



Topic: Winter Driving Review

Winter driving becomes three times as dangerous as at any other time of the year. Take this quick refresher on staying safe in cold weather.

- ✚ If you skid on ice or snow, take your foot off the brake and accelerator, shift into neutral. Look and steer in the direction you want the front of the car to go. As soon as the wheels grip the road again, return to the driving gear and slowly accelerate.
- ✚ Don't walk under the influence, particularly important at holiday party time. About half of all adult pedestrians killed in traffic accidents in recent years had been drinking, according to the *University of California, Berkeley*. More than a third were legally drunk.
- ✚ Keep your tires fully inflated. An under-inflated tire is more likely to skid, especially on wet or icy pavement. An under-inflated tire is also more likely to blow out.
- ✚ Wash your car's headlights whenever you clean your windshield. Dirt on the lights can reduce light output by half. Wash the brake and signal lights too.
- ✚ Beware of cars turning left at intersections. Though only about 15 percent of all vehicles at intersections turn left, 45 percent of auto collisions and about 31 percent of collisions with pedestrians involve a left-turning vehicle, according to the *AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety*.
- ✚ Hold the steering wheel at the 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock position. Driving experts now say this will give you maximum control.
- ✚ Watch for signs of sleepiness when driving. Including:
 1. You can't remember driving the last several few miles.
 2. Your head nods, and you have trouble keeping your eyes focused.
 3. You notice a hazard but barely manage to avoid it; your reaction time has eroded.
- ✚ Don't ignore your seat belt just because you have an air bag. Lap/shoulder belts are 52 percent effective in reducing driver fatalities. The air bag alone reduces fatalities by only 18 percent.

