

Winter Driving Tips:

- ❖ Travel in winter weather only when necessary. Plan extra time for your trip.
- ❖ Avoid snowy/icy areas and steep hills.
- ❖ Check weather conditions before leaving home.
- ❖ Share your travel itinerary with others.
- ❖ Remove snow and ice from all vehicle windows, mirrors, lights, turn signals and license plates.
- ❖ Buckle up.
- ❖ Turn off cruise control.
- ❖ Use headlights for greater visibility.
- ❖ Reduce speed.
- ❖ Do not slam on breaks.
- ❖ Always comply with posted chain requirements.
- ❖ Keep additional distance from other vehicles.
- ❖ Watch carefully for snow removal equipment.
- ❖ Use extra caution on bridges, ramps, overpasses and shaded areas – they may freeze first.
- ❖ Maintain a high fuel level.
- ❖ If vehicle begins to skid, steer in direction of slide and slowly remove foot from accelerator.
- ❖ Be aware of black ice.
- ❖ If parked or stuck in snow, leave window slightly cracked for ventilation and make sure vehicle exhaust system is clear of snow.

Road Conditions

By Phone

Inside Washington Dial: 511

Online

www.wsdot.wa.gov/

PDA/Cell Phones

www.wsdot.wa.gov/small/

Radio

530AM and 1620AM

Chain Requirements

Full snow chain requirement information at

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/winter/>

PLU Hotline: (253) 535-7441

Courtesy of

Pacific Lutheran University



When you have to drive in winter weather, follow these tips for safe driving and always remember:

Ice and Snow – Take it Slow

Or just don't go !!



Check Before You Go:

- ❖ Wipers
- ❖ Tires/tread
- ❖ Brakes
- ❖ Lights
- ❖ Battery
- ❖ Radiator
- ❖ Chains
- ❖ Belts/hoses
- ❖ Exhaust/fuel/ignition system
- ❖ Heater/defroster
- ❖ Thermostat
- ❖ Vehicle fluid levels (anti-freeze, oil, windshield, and brake fluid)
- ❖ Full gasoline tank

Getting Unstuck:

If you should become stuck, here's what to do:

- ❖ Turn your wheels from side to side a couple of times in order to push snow out of the way. Lightly touch the gas and ease forward. Don't spin your wheels because that will just dig the car in deeper
- ❖ Rocking the vehicle can be another way to get unstuck. (Make sure to check your owner's manual first – rocking can damage the transmission in some vehicles.) Shift from forward to reverse, and back again. Give a light touch on the gas each time you are in gear.
- ❖ Front-wheel drive vehicles, snow tires should be on front – the driving axle – for better traction in mud or snow.

If you get stranded:

- ❖ Stay in the vehicle.
- ❖ Run the engine for heat about once every hour, or every half hour in severe cold. Clean snow from around the end of the tail pipe to prevent carbon monoxide buildup. For extra heat, burn a candle inside a coffee can – but don't set the can on fabric. Make sure the vehicle is not air tight, by opening a window a little.
- ❖ Clear outside heater vents. That's the grill under the windshield.
- ❖ Avoid alcohol. It lowers body temperature and will cause you to become drowsy.
- ❖ Signal to other motorists by using flares or flashlights, or by tying a piece of brightly colored cloth to the radio antenna.

Chaining Tips:

Check your vehicle operator's manual for the right type and size of chains to use. Then follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

- ❖ Ensure chains are the proper size and check condition. Don't deflate tires to install chains.
- ❖ Don't wait until you lose control of your vehicle before chaining up.
- ❖ Take along a waterproof tarp or plastic sheet to help keep you dry.
- ❖ Keep children and pets safe in your car to avoid distraction and injury.

- ❖ Pull over in a safe place and retighten your tire chains after you have driven a short distance.
- ❖ Pull over and stop immediately if any part of a tire chain fails or comes loose.
- ❖ Do not drive faster than 30 miles per hour when using chains. Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Avoid spinning or locking your wheels.
- ❖ Remember: you can slide even with chains, so drive carefully and slowly.

Carry With You:

- ❖ Tires chains/tow strap
- ❖ Flashlight
- ❖ Spare batteries
- ❖ Ice scraper
- ❖ Cell phone for emergency communication
- ❖ Snow shovel
- ❖ Flares
- ❖ Jumper cables
- ❖ Small bag of sand for wheel traction
- ❖ Extra winter clothes/coat/gloves/boots/socks
- ❖ Blanket or sleeping bag
- ❖ Non-perishable foods/water
- ❖ First aid supplies/prescription medication
- ❖ Battery-operated radio
- ❖ Candles/matches or lighter
- ❖ State map for navigation in event of winter detour
- ❖ Water