

DECEMBER 2018 TARP

PREPARING FOR WINTER DRIVING

8 Winter Driving Tips for Truck Drivers

1. Clear off all windows, mirrors, and exterior lights completely before driving. If snow or ice builds up while you drive, make sure to pull over and take a few minutes to clean everything off again.
2. Keep tires and brakes in good condition. Tires should be properly inflated and brakes should be correctly working.
3. Maintain a sufficient following distance from all vehicles and continue a safe speed that gives you plenty of time to react.
4. Plan your route. Make sure you know what types of roads you will be facing and that your vehicle is properly equipped to handle these roads.
5. Check cross-traffic prior to reaching and traveling through an intersection to help avoid collisions.
6. Do not drive if you feel fatigued. Your ability to properly react to your environment will weaken with fatigue, diminishing your ability to drive as safely as possible.
7. Here's a nifty tip: watch the tire spray. If there's a lot of spray coming off others' tires, the roads are wet. If there's not as much spray but the roads *look* wet, take caution because they're beginning to freeze. And if the roads look wet but you don't see much spray, you're on ice, so be careful.
8. Don't push your truck or yourself to do more than you can in unsafe conditions. If snow drifts are so bad you can't see the road or ice is so thick you cannot stop properly, consider stopping the truck at a safe area until conditions get better.

Winter Driving Necessities for Truckers

Aside from driving techniques, make sure you have proper attire for the weather as well. Be prepared with the right shoes, socks, and winter-ware like jackets, gloves, and hats. It's always a good idea to have an emergency kit handy with special winter tools, like plenty of blankets, non-perishable food, a power source, and a first aid kit. It can also never hurt to have some tire chains, cat litter and/or sidewalk salt with you in case you get stuck. Out of all of these guidelines, the most important tip we can give any trucker when it comes to driving in the winter is that **no load is worth your life or the lives of others**. If you are on dangerous roadways, the safest thing for you to do is find a safe place to stop and wait it out.

List 3 personal tips you remember when driving in winter conditions: _____

True or False: Getting a load delivered is more important than the safety of getting it there.

What things should you always have with you when driving in winter conditions: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

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