



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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