



Toolbox Talk

Avoid Skidding

During winter, it's important to take a minute and think about how to avoid skidding while driving a vehicle. Driving in wintry conditions is not an excuse for having an accident. It is an opportunity to display your driving ability as a skilled driver.

Winter means colder temperatures and wet and icy road conditions. Colder temperatures reduce the air pressure in your tires by about 3 pounds per square inch for every 10 degree drop in temperature. Lower tire pressure increases the chance of skidding because it reduces the ability of the tire to push the water or snow out from under the tire. Low-pressure tires will begin to "hydroplane" at a lower speed because the water is trapped under the tires. Wet roads require at least 50% more distance to stop and icy conditions at least 10 times more distance.

Tips to Avoid Skidding During Bad Weather

- Check your vehicle to ensure all aspects of it are functioning properly. Things to check include tire pressure, tread depth, brakes, tail/head lights, windshield wipers/washers and mirrors
- Drive at a safe speed for weather, traffic and road conditions
- Maintain at least three seconds of following distance behind the vehicle in front of you
- Make sure tires continue to grip the road by making smooth, gradual turns and gradually stop by pumping the brakes. Do not lock up the wheels. Antilock brakes will do this automatically; just step on the pedal
- Expect ice on bridges, at underpasses and shady areas
- Slow down before entering a turn

Discussion Questions for Avoiding Skidding

- Where are some locations on local roads that become dangerous in bad weather?
- What driving habits can you improve?
- What vehicle conditions can you improve?

