



Check regularly to be sure winterizing is effective.

Check the anti-freeze in radiators and windshield washer fluids. Check battery charge and fluid level. Check the exhaust system. Check wipers, and lights, and defrosters, and brakes, tire pressure and tire treads. Check everything that might affect the safety of your trip during the winter months.

Driving attitudes might need changing to prepare for winter.

Readjust and adopt new driving patterns for winter. The smooth, dry road surfaces of last summer are gone, and a different approach is needed if motor vehicles of any kind are to be guided over pavements made treacherous by ice, snow and rain.

First of all, keep in mind the certainty that traffic is going

to be slowed by slippery roads, so get an earlier start, allowing more time than usual for a given trip.

Because of the treacherous footing, be prepared for an out if something happens up ahead, increase following distance. You must have more room for stopping—an extra space cushion. If the lead vehicle slows down, hits a dry patch of pavement and slows too suddenly for you to stop on slick pavement, you're in trouble.

Seeing, and being seen is especially important in winter. Dull, cloudy days, will cut down visibility, so drive with low-beam headlights on. Other drivers are likely to see your lights more readily than the outline of your vehicle against the gloom.

Expert drivers have found they can get their vehicles moving much better with a slow start on ice and snow than they can by tromping on the gas. They know, too, that slick pavements demand lower speeds than normal. No matter how good your brakes are, you can't control high speed if the tires don't grip the pavement. Many a futile attempt to make an emergency stop on winter roads has proven this.

Skidding on curves can be avoided by slowing down beforehand, then accelerating lightly after you start to make the curve.

If you must go through, regardless of snow and icy roads, reinforced tire chains are the best insurance to provide traction, aid in stopping and to avoid skidding.

Try to "winterize" your thinking when you must drive on slippery roads.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - The information and suggestions presented by Michigan Millers Mutual Insurance Company in this Safety Talks Toolkit Bulletin are for your consideration in your loss prevention efforts. They are not intended to be complete or definitive in identifying all hazards associated with your business, preventing workplace accidents, or complying with any safety related, or other, laws or regulations. You are encouraged to alter them to fit the specific hazards of your business and to have your legal counsel review all of your plans and company policies.