

# Slippery When Wet



**It's time! Forecasts are calling for the first snow.** Drivers aren't usually prepared for winter driving and forget to take it slow. Remember, surfaces get slippery when they get wet. Drive well below the posted speed limit and leave plenty of room between vehicles. Whether it is ice or snow, take it slow!

Roads that seem dry may actually be slippery and dangerous. Take it slow when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady areas – all are prime spots for this “black ice.”

Stay attentive and know what's going on around you. Your visibility may be limited.

## Drive Carefully Around Snowplows

**Distance** – Give snowplows room to work. The plows are wide and can cross the centerline or shoulder. Don't tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution and beware of the blowing snow cloud.

**Speed** – Snowplows travel below the posted speed limit. Be patient.

**Vision** – A snowplow operator's field of vision is restricted. You may see them, but they don't always see you. Keep your distance and watch for sudden stops or turns.

## Ice and Snow...Take it Slow

**Speed** – The faster you're going, the longer it will take to stop. When accelerating on ice or snow, take it slow to avoid slipping and sliding.

**Distance** – Give yourself extra space. It takes longer and farther to bring your car to a stop on slick and snowy roads. Leave room between you and the vehicle in front of you.

**Brake** – Brake early, brake slowly, brake correctly, and never slam on the brakes. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal. Either way, give yourself plenty of room to stop.

**Control** – When driving on ice and snow, **do not use the cruise control**. Avoid abrupt steering maneuvers. When merging into traffic, take it slow. Sudden movements can cause your vehicle to slide and you will *lose control*.

**Vision** – Be aware of what's going on well ahead of you. Actions by other vehicles will alert you to problems more quickly, and give you that split-second of extra time to react safely.

**Knowledge** – Before leaving home, find out about the driving conditions. Safe drivers know the weather, and their limits. If the weather is bad, remember, “If it's snowing, should you be going?”

**Clear** – Remove any snow on your vehicle's windows, lights, brake lights and signals. Make sure you can see and be seen.

**Inspect** – Check your vehicle's tires, wiper blades, fluids, lights, belts, and hoses. A breakdown is bad on a good day and dangerous on a bad-weather day.

**Time** – Leave plenty of time to reach your destination safely. It's not worth putting yourself and others in a dangerous situation just to be on time.