

# Citation

## Winter Driving

What you need to know



**Accidents are more likely to occur** when driving during the winter. However, there are a few simple precautions you can pass on to your staff to encourage safer driving and accident prevention.

### Top Tips

- Check the weather before starting out - if in doubt, don't travel.
- Check tyres for adequate tread. Poor tyres will not grip when driving on snow and ice. If you live in an area where snow is common you may want to consider changing to winter tyres with deeper treads.
- Don't panic if your vehicle begins to skid - keep calm and take your foot off the accelerator and gently steer into the skid. For example, if the rear of the car is sliding to the right, steer to the right. Do not take your hands off the steering wheel or stamp on your brakes.
- Steer smoothly - sudden turns make the vehicle more likely to skid.
- Allow extra space between you and the vehicle in front - bad weather conditions will affect your stopping distance.
- Make use of second gear when moving from a standing stop.
- Allow more time in the morning to clear all car windows and mirrors of frost and snow prior to setting off. Use luke warm water or de-icer to defrost the outside of the vehicle. You should never use hot or boiling water.
- It is also important to ensure that all lights are clear of snow before you set off and stop frequently if they become obstructed.
- Make sure you have enough screen wash and that the concentration is suitable for cold conditions.

### Always carry these essential items when travelling:

- Appropriate clothing - boots, jackets and gloves
- Blankets
- De-icer and scraper
- First Aid Kit
- Shovel
- Mobile phone and charger
- Road Map (in case your mobile device fails)
- Torch (check the batteries are fully charged), consider carrying spare batteries or a wind up torch.
- Jump Leads
- Sunglasses
- Food and a warm drink in a thermos

- Don't forget to ensure you have all the useful contact numbers you may need - colleagues, family members, roadside assistance and your insurance provider. Where appropriate, let relatives and friends know your intended route and expected time of arrival.

PLEASE NOTE: The above is intended to provide information of general interest but does not give legal advice.

Please call us on **0345 844 1111** to find out more

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