

## ■ Good Hands® Advice

Tips to help you be prepared and informed



# Safe Winter Driving

Canadian drivers are often caught off guard when bad weather first hits. December typically sees the highest number of insurance claims due to collisions in comparison to the other winter months\*. Here are a few tips to help you stay safe on the roads this winter.

### Prepare Your Vehicle

- Get a maintenance inspection from your mechanic to check the engine, brakes, oil, belts, hoses, battery fluid levels, battery posts and cable connectors. Bad connections can keep your car from starting.
- Replace windshield wipers annually as worn wipers can reduce visibility in bad weather conditions.
- Ensure your defroster and heater are working properly to help keep windows clear.
- Invest in snow tires for the winter (they're mandatory in some provinces). These provide more control while driving in snow or on slippery roads. Make sure your tires are also properly inflated as tires lose a pound of pressure for every 5 degree Celsius the temperature drops.
- In Canada, blizzards can come out of nowhere. Keep a winter safety kit in your trunk which includes a warm blanket, flashlight, gloves, boots, flares, shovel, booster cables, and first aid kit. Don't forget to keep a good ice scraper, washer fluid, non-perishable foods and water as well.

### Safe Driving Practices

- Clear all the snow and ice on your car, not just the snow and ice on the windows. Leaving snow on the roof of your car can be dangerous as it can slide down during the drive and cover your windows, or it can fly off and hit another driver's windshield, reducing their visibility.
- Plan your route in advance and check local weather and road conditions. Give yourself extra time to get to your destination so you can drive at a safe speed and not worry about rushing.
- Leave extra space between you and the car ahead. It takes longer to come to a complete stop on slippery roads. Remain a safe distance back from snowplows and never pass them.
- Turn on headlights if visibility is poor to help you see and be seen. Don't just rely on your car's running lights.
- If the weather is severe, pull over until it is safe to drive or avoid driving at all if you can. Make sure to bring a fully charged mobile phone with you so you can call for help if you get stuck.

*\*According to Allstate data*

For more helpful tips and advice, visit [allstate.ca/learningcentre](http://allstate.ca/learningcentre), contact your local Allstate Insurance Agency or call 1-800-allstate.

**Good Hands® claims service available 24/7**