



# SAFE DRIVING IN WINTER WEATHER

Minimizing travel during periods of inclement winter weather will protect your personal safety and the safety of first responders, road crews, and other motorists. Remember that emphasis on road clearing in Gwinnett during winter weather will be concentrated on bridges, major intersections and roadways, and accident locations. In a major snow or ice event, this means many areas throughout the county will be too dangerous for safe driving. Below are some safety tips for driving in hazardous conditions.

## Preparing for winter driving

- Never warm up your vehicle in an enclosed area.
- Make sure your tires are properly inflated and keep your gas tank at least half full during the winter season.
- Make sure your exhaust pipe isn't clogged with snow or ice to prevent a dangerous carbon monoxide leak into the passenger compartment.
- Keep an extra [Ready Kit](#) in the trunk of your car. In addition to the basic essentials, consider adding a portable cell phone charger, ice scraper, extra blanket, sand or cat litter for traction, and jumper cables.

## Best practices for driving in winter weather

- Follow directions from local officials about driving during snow and ice storms, and drive with caution.
- Remember that it takes longer for a vehicle to slow down on icy roads, so accelerate and decelerate slowly.
- Slow down to at least half your normal speed and use a low gear as you drive.
- Don't stop when going up a hill. Build some momentum on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.
- Do not use cruise control and avoid abrupt steering maneuvers.
- Be mindful of road crews working to clear snow and ice from roadways.
- Motorists should not pass a dump truck spreading salt/gravel mixture; loose gravel may break windshields. Follow at least 100 feet behind all vehicles.
- Treat nonworking traffic signals as a four-way stop.
- Watch for fallen trees or power lines.

## What to do if you're stalled or stranded

- Remain in your vehicle where rescuers are most likely to find you. Do not set out on foot unless you can see a building close by where you know you can take shelter.
- Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space.
- Run the engine and heater about 10 minutes each hour to keep warm and to conserve your battery and gasoline. When the engine is running, open a downwind window slightly for ventilation and periodically clear snow from the exhaust pipe. This will protect you from possible carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Exercise to maintain body heat, but avoid overexertion.

Learn more safety information at [GwinnettSafety411.com](https://www.gwinnettsafety411.com)