

Lots of people love a good rainstorm. It's great when you can even smell it coming. People love to watch the wind blow and enjoy the anticipation for lightning strikes and the thunder that follows.



Of course, affection for storms changes when we're on the road or we are left thinking of loved ones in tough driving conditions.

Here are some wet weather driving tips for everyone to follow to safely navigate the rain and wind.

After a Dry Spell – Oil and grease tend to build up on road surfaces during dry spells. When it finally rains, the road surface will be especially slick for the first few hours. Exercise caution.



Slow Down and Space Out – Reducing vehicle speed will help tires bite into and grip the road. Extra space allows vehicles in front of you to blaze a trail. It also allows you to effectively assess conditions and maximize reaction time.

Get In Touch – You can improve your safety on wet roads when you are physically connected with your vehicle. Use both hands on the wheel and turn off the cruise control. With cruise control engaged, hydroplaning can "fool" the computer and cause vehicle speed to increase.

Lights On – There is no easier or better way to be seen than to turn on your headlights. Automatic lights may not come on in all rain conditions, so when it starts raining, be sure to double check and turn lights on manually.

Improved Vision Inside – When the rain starts, conditions can cause windows to fog up quickly. Kick on the air conditioning and send the air through the defrosters. The AC will function as a dehumidifier and quickly remove moisture from the air and the fog from the windows.



Avoid the Pools – Roads are crowned in the middle so that water will run off and drain appropriately. During significant downpours, the water will pool in the outer lanes, so stay toward the middle lanes. Plowing through water causes hydroplaning and a corresponding loss of control. As you approach water, pay attention to whether it is flowing – if it is – find another way or wait.

Hydroplaning – Proper tire inflation and good tread are effective counters to hydroplaning. If your vehicle does hydroplane, take your foot off the gas – your vehicle will slow much faster than normal, so be prepared.



High Winds – Driving in high winds can be tough in terms of keeping your vehicle on the straight and narrow and dangerous in relation to other drivers being blown into your driving space. Four suggestions – slow down, keep two hands on the wheel, avoid side-by-side driving, and be especially watchful for wide-sided vehicles like RV's and semi-trucks.

Stop by anytime for a free PitStop. We'll top off your fluids, check and adjust air pressure, and verify safe tread depth.

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