

Be prepared for stormy driving conditions

Whenever there's a chance of stormy weather, the Oregon Department of Transportation encourages motorists to prepare their vehicles in advance and drive with extra caution.

Before traveling to areas that may have hazardous conditions, make sure your vehicle is ready:

- Ensure the heater and defroster are working properly.
- Test all lights. Carry spare light bulbs.
- Use antifreeze that's good to -25°F; check and fill washer and other fluids and make sure hoses aren't loose or brittle.
- Keep wipers clean and in good condition; fill the windshield washer tank.
- Make certain your battery is fully charged (also check battery age and make sure cables are not loose or corroded).
- Ensure your tires are in good condition and properly inflated for best traction, including your spare.

- Carry chains or use traction tires in winter.
- Keep an automotive safety kit in your vehicle.
- See the Be Prepared checklist below.

If you are driving in areas that have ice or snow on the road, adjust your driving to fit conditions and remember these winter driving tips:

- Turn off your cruise control.
- If you lose traction and your vehicle feels like it's floating, gradually slow down. Don't slam on the brakes.
- Use caution when driving on bridges or concrete highways. These surfaces are the first to freeze and become slippery when the temperature drops.
- Slow down in advance of shaded areas, especially on curves. Shaded areas are cooler and may have ice that is difficult to see.
- Don't pass snowplows or sanders, and

don't follow them too closely; they will pull over!

- Be prepared for slow traffic after a storm passes. It may take several hours to clear long lines of trucks waiting to cross a pass after a storm moves through the area. Also, it may take time to remove cars abandoned on the side of the road.
- Know your route. Some roads, like state highways, are regularly maintained. Other roads, such as forest service roads, are maintained less frequently, or not at all.
- Don't blindly follow GPS navigation directions if they detour you off main highways.
- Be prepared to encounter more traffic if you are traveling the day before, the day of or the day after a holiday.
- Don't drive fatigued. If you're feeling tired, find a place where you can safely pull off the road and rest.

Plan ahead – stay home if road conditions are bad

Routes can be blocked for many hours by crashes, hazardous material spills or severe weather conditions. Think about the items you may need if your trip comes to a standstill on a remote section of road.

Pack food, water, extra clothes and blankets in case you get stuck in stalled traffic. If you travel with an infant or small children bring some toys, games, and extra diapers, just in case. Remember to use your child safety seat properly. Young children may also need more frequent rest stops.

Before leaving, tell a family member or friend of your planned route and when you anticipate arriving. Keep them updated on any major route or arrival changes.

If conditions are too severe, or you don't feel comfortable driving, don't go. Save yourself the frustration and postpone your trip until conditions improve.

Winter Travel Checklist

Before you travel, check your car to make sure it's in good working order.



Be prepared

- ☒ Tools: jack, lug wrench, shovel
- ☒ Chains or traction tires
- ☒ Flares
- ☒ Road maps
- ☒ Extra warm clothes, boots, hat and gloves
- ☒ Ice scraper and snow brush
- ☒ Cell phone and car adapter
- ☒ Rechargeable flashlight
- ☒ First aid kit
- ☒ Matches or lighter
- ☒ Battery jumper cables
- ☒ Extra food and water
- ☒ Blanket/sleeping bag(s)
- ☒ Paper towels
- ☒ Pocket knife
- ☒ Extra washer fluid