



Tips for safe winter driving

The Perth Police Service have some winter driving tips to help you arrive safely at your destination during hazardous weather conditions.

To keep your grip on slippery roads, start off slow and easy and don't spin your wheels. When you are pulling out, use a light foot on the accelerator, easing forward gently.

Depending on the size of your vehicle, it takes three to twelve times the distance to stop on ice and snow-covered roads than on dry roads. In general, the heavier the vehicle, the greater the distance required to stop. The more severe the conditions, the wider the gap you should leave.

Braking on ice is never easy, but as the temperature rises, ice becomes even more slippery, for example, your braking distance can double with a temperature variation from 0 to -18 degrees C.

The action of tires spinning and sliding on snow and ice polishes the road surface, making it even more slippery especially at intersections, on curves and on hills.

Slow down early when you approach a slippery intersection, curve or hill. Four-wheel drive vehicles face the same challenges from winter road conditions as other vehicles and the same rules of road safety apply.

Generally in winter, asphalt is a grey-white colour. If you notice a black shiny surface ahead, slow down and break smoothly and gently and proceed with caution, as there may be a thin layer of ice on the road known as black ice.

Before starting your trip, clean off the entire windshield and all of the windows so you have full visibility. Wipe off the headlights, tail lights and turn singles so others can see you.

Be diligent about shoulder checks, looking ahead, checking rear view mirror and making lane changes.