

## Tips for Driving in Snow, Sleet, and Ice

- Bridges freeze before roads. This occurs because a bridge is in contact with freezing air from all sides. A road is in contact only with the air above it.
- Be cautious — you never know if there is a sheet of ice underneath the snow.
- Drive in the tire tracks of other vehicles as there will be more traction in these areas.
- Be careful when changing lanes. The area between lanes may have a buildup of crunchy ice, which should be avoided. If you must change lanes, do so gradually while holding the steering wheel firmly.
- All snow is different, so testing is necessary. When you first get on the road, test your brakes to gauge how they react to the conditions.
- Beware of “black ice.” It is ice that forms with almost no air bubbles, which makes the ice transparent and appears the same color as the road surface. On asphalt or dark-colored roads, this ice appears black. Black ice is extremely dangerous because it is so difficult to see. The only way you will know if you have hit a patch of black ice is that you will start sliding. Take your foot off the gas pedal and do not step on the brake; continue driving straight. Hopefully, the patch will end soon and you will be back in control on the road again.
- Stay in the right lane. There is no need to drive quickly in snowy or icy conditions.

**Caution:** If at all possible, do not drive under these conditions.