

Resources

# Top tips for driving in winter



**QMT**COMMERCIAL  
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# Plan your route

Check the route you will be taking before you set off, watching out for traffic updates to avoid delays. Keep to main roads as they will have more chance of having been gritted. Leave early to avoid rushing and plan frequent rest breaks when taking longer journeys.





## Maintain your car

As well as your usual vehicle upkeep, make sure your wiper blades are in good working order, clean your headlights and number plate, check your tyre treads (min 3mm) and ensure tyres have sufficient air (ignore the dangerous myth of needing less air in winter).



## Have an emergency kit

Always have essentials in your car as you never know when you might get into difficulty. Your kit should include an ice scraper, torch, first aid kit, batteries, phone charger, warm clothes and shoes, drinks, snacks, jump leads and warning triangle.

# Fill up your vehicle

Make sure you have plenty of fuel, even for short journeys as there is always a chance you may get delayed or need to make a detour. Use additive in your screen-wash to prevent freezing and you should use a 50/50 mix of antifreeze and water in your coolant.



# Prepare your vehicle

Before you depart, de-ice your car and allow condensation to clear as it is illegal to drive if your visibility is impaired. Cold air usually works quicker than hot air. You should also clear snow off your car roof as this can fall and obstruct your view while driving.





## Adapt your driving

Leave extra space between vehicles as stopping distances can be ten times longer in icy conditions. Brake gently and drive slowly on hills, reducing your speed before you start descending to avoid heavy braking on the hill itself. Use your car's winter mode if it has one.

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