



Wet Weather Driving Tips

According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration statistics, nearly one million vehicle accidents a year occur in wet weather. Many of these rainy-day incidents are caused by drivers failing to understand the difference between driving in wet and dry conditions. Below are some wet weather driving tips to keep you safe.

- ❖ **Slow down.** As your speed decreases, the tire footprint (the amount of the tire's tread contacting the road surface) increases, providing better traction. You also reduce the risk of hydroplaning should you run into deeper water puddles on the road.
- ❖ **Maintain a safe distance.** Even with a good wet weather tire, be prepared for longer stopping distances on wet pavement. Since other cars may not have proper tires for wet weather driving, be extra alert at stop signs and red lights.
- ❖ **Choose tires carefully.** Too many drivers buy a tire based on initial price or appearance. For optimum performance in the rain, select a tire with tread design and rubber compounds that provide enhanced wet weather driving capabilities.
- ❖ **Properly maintain your tires.** No tire can provide good wet traction once the tread is worn below 3/32nd's of an inch tread depth. To measure this, place a penny in the tread. If you can see Lincoln's head, your tread is worn and the tire should be replaced. Check your tires regularly and replace them at the proper time. Also, maintain the proper air pressure in your tires; check your vehicle manufacturer handbook or the door jamb for the proper air pressure for your particular vehicle and tires.
- ❖ **Drive smoothly.** When braking, accelerating or turning, avoid jerky, abrupt movements.
- ❖ **Avoid hydroplaning.** If you feel your vehicle starting to hydroplane (riding on the surface of the water), take your foot off the accelerator -- don't hit your brakes. If you have a manual transmission, push in the clutch and let the vehicle slow down until control is regained.
- ❖ **Plan your braking.** If you are entering a curve, slow down and brake gently before you start to turn.
- ❖ **Turn on your lights.** In most states, it's required by law. It may not help you see, but it will help other drivers see you.
- ❖ **Check your wipers.** Install new wiper blades at least once a year to ensure good vision.