

WET WEATHER DRIVING TIPS

Wet weather driving is not an excuse for a mishap; it is a challenge to your driving ability. When weather conditions are wet and slippery it is important to make sure that your vehicle is in a safe and serviceable condition. The following tips will help ensure your vehicle is safe and you are ready for the changing weather.

TIRES: Proper tire care and safety is simple and easy. Use the acronym P.A.R.T. to assist you in checking your tires. Pressure, check to ensure that your tires are not under-inflated or over-inflated. Alignment, ensure that your vehicle is not pulling to one side or the steering is shaking. Rotation, rotate your tires every 5,000-6,000 miles to promote uniform tire wear. Tread, all you need is a Lincoln penny. Insert Abe's head into the tread in a couple of spots on each tire. If you can see the entire top of his head, your tread is less than one-sixteenth of an inch deep and your tires should be replaced.

WINDSHIELD WIPERS: Properly maintained windshield wiper blades assure safe driving in bad weather. Ripped or torn wiper blades cannot adequately remove road film and water. Check and ensure your wiper blades are not cracked, torn or worn. Make sure that the arms are not bent and that the blades leave no streaks from being worn.

BRAKES: Check to make sure the brakes are functioning properly. It is very important to have good brakes especially during wet weather. Brakes do not operate as efficiently when they are wet. There are two kinds of Anti-lock Brakes Systems (ABS), four-wheel and rear-wheel. The four-wheel ABS is found on passenger cars and some light trucks, and is designed to help you steer the vehicle and be more stable during emergency braking situations. The rear-wheel ABS is found exclusively on light trucks and is designed to prevent the rear wheels from locking up so that the vehicle doesn't skid sideways.

BAD WEATHER DRIVING:

- Maintain at least twice the safe following distance on wet roads; instead of two car lengths use four car lengths for every 10 miles per hour of speed.
- Make smooth gradual turns and stops.
- Don't pump ABS brake systems; just apply firm pressure to the brake pedal when stopping.
- Watch for standing water on bridges, and especially at underpasses.
- Never go around erected barriers.
- Be vigilant at intersections, watch for merging traffic.

THE LIFE YOU SAVE MAY JUST BE YOUR OWN