

Protect Yourself

Winter driving tips from the Ohio State Highway Patrol

The best way to check travel conditions statewide is through the Ohio State Highway Patrol's toll-free road and weather conditions hotline, **1-888-2OH-ROAD** (1-888-264-7623). Also, remember to call the Patrol at **1-800-GRAB-DUI**, or **Cellular *DUI**, to report drunk or dangerous drivers, and disabled vehicles.

Suggestions to help you get through the winter season safely:

- Winterize your vehicle and follow the suggested manufacturer maintenance schedule. Check your wipers, tires, lights, and fluid levels regularly.
- Make sure the brakes and transmission are working properly, and lubricate the doors and trunk locks frequently with a lock lubricant to prevent freezing.
- Before leaving on a trip, tell a friend, relative, or co-worker of your travel plans including your destination, routes you will travel, and when you expect to arrive. Then telephone that individual once you arrive at your destination.
- Remember to always wear your safety belt. A skid can quickly result in a complete loss of control of your vehicle, and even lead to a potential injury-causing crash.

In the event of a vehicle breakdown:

- Pull as far off the road as possible.
- Open the hood and turn on hazard lights.
- Place a "Help" sign in the rear window.
- Stay in your car while waiting for help to arrive.

Keep a winter car kit in your vehicle in case you end up stranded during a storm. Your winter car kit should include:

- Jumper cables
- Flares or roadway reflectors
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Windshield washer fluid
- Small shovel
- Ice scraper
- Antifreeze
- Flat tire fixer
- Blanket
- Non-perishable food
- Candle
- Matches
- First-aid kit



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