

Tips For Driving In The Rain



Even on the sunniest day, a rainstorm can roll in unexpectedly. Unsuspecting drivers should always be prepared for maneuvering in adverse conditions. Here are some tips to help you make your way through the waterlogged roads:

- **Slow down**—Allow more time to negotiate stops and turns.
- **Keep a safe distance**—Stay at least one car length behind the car in front of you for every 10 miles per hour you are traveling. For example, if you are traveling 40 miles per hour, keep four car lengths between you and the car in front of you.
- **Increase visibility**—Turn your headlights on. This will keep the road ahead well lit and will allow other travelers to see you coming. Keep the windshield clear with reliable wipers and plenty of washer fluid.
- **Reduce chances of hydroplaning**—Make sure all tires have at least 1/8 inch of tread and are properly inflated. Avoid hard braking.
- **Avoid damp brakes**—Keep brakes dry by lightly riding the brake pedal for several seconds at regular intervals.
- **Carry an emergency road kit**—Always have the following items available:

- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Jumper cables
- ✓ Flashlight
- ✓ Warning light, reflective triangles or road flares
- ✓ Matches in waterproof container
- ✓ Fire extinguisher
- ✓ Washer fluid
- ✓ Blanket
- ✓ Non-perishable food items and bottled water
- **Avoid flooded areas**—Never drive through moving water if you can't see the ground through it; your car could be swept off the road. Proceed slowly through a puddle of uncertain depth. If it's deeper than the bottom of your doors, turn around and take another route. Deep water can cause serious damage to your car's engine and electrical system.

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