

# Let's stay safe on the road this winter



## We've got you covered for those darker wintry days



### Golden rules for winter roads



- Allow extra time for winter journeys.
- Make sure you have enough fuel as bad weather can lead to congestions and unexpected delays.
- Take time to de-ice your vehicle. And remember – don't pour boiling water on the windscreen as the change in temperature can cause it to crack. Use a de-icer and a scraper instead.
- Keep your distance from other vehicles.
- As the nights draw in, check that your tyres have a tread depth of more than 1.6mm across their breadth to ensure good grip - especially on wintry roads. In snow, you should aim for 3mm.

## What should I do if there's...

### ... wind?

- Drive slowly to help you to maintain control of your car and hold the steering wheel firmly.
- Watch out for open areas as they're most susceptible to strong gusts of wind. Smaller roads are also prone to strong side winds and wind tunnel effects.
- Avoid overtaking with extremely high winds and give other road users, especially cyclists, some extra space.

### ... flooding?

- Always check to see if there's a different route you can take. Only attempt to cross a flooded road as a last resort.
- Stop and assess - you can never be sure of the depth of water or the state of the road underneath without taking a close look. Also check the area for other hazards such as floating debris or downed power lines, where the electric current could be conducted by water.



- Avoid following or crossing against other drivers. Large vehicles are especially hazardous as they can create waves that will push the water higher than expected.
- Aim for the highest part of the road, which will usually be in the middle (called the crown), as most roads are designed to let water drain off the sides. Make sure you keep your eyes peeled for hidden dips where the water could suddenly get deeper.
- Try to park on high ground, ideally at the top of a hill or slope – don't forget to apply your handbrake securely.



## ... fog?

- Before driving in fog, make sure your mirrors are clean and you have demisted your front and rear windscreens.
- When you're approaching fog on the road, check your mirrors and slow down as it's safer to do so.
- Make sure you take a high-vis jacket and a warning triangle with you in the car in case of an accident.
- The Highway Code (rule 226) says that you can turn your fog lights on when visibility on the road has dropped below 100m. It's not illegal to drive without your fog lights in poor conditions, however, it's best to do so as they help other drivers spot you from a distance. You are legally obligated to use your headlights in foggy conditions, however. Make sure you switch your fog lights off as soon as visibility improves, or as you approach vehicles going in the opposite direction.



## Driving at night

We all know we need to put on our car headlights at night, but don't forget your sidelights and rear registration plate lights should be lit at night too.



## Quick winter-proof checklist

- ✓ Get your vehicle serviced
- ✓ Check your tyres tread depth and air pressure
- ✓ Make sure your lights are working properly
- ✓ Check your wiper blades' condition
- ✓ Top up your engine coolant
- ✓ Use an anti-freeze screen wash