

Driving in severe weather

Always adjust your driving according to the conditions and plan your journey by checking the latest weather conditions.

Make sure you can see clearly and that you can be seen. Clear ice and snow off all windows and lights before you set off.

Use at least dipped headlights in poor visibility – and don't just rely on daytime running lights if you have them.

Pay extra attention to planning your journey in severe weather.

Before you travel, ask yourself these questions:

- Do I really need to travel now or can my journey wait until the weather improves?
- Should I plan an alternative route for my journey?
- Have I checked my route for delays and poor weather conditions?
- Is my car ready for the journey?
- Have I packed an emergency kit?
- Will I need to change my driving style to suit the conditions?

During your journey remember this critical question:

- If I had to brake suddenly in an emergency, could I stop safely within the distance I can clearly see ahead of me?

Make time for winter



Make time for winter

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Latest traffic and weather

www.highways.gov.uk/traffic

@winterhighways

0300 123 5000

If you get stuck

Use an emergency phone on the motorway if you can.

From your mobile: dial 999

My breakdown service

Membership number

Telephone number

Make time for winter



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Be prepared - is your vehicle ready for winter?
Be informed - have you checked latest traffic and weather?

HIGHWAYS
AGENCY

Our winter fleet



The Highways Agency looks after motorways and major A roads in England. We have more than 500 vehicles, including salt spreaders with snowplough attachments (left) and snow blowers.

Other roads, maintained by local authorities,

are treated according to local priorities, such as main roads, bus routes and access to communities.

How salt works

We spread salt to lower the freezing point of the road surface and prevent ice forming. Traffic helps turn the salt into a brine solution for it to be most effective. Our fleet is equipped to spread pre-wet salt, to speed up the process and reduce the amount needed.

Salt itself does not prevent snow from settling. The critical factor is the road surface temperature, which can be above or below air temperature depending on the weather over previous days.

Our aim is to provide a good layer of brine to suppress the point at which the road would freeze and snow start to settle. But as each snowflake melts it also dilutes the solution. This is why heavy snow will settle and then accumulate despite significant pre-treatment.

At this stage we can clear snow out of the way using a plough right down to the road surface with rubber strips fitted across the width of the blades.



Your winter kit

Put these in your vehicle at the start of the winter season, you never know when you might need them!

- Ice scraper and de-icer
- Warm clothes and blankets - for you and all passengers
- Torch and spare batteries - or a wind-up torch
- Boots
- First aid kit
- Jump leads
- A shovel
- Road atlas
- Sunglasses (the low sun and glare off snow can be dazzling).



In addition, when setting out on winter journeys remember to take with you:

- Food and a warm drink in a flask
- Any medication you or passengers need to take regularly

Cut this out and keep it in your wallet as a handy reminder

It folds to credit card size

POWDERY - checklist before you set off

Petrol - (or diesel). Enough for your journey?

Oil - check levels regularly

Water - radiator and screen-wash

Damage - check wipers etc for signs of wear and tear

Electrics - lights, indicators and controls all working properly?

Rubber - tyres should be well inflated, legal, with good tread

You - are you fit to drive? Have you slept well? Are you taking any medication that could make it unsafe for you to drive?

