

NBSIA Member Services Safety Bulletin

April 2018

SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVING IN THE RAIN

Driving in the rain, whether a sprinkle or a downpour, can be one of the most difficult driving situations. Rainy conditions are directly associated with higher accident rates. Follow these tips to help you drive safer in rainy conditions.

1. If you feel uncomfortable driving in the rain and can postpone your trip, do so. Don't put yourself in danger if driving in wet conditions is not necessary.
2. Ensure that your vehicle is in proper working order before rainy weather hits. Regularly check headlights, tail lights, and windshield wipers. Change windshield wipers at least once per year. Replace tires with low tread—balding tires can severely reduce traction on wet roadways.
3. Slow down! In wet conditions you should actually drive slower than normal. Wet roads cause vehicles to have slower reaction time.
4. Turn on your headlights while driving in the rain. Turning on your vehicle's headlights will increase both your own visibility and other drivers' ability to see your car on the road.
5. Use your windshield wipers. This may seem like common sense, but some people forget to turn on them on in light rain. Most windshield wiper speed is adjustable to clear moisture from the glass in a light mist or in a heavy downpour. There are also products available that can defer the collection of rainwater.
6. Keep a greater distance between your car and the vehicle in front of you. Stopping your vehicle will be more difficult when driving in the rain. Maintain several car lengths between your car and others.
7. Avoid heavy braking. Try to slow your vehicle by taking your foot off of the accelerator earlier than you normally would.



8. Watch out for standing water. Driving through standing water can cause your car to hydroplane, or skid across the surface of the road. Drive around places where water has collected by changing lanes or safely steering around such areas.
9. If your car hydroplanes, calmly take your foot off of the accelerator and steer in the direction that the front of your car needs to go. Avoid making sudden turns or slamming on your brakes.
10. Rain causes humidity levels to increase. Your vehicle's windows may become foggy while it's raining. Use your car's defrost feature to reduce fog.

Staying safe while driving in the rain is simple if you make a conscious effort to employ safety precautions. Remember that reducing your speed and turning on your lights are two of the simplest and most effective ways of reducing the chances of an accident caused by wet weather. Drive safely—arrive safely.

Source
<https://driving-tests.org/beginner-drivers/how-to-drive-in-rain/>



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