



WET WEATHER DRIVING

SAFETY ADVICE FROM AAA



WHY IS WET WEATHER DRIVING DIFFERENT?

- Driving in wet weather is more demanding because of factors including poor visibility, reduced traction and deep puddles.
- Rain stirs oil and debris from the road surface, making roads slippery.
- The amount of water on the road, your speed and the condition of your tires affect traction.

SEE AND BE SEEN

- Keep your windshield clean.
- Be sure your wipers remove water from the windshield without streaking.
- Use your defroster to keep windows clear.
- Wet roads can splash mud and dirt on your headlights, reducing illumination up to 90 percent. Stop periodically during a long trip to clean your headlights.
- Use daytime running lights or low-beam headlights at all times.
- Anticipate spray coming from passing trucks and oncoming cars, which may blind you temporarily.
- When visibility is so limited that you can't see the edges of the road or other vehicles, pull off in a safe area and wait for the rain to ease up.
 - Try to stop at a rest area or exit the freeway.
 - If the roadside is your only option, pull off the road as far as you can, preferably past the end of a guardrail.
 - Vehicles parked at the side of the road are frequently struck by other vehicles.
 - Turn headlights off and emergency flashes on to alert other drivers.

DON'T GO DEEP

- Don't drive through deep water on a flooded road.
- Deep water can disable your vehicle or even float it off of the road surface.

MAXIMIZE YOUR TRACTION

- Ensure adequate, full tread, which allows water to escape from under the tires.
 - Check tread depth by placing a penny into a tread groove head first. If the tread covers President Lincoln's head, your tires have sufficient tread.
- Properly inflate your tires — low tire pressure reduces the tire's ability to wipe or channel away water.

How to avoid hydroplaning

- Slow down
- Avoid braking hard or turning sharply
- Drive in the tracks of the vehicle ahead of you.

Cruise control = lose control

- Cruise control can be dangerous in wet driving conditions.

Handling a rear-wheel skid

- Take your foot off of the brake if the rear wheels skid due to hard braking.
- Ease off the gas pedal if the rear wheels lose traction due to hard acceleration (rear-wheel drive).
- Steer in the direction you want to go.
- When the rear wheels stop skidding, continue to steer to avoid a skid in the opposite direction.
- Once the vehicle has straightened out, accelerate gently.

Antilock brakes (ABS)

- Antilock brakes prevent wheel lock-up and retain steering during hard braking.
- Do not pump antilock breaks.
- Keep steady pressure on the brake pedal and steer.

GETTING OUT OF A TOUGH SPOT

- When wheels are stuck in the mud, apply power slowly.
- Keep the wheels pointed straight ahead.
- If you can't go forward, try backing out, steering in the vehicle's tracks.
- With a manual transmission, start in second gear to prevent wheel spin. Accelerate gently and ease along gradually until traction improves.
- Rock your way out by using second gear in a manual transmission or low gear in an automatic transmission. Check your owner's manual for recommended procedures.
- Create traction:
 - Use mats, gravel, burlap or vehicle floor mats.
 - Shovel a space in front of the drive wheels and spread materials there.

STEERING CLEAR OF COLLISIONS

- At speeds above 25 mph, it's safer to steer around an obstacle than to brake.