE EARLY AND GENTLY** to avoid skidding. It takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions. If your wheels start to lock up, ease off the brake. Do not pump anti-lock brakes. The right way is to stomp and steer.
- **WATCH FOR SLIPPERY BRIDGE DECKS**, even when the rest of the pavement is in good condition. Bridge decks will ice up sooner than adjacent pavement.

**WINTERIZE YOUR VEHICLES**  
*for both safety and fuel economy. This is also a good time to treat them to a complete checkup.*

Ignition system	• Snow tires
Fuel system	• Antifreeze
Belts	• Battery
Exhaust system	• Proper grade oil
Brakes	• Lights
Fluid levels	• Defroster
Wiper blades	• Cooling system
Windshield washer fluid	• Tire tread and pressure

- **DO NOT USE CRUISE CONTROL OR OVERDRIVE** in wintry conditions. Even a slight depression of your brakes to deactivate can cause loss of control on hidden slippery patches.
- **DO NOT CUT QUICKLY** in front of heavy trucks. Remember they take longer to safely respond and come to a complete stop.
- **GO SLOW. DRIVE DEFENSIVELY.**

- **DO NOT ASSUME** your vehicle can handle all conditions. Even four-wheel and front-wheel drive vehicles encounter trouble on winter roads.
- **DON'T DRIVE AT ALL** in adverse conditions if you can avoid it. If you can't, try to wait until the snow plows and sanders have been out.

**KNOW THE CURRENT ROAD CONDITIONS. Call 1.800.ROADWIS**

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