

**Suspect every  
snowflake.**

**One day it seems harmless.  
Next day you're stuck in it.  
Keep winter under surveillance.**

**ShiftIntoWinter.ca DriveBC.ca**

**Don't know? Don't go.**



# Snow. The double agent.



**Expect treachery. Learn how to drive in winter conditions.**

## **Snow and ice push our driving skills to the limit.**

Do you know how to drive properly in winter conditions? The following tips could save you from problems when you are out on the road:

- 1. Maintain a safe following distance.** It takes longer to stop on a slippery road. Look ahead and keep plenty of distance between you and other cars (at least four seconds).
- 2. Drop your speed to match road conditions.** The posted speed is the maximum speed under ideal conditions. In winter, it is safer to drive below the posted speed. No matter how much experience you have, the way your car will move on snow or ice always has an element of unpredictability.
- 3. Watch for black ice.** Slow down when approaching icy areas such as shaded areas, bridges and overpasses as these sections of road freeze sooner than others in cold weather. Watch for "black ice", areas of the road with a thin, almost invisible coating of ice, as it can cause your vehicle to suddenly lose traction, braking and cornering control.
- 4. Accelerate and brake slowly.** When starting from a stop on slick roads, start slowly and accelerate gradually to maintain traction and avoid spinning your wheels. When stopping, plan well in advance, apply the brakes gently and slowly add pressure rather than braking suddenly.
- 5. Avoid sudden moves.** Slow down and steer smoothly and gradually to avoid skidding. Accelerate gently, turn slowly, and brake carefully and early. Avoid unexpected quick movements that could put you in a spin. Anticipate turns, stops, and lane changes well before they occur.
- 6. Know how to handle a skid.** A skid happens when your wheels slide out of control on a slippery surface and is a result of driving too fast for road conditions. If you start to skid, ease off the brake or accelerator, look and steer smoothly in the direction you want to go. Be careful not to oversteer. If you are on ice and skidding in a straight line, step on the clutch or shift to neutral.
- 7. See and be seen.** It is critical for drivers to see and be seen in low light conditions, and when blowing snow impairs visibility. Always drive with your headlights on.
- 8. Be extremely cautious when approaching highway maintenance vehicles such as snow plows and salt or sand trucks.** Maintain a safe following distance. These vehicles throw up snow and spray, making it difficult to see.

**Current road conditions: [DriveBC.ca](http://DriveBC.ca)**

**Winter driving tips: [ShiftIntoWinter.ca](http://ShiftIntoWinter.ca)**

**Mainroad Lower Mainland Contracting  
Report Road and Safety Hazards to our 24HR hotline:  
604.271.0337**

**Keep winter under surveillance. Don't know? Don't go.**



# The Cold War is back.



**Plan your mission. Prepare yourself for winter driving.**

## **First – do you really need to go?**

Remember that every day BC workers face the risk of being injured or killed while driving on the job. Driving in winter conditions can put you at even greater risk. Ask yourself if the trip can be delayed perhaps by just 24 hours.

If you must go, make sure that you work through these seven steps:

- 1. Check the current road conditions and weather forecast.** Listen to the radio, TV and visit [DriveBC.ca](http://DriveBC.ca). Again, ask yourself – is it safe to go?
- 2. Plan your route ahead of time.** Avoid any roads that may become dangerous during bad weather. Respect road closure signs and barriers and do not attempt to drive on these routes until they are re-opened.
- 3. Leave lots of time so you're not rushing to get to where you need to be.** Try to travel during daylight and consider delaying your trip if the weather is bad. Let someone know your route and planned arrival time.
- 4. Learn winter road skills.** If you are unfamiliar with driving in snow and icy conditions and your job requires you to be behind the wheel, ask your employer for winter driving training. Through training and practice, learn how to brake safely, how to get out of a skid, and how your car handles in winter weather.
- 5. Keep at least four seconds distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.** This will allow plenty of room in situations where you may need to brake suddenly on a slippery surface.
- 6. Wear comfortable clothing that doesn't restrict your movement while driving.** Bring warm clothing (winter boots, coat, gloves and hat) with you in case you need to get out of your vehicle.
- 7. Have an emergency plan.** If you get stuck or stranded, don't panic. Stay with your vehicle for safety and warmth. If you have a cell phone and it is an emergency, call 911. Otherwise, call for roadside assistance.

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**SHIFT**  
INTO WINTER

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**Snow can't be trusted. Prepare your vehicle for winter weather.**

## Do you drive as part of your job?

Winter weather is hard on your vehicle and its engine. Here are some tips to help you make sure your ride is up to the challenge:

- 1. Install winter tires.** Use four matched winter tires that carry the winter tire logo – even when driving a 4 X 4. Winter tires improve driving safety by providing better traction in snow, slush and icy conditions. Check for wear before installing the tires and check tire air pressure frequently, as it decreases in cold weather. 
- 2. Get your car winter ready with a maintenance check up.** Preventative maintenance is key. Make sure your battery, brakes, lights and fuses, cooling and heating systems, electrical and exhaust systems, and belts and hoses are in tip-top shape.
- 3. Change your wiper blades to winter blades.** They are heavier and push snow and ice more easily.
- 4. Clear snow and ice from all windows, lights, mirrors, hood and the roof.** After starting your vehicle, wait for the window to defrost completely to allow clear visibility all around.
- 5. If you have a cell phone, make sure it's charged and bring it with you.** A car charger for the phone is a smart device to have on hand. Cell phone batteries can freeze in very cold weather. Don't leave your phone in the car for extended periods of time.

- 6. Make sure your windshield washer reservoir is full, and carry extra washer fluid in your vehicle.**
- 7. Be prepared by packing a winter survival kit.** Recommended items include:
  - Emergency kit containing non-perishable food, blankets and first aid supplies
  - Windshield scraper and snow brush
  - Extra windshield washer fluid
  - Fuel line antifreeze
  - Flares and matches or lighter
  - Tire chains and gloves
  - Shovel and traction mat, sand or kitty litter
  - Flashlight and extra batteries
  - Battery jumper cables
  - Spare tire, wheel wrench and jack
  - Extra clothing and footwear
  - Sandbags for extra weight
- 8. Keep your gas tank topped up.** This will help to avoid condensation and moist air on the inside of the tank, which can cause fuel lines to freeze and other serious issues.
- 9. If you get stuck in a storm, don't panic.** Avoid overexertion and exposure. Stay in your vehicle and open your window slightly to make sure you have a supply of fresh air. Use a survival candle for heat. Set out a warning light or flares.

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