

Safety Margins

Tyre grip is significantly reduced in **icy conditions**, requiring up to **ten times the normal stopping distance** compared to dry roads. **Extra caution** is essential to avoid **loss of control**. Maintain a **low speed** and use the **highest gear possible** to reduce the risk of **tyre slip**. When travelling on ice, **tyres make little noise** and **steering feels light and unresponsive**, demanding **extreme care**. Be **gentle** when **braking, accelerating, and steering**, and **constantly assess** the road ahead to take **timely action**.

Cyclists and Wind Conditions

Always give cyclists plenty of room when overtaking, and **allow extra space** in windy conditions. A sudden gust can **easily blow them off course**. In **strong winds**, riders of **two-wheeled vehicles** are particularly vulnerable. **Check left as you pass to ensure they remain safe**.

Approaching Bends and Steep Hills

Keep to the left when approaching **right-hand bends** to gain an **earlier view** and spot **hazards sooner**. This reduces the risk of **collision** with **oncoming vehicles**.

On steep hills, gravity increases vehicle speed, making it harder to stop. **Select a lower gear for engine braking**, and apply brakes **carefully** to prevent **overheating** and **brake fade**.

When **parking downhill**, **turn the wheels toward the kerb** and **leave the car in gear** (or **'Park'** for automatics) to prevent movement.

Brakes and Road Contact

Water on the brakes acts as a **lubricant**, reducing braking efficiency. Lightly **apply the brakes** while moving to **dry them out**. Always **check mirrors** before doing so.

Loss of grip is more likely **on slippery, loose, or uneven surfaces**, especially when **braking** in poor weather.

Hot Roads and Windy Conditions

In **very hot weather**, road surfaces can **soften**, reducing **tyre grip**. Take extra care when **cornering or braking**.

In **windy conditions**, exercise caution on **exposed roads** where **gusts** can blow vehicles off course. **Be alert for cyclists, motorcyclists, high-sided vehicles, and trailers—they are most at risk**.

Driving in Wet Conditions

Wet weather doubles stopping distances. Adjust your speed so you can **stop safely**. If another vehicle cuts into your gap, **ease back** to maintain distance.

At high speeds in heavy rain, **aquaplaning** may occur—**steering feels light** as tyres **lift off**.

the road. Reduce speed gradually without braking until normal steering returns. Use **dipped headlights** when **surface spray** reduces visibility to help others see you.

Following Distances and Busy Roads

Do **not follow too closely**. If another driver **tailgates, gently slow down** to increase space from the car ahead.

Apply the **two-second rule**: when the vehicle ahead passes a fixed object, say “*Only a fool breaks the two-second rule.*” If you reach the object before finishing, you are **too close**.

Fog and Reduced Visibility

Use **dipped headlights in foggy conditions** and **front and rear fog lights** when visibility is **seriously reduced**.

Maintain a **sensible speed** and **allow double stopping distance on wet or slippery roads**.

Contraflow Systems

In **contraflow systems**, you travel **close to oncoming traffic** and often in **narrow lanes**. Get into the **correct lane early**, **observe speed limits**, and **keep a safe separation distance**.

Skidding and Slippery Surfaces

Skidding is usually caused by **driver error**, harsh acceleration, braking, or steering, which increases the risk.

Adapt your driving to road and weather conditions, and avoid **braking and steering simultaneously**.

In **snowy conditions**, use **gentle controls**; **sharp braking** may cause skidding.

While **four-wheel drive** provides **maximum grip** on slippery or uneven surfaces, it **does not replace careful driving**.

Torque and Wheel Grip

Using a **low gear** provides **more torque**, which can cause **wheel spin** and **loss of grip** on slippery roads. Use **higher gears** where possible to maintain traction.

Emergency Stops and ABS

If your vehicle **has Anti-lock Braking System (ABS)**, **apply brakes firmly and keep pressure steady until the car stops**.

When **ABS activates**, you may hear a **grating sound** or feel **vibration through the brake pedal**—this is **normal**.

Traffic-Calming Measures

Road humps are designed to **reduce speed**. **Approach them slowly** to prevent **loss of control or vehicle damage**. **Stay alert for pedestrians and cyclists** in these areas.

Coasting

Coasting is when **holding the clutch down or selecting neutral**, reduces **vehicle control**. The **engine cannot assist with braking or stabilise the vehicle** through corners.

Driving in Bad Weather

Driving in **bad weather** increases the **risk of collisions**. **Travel only if necessary**. **Clear all snow and ice** from **lights, mirrors, number plates, and windows** to ensure visibility. **Inform someone of your expected travel time** to reduce **pressure** and avoid **rushing**.

Electronic Stability Control (ESC)

ESC is a **computer-assisted safety system** that detects **loss of traction** and makes **automatic corrections** to prevent **loss of control**.

The **ESC indicator light** briefly illuminates when the system activates. While **highly effective**, ESC **cannot correct a vehicle once traction limits are exceeded**.