

# WINTER GUIDE 2022/23

*FOR SAFE DRIVING*



# SAFE WINTER DRIVING

Driving in the winter is very different than other times of the year. Adverse weather and longer periods of darkness (especially after the clocks go back at the end of October) makes driving more hazardous. Sometimes conditions can be extreme, as we have found out over

recent winters, with prolonged periods of heavy snow and floods.

In very bad conditions, avoid driving completely, unless you absolutely have to make a journey and driving is the only option.



## BEFORE SETTING OFF:

- ❄️ Check the travel reports before commencing any journey.
- ❄️ If driving is not business critical consider re-arranging appointments and travel.
- ❄️ Travel with a fully charged mobile phone and in-vehicle charging options.
- ❄️ Allow extra time to account for any delays.
- ❄️ Ensure there are winter emergency provisions in the vehicle including: warm clothing, blankets, torches, tow ropes, high visibility jackets, de-icer, scrapers, snow shovel, food/drink provisions and emergency contact information.

## PREPARING YOUR VEHICLE:

- ❄️ Always ensure visibility is clear and clear vehicle of all snow before leaving.
- ❄️ Ensure your vehicle external camera lenses and side view mirrors are clean and clear.
- ❄️ Ensure your vehicle's lights are clear and working well.
- ❄️ Check your windscreen wipers are working and antifreeze is included in the windscreen wash.
- ❄️ Check all tyres are correctly inflated and suitable for the conditions.
- ❄️ Ensure the fuel tank is kept near to full or your EV battery is fully charged.

# DRIVING IN SNOW OR ICE

If you find yourself driving in snow or on icy or snow-covered roads, adapt your driving to these conditions:

- ❄️ Reduce your speed. The chances of skidding are much greater, and your stopping distance will increase.
- ❄️ Only travel at a speed at which you can stop within the distance you can see to be clear. Speed limits are the maximum in ideal conditions; in difficult conditions, they can often be too fast.
- ❄️ Avoid harsh braking and acceleration, or sharp steering.
- ❄️ Always reduce your speed smoothly and in plenty of time on slippery surfaces.
- ❄️ Slow down in plenty of time before bends and corners.

**Braking on an icy or snow-covered bend is extremely dangerous. The centrifugal force will continue to pull you outwards and the wheels will not grip very well. This could cause your vehicle to spin.**

- ❄️ To brake on ice and snow without locking your wheels, get into a low gear earlier than normal, allow your speed to fall and use your brakes gently.
- ❄️ Increase the gap between you and the vehicle in front. You may need up to TEN TIMES the normal distance for braking.
- ❄️ Keep your vehicle well-ventilated. Having the heater turned to maximum can quickly make you drowsy.
- ❄️ In snow, stop frequently to clean the windows, wheel arches, lights and number plates.
- ❄️ Visibility will probably be reduced, so use dipped headlights.
- ❄️ During wintry weather, road surfaces are often wet and / or covered in frost and ice or snow. A road will often have isolated patches of frost or ice after most of the road has thawed, this commonly occurs under bridges.



## IF YOU GET STUCK IN SNOW:

- ❄️ If you get stuck in snow revving your engine to try to power out of the rut will just make the rut worse. Instead, move your vehicle slowly backwards and forwards out of the rut using the lowest gear possible.
- ❄️ If this doesn't work, you may have to ask a friendly passer-by for a push or get a shovel out.

## IF YOU GET CAUGHT IN A SNOW DRIFT:

- ❄️ Don't leave your vehicle.
- ❄️ Call your breakdown service or the emergency services and let help come to you.
- ❄️ Don't run the engine to keep warm.

# EVS IN WINTER

All vehicles become less energy-efficient in cold weather. For Electric Vehicles (EVs), cold temperatures can hamper both a battery's performance and its ability to accept a charge. It can also take longer to bring the battery pack up to full charge.

Cold temperatures also limit an electric vehicles regenerative braking function. Less energy can be recovered and sent back to the battery that would usually be collected in deceleration or stopping.



## TIPS FOR DRIVING YOUR EV IN COLD WEATHER:

- ❄️ Keep your vehicle plugged in as often as possible to ensure it maintains a full charge.
- ❄️ Before any journey, make a note of nearby public charging stations along the route in case you start to unexpectedly run low on charge.
- ❄️ If your vehicle has pre-conditioning features, use them! Heating both the interior and the battery pack while the vehicle is plugged in will help.
- ❄️ Limit the use of the heater while you are driving. Set the temperature as low as you can comfortably stand and rely on the vehicle's heated seats and heated steering wheel if necessary.
- ❄️ Switch to 'Eco' mode where possible to adjust performance parameters and preserve battery range.
- ❄️ Preserve charge by limiting speed while driving where possible.
- ❄️ Utilise DC Fast Charging units that can bring your car's battery back up to 80% of its capacity in 30-45 minutes.



## IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM:

- ❄️ Make sure you are in a safe place (move your vehicle off the road if possible)
- ❄️ Put your hazard warning lights on.
- ❄️ Stay away from moving traffic.
- ❄️ Wear a reflective jacket (provided on all TCH vehicles in your welcome pack)
- ❄️ Call 0333 240 7158 for all TCH vehicles (option 8 - in office hours)

Check your company car policy/handbook to ensure that you are compliant with the requirements of your employer.

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## THANK YOU FOR READING THIS SAFETY GUIDE.

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