

# Be safe on the roads this winter...

Tips to help motorists get through the winter months and make driving as safe as possible

## Driving in bad weather...

### Before your journey

- Clear any snow from your windscreen and roof before you set off Snow can slip down onto the windscreen and obscure your view
- Make sure your lights are clean before you set off
- Always keep at least a quarter of a tank of fuel in case of unexpected delays
- Plan your journey in advance and try to stick to the main roads wherever possible
- Check the latest weather conditions
- If you fit winter tyres to your vehicle it shouldn't affect your insurance, but make sure you check with your insurer. Covéa Insurance is amongst those insurers who have signed up to the *ABI pledge* that the fitting of winter tyres to your vehicle will not affect your cover or cause any increase in your premium.

### During your journey

- Avoid sudden steering or braking
- Watch out for changes in road elevation, where objects at the side of the road shade the carriageway and side roads that may not have been treated
- It's not always obvious that the road is icy, look out for warning signs such as ice on the pavement or if your tyres are making virtually no noise on the road it could be a sign that you are driving on ice
- If setting off in snow don't rev the engine too much, try starting off gently in second gear, increasing speed slowly
- When driving in fog use dipped headlights and only switch on your fog-lights when you really need to



## Top Tip

Change the radiator fluid in your vehicle every other autumn.

A 1:1 mix of water and anti-freeze has shown to give the best protection against both freezing and boil over.

Plus, you will have the added benefit of removing harmful acids that build up in engine coolant over time.

## If you do get stuck in the snow...

Try the following to hopefully get you back on the move

- Clear the wheels and exhaust of snow
- Use sand, salt or an old piece of carpet under the tyres to get traction

# Helping prevent problems before they arise...

## Looking after your car in the cold weather...

Always make sure you travel with the following items:

- Keep antifreeze and screenwash topped up in line with your vehicle manufacturer's instructions
- Check the condition of your battery regularly
- Ensure your tyres are correctly inflated and replace them before the tread reaches the legal minimum of 1.6mm - better tread will result in better grip
- Replace any broken light bulbs immediately
- Don't put boiling water straight onto an iced up windscreen, the drastic change in temperature may cause the windscreen to crack

## In the event of an accident

In case of an accident you should get as much information as you can as soon as possible:

- Ask the drivers involved for their name and contact details including address
- Request the name of their insurers and if possible a policy or certificate number
- Make a note of the vehicle registration number along with the make, model and colour of any vehicles involved
- Make a note of any injuries or damage to other property
- Ask for the names and addresses of any witnesses before they leave the scene.

## Drivers Survival Kit

Always make sure you travel with the following items:

- A fully charged mobile phone and in-car charger
- A blanket and/or warm clothes and sensible shoes
- A snow shovel
- A pot of salt or sand and an old piece of carpet
- An ice-scraper and de-icer
- A warning triangle
- A first aid kit
- A torch and batteries or a wind up torch