

Prepare your vehicle

- Check anti-freeze levels.
- Make sure your lights are clean and working (recommended carrying spare bulbs).
- Ensure your windscreen is clean, (get chips repaired) and the washer bottle filled with screenwash to the correct concentration. This will prevent the solution from freezing.
- Ensure your tyres have plenty of tread and are inflated to the correct pressure (check spare tyre also).
- If required, snow tyres (cold weather tyres) are available from various tyre outlets in the UK or snow chains should be available from your local auto store (e.g. KwitFit). Clear the windows and mirrors of snow and ice before you set off.

Plan your journey

- Check whether the journey is necessary, contact the office or site you are visiting and check with your line manager before making the journey.
- Check whether the journey can be postponed or delayed. If you are attending a meeting can teleconference be used?
- Check the weather forecast & road conditions before making the journey; consider conditions for your return trip also.

www.highways.gov.uk/traffic/traffic.aspx / www.metoffice.gov.uk / www.bbc.co.uk/weather / Highways Agency infoline 0300 123 5000

Carry the right equipment

Check your mobile phone is charged (take a phone car charger) and have with you the following:

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| • Ice scraper/de-icing equipment | • Food and a warm drink (if possible) | • Shovel |
| • Torch with spare batteries | • High visibility vest/coat | • First Aid kit |
| • Warm clothes, gloves, hat, boots etc | | • Blanket |

Driving in slippery conditions

Reduced visibility and slippery road surfaces make winter driving particularly hazardous. Good observation is essential so that you can interpret conditions accurately and adjust your speed accordingly.

Always reduce your speed smoothly and in plenty of time on slippery surfaces. Avoid harsh braking and acceleration, or coarse steering.

Slow down in plenty of time for bends and corners. Black ice will make your steering feel light. Respond by easing off the accelerator and being delicate with your steering movements.

To brake on ice and snow without locking your wheels, get into a low gear earlier than normal, allow your speed to fall and use your brakes gently.

In icy conditions, increase the gap between you and the vehicle in front. You may need to allow up to TEN TIMES the normal distance for braking.

KEEP YOUR SPEED DOWN AND GIVE YOURSELF TIME!

If you get stuck try to get out of a rut by moving slowly backwards and forwards using the highest gear you can. You are advised to stay with your vehicle until help arrives. Be careful not to leave your engine running, as this can lead to a dangerous build-up of fumes.

If you have to leave your vehicle to get help make sure you take your phone, wear warm clothes and Hi Viz vest/coat.