

# John's

## DRIVING SCHOOL

## TIPS FOR DRIVING IN INCLEMENT WEATHER

As per the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Pennsylvania ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> for the most dangerous states for winter driving, over a 3 year study. The first winter storm of the year is upon us and we wanted to share some inclement weather driving tips and strategies. More driving tips and strategies can be found on our website at [www.icandrive.com](http://www.icandrive.com), under resources.



### Stopping or Braking on Ice

With ABS Brakes:

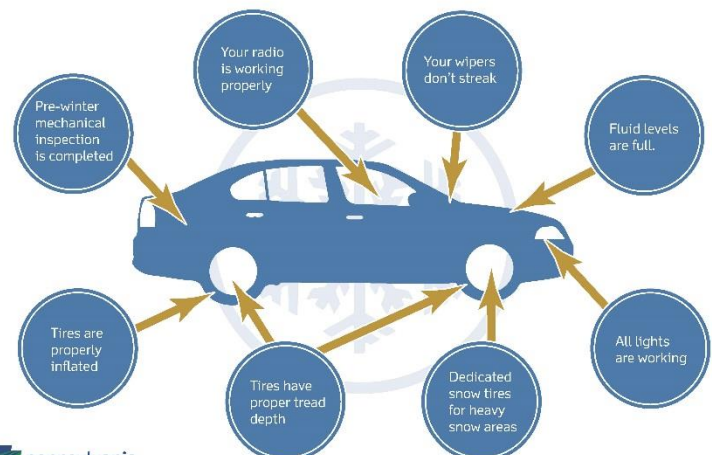
- Maintain minimal pressure on the brakes.
- Steer in the direction you want to go.
- Do not shift into lower gear
  - Rear wheels may spin
  - The car will travel sideways
- If you begin to slide
  - Hold steering wheel firmly
  - Use very little motion to keep car on the road or your car may begin to sway back and forth uncontrollably (Fishtail).
- Do not over apply brakes
  - If you feel the brake “pulse”, your antilock brakes are working.
  - If you do not feel the brakes “pulse” you should apply more pressure.
- Accelerate the gas once you are off of the ice and the car is straight.

### Winter Driving Strategies

- Increase following distance to at least 8-10 seconds
- DO NOT be overly confident in 4-wheel drive vehicles just because they can get through conditions easier, it does not mean they can stop in time
- Always decrease speed
- Use extra caution on bridges and overpasses
- Turn on headlights
- Avoid any fast or sharp movements
- Accelerate gently
- Turn slowly
- Brake carefully and early

### Getting Your Vehicle Ready for Winter

Motorists should ensure that...





## TIPS FOR DRIVING IN INCLEMENT WEATHER CONTINUED

**STAY BACK!**

Allow **SIX** car lengths behind an operating plow.

pennsylvania  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#PAWinter  
More at PennDOT.gov/winter

### Getting Stuck in the Snow

*DO NOT over accelerate the gas, your tires will spin and you will create ditches under your tires.*

- Put car in park
  - With the emergency brake on.
  - DO NOT turn the car off.
- Apply kitty litter or sand to the areas in front and in back of all tires.
- Rock vehicle slightly.
  - Drive and Reverse
  - Do not spin the wheels
- Do not rev the engine above 35 mph.
- Make sure no one is standing near the car as you attempt to move it.
- If all else fails, call a tow truck.



### Maintaining Traction in the Snow

Automatic Transmission:

- Put car in D2 and accelerate gently.
- Shift car to D once car is moving.

Manual Transmission:

- Use a higher gear (2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>) with which you can move the car without stalling.
- Accelerate gently.

Once you are moving:

- Try to keep wheels moving without spinning, slower speeds are essential to do this.
- When driving downhill, shift to a lower gear to keep car in control.

### Sliding in the Snow

- Do not slam on the brakes.
- Ease off the accelerator
- Apply brakes gently.
- Steer in the direction you want to go.
- Be ready to correct in case you start to slide in the opposite direction.
- Remain calm, do not over correct.

