

Winter Driving in Wisconsin



Know before you go this winter season with the 511 Wisconsin Traveler Information System. By downloading the free 511 Wisconsin Smartphone app, following @511WI on Twitter, or visiting www.511wi.gov you can access these current statewide travel resources:

- Road conditions
- Travel times
- Traffic delays
- Incident alerts
- Construction closures
- Traffic cameras

511 Wisconsin is a 24/7 travel service provided through the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

Driving Tips from the Department of Transportation:

- In the last five years, Wisconsin has averaged 18,000 motor vehicle crashes during the winter months when roads are covered with ice, snow or slush.
- In the last five years, an average of 46 people were killed and more than 4,200 injured in Wisconsin each winter season in crashes when roads are covered in ice, snow and slush.
- Many crashes are caused by "driving too fast for current conditions." Also, when the first blast of winter arrives, motorists often need to "re-learn" how to drive in slippery conditions.
- **Be gentle with both the accelerator and brake.** Don't use cruise control in wintery conditions. Don't be overconfident in your four-wheel drive vehicle. You may get going quicker than others but you can't stop faster. Four-wheel drive vehicles can lose traction as quickly as two-wheel drive.
- **Always wear your safety belt.** You and your passengers absolutely need this protection even in low-speed "fender-bender" crashes that frequently occur on slick roads.
- **Leave plenty of room for snowplows.** By law, you must stay back at least 200 feet from the rear of a snowplow.
- **Obey the "Move Over" Law,** which requires drivers to shift lanes or slowdown in order to provide a safety zone for a law enforcement vehicle, tow truck, ambulance, fire truck, highway maintenance vehicle, or utility vehicle that is stopped on the side of a road with its warning lights flashing.
- If your vehicle slides off the road, gets stuck, or becomes disabled, stay inside it if at all possible with your seat belt fastened until a tow truck or other help arrives. If you're inside your vehicle and buckled up, you have protection against out-of-control vehicles. There's no protection outside your vehicle.