

# Rainy Weather Conditions

Driving in rainy conditions significantly increases the risk of accidents due to reduced visibility and slippery road surfaces. Follow these detailed safety measures:

## 1. Speed Limits

- **Reduce Speed:** Lower your driving speed below the posted limit, particularly in heavy rain, to maintain vehicle control and allow longer reaction times.
- **Avoid Hydroplaning:** Speeds above 50 km/h (30 mph) greatly increase hydroplaning risks. Slow down significantly when driving through standing water or puddles.

## 2. Following Distance

- **Increase Following Distance:** Apply the "5-second rule" in rainy conditions. Allowing more time to react reduces collision risks if sudden braking is required.
- **Adjust for Heavy Rain:** In very heavy rain, extend following distance to six seconds or more.

## 3. Headlights and Visibility

- **Use Low-Beam Headlights:** Always use low-beam headlights in rain to enhance visibility. Avoid high-beams, as they cause glare and reduce visibility.
- **Activate Windshield Wipers:** Ensure windshield wipers function correctly. Replace worn blades regularly to maintain clear visibility.
- **Defog Windows:** Use your vehicle's defrost or air conditioning system to keep windows clear from internal fogging.

## 4. Braking and Acceleration

- **Gentle Braking and Acceleration:** Brake and accelerate gradually to avoid skidding. Sudden movements can lead to loss of vehicle control on wet roads.
- **Brake Test:** Occasionally gently press the brake pedal to dry out brakes after driving through deep puddles.

## 5. Lane Discipline

- **Stay in Middle Lanes:** Avoid outer lanes where water tends to pool, increasing the risk of hydroplaning.
- **Avoid Lane Changes:** Minimize lane changes, especially in heavy rain, as visibility is significantly reduced.

## 6. Intersection Safety

- **Approach Carefully:** Slow down considerably at intersections. Rain reduces traction, increasing the stopping distance.
- **Observe Carefully:** Increased vigilance is required at intersections since visibility for pedestrians and other vehicles is compromised.

## 7. Vigilance for Hazards

- **Watch for Pedestrians and Cyclists:** Rain often forces pedestrians and cyclists to make unpredictable movements. Exercise extreme caution around urban areas.
- **Beware of Standing Water:** Avoid driving through large puddles or standing water as depth can be deceptive, leading to vehicle damage or loss of control.

## 8. Driver Alertness

- **Increase Concentration:** Rain demands higher levels of concentration due to reduced visibility and slippery roads. Avoid all distractions.
- **Recognize Fatigue Signs:** Wet weather driving is tiring. Take breaks frequently to stay alert.

## 9. Vehicle Maintenance

- **Check Tire Condition:** Tires must have adequate tread depth to channel water effectively. Regularly inspect and replace worn tires.
- **Maintain Brake Performance:** Regularly check brake performance, as wet conditions dramatically reduce braking efficiency.