



## Driving in the Rain

Rain is blamed for thousands of accidents annually. Many of these accidents are preventable, and are caused by inattentive drivers who don't realize that foul weather driving is fundamentally different than fair weather driving. When the road is wet, the oily film of water on the asphalt causes tires to lose traction. Rain also reduces driver perception, headlight brightness, and windshield visibility. Most drivers know to slow down in the rain, but here are some tips that will help to drive safer.

- Make sure your windshield wipers are in good condition and functioning properly. If the blades are worn, replace them before you are caught in a downpour.
- Exercise extreme caution when it rains after a long dry spell. During a dry period, engine oil and grease build up on the road, and when mixed with a new rainfall, the road becomes very slippery.
- Allow more travel time. Plan to drive at a slower pace than normal, and keep in mind that other motorists will be driving slower as well.
- Brake earlier with less force. Maintain a proper space cushion between your truck and the vehicle ahead. For normal driving conditions your space cushion should be 3 seconds, and this needs to be increased in wet weather.
- Most roads are crowned in the middle, which means that the water will run off the sides. If possible, stay towards the middle of the road to avoid deep standing puddles that can cause hydroplaning.
- Turn on your headlights, even when there's a light drizzle. Headlights will help you to see the road, and more importantly, it will help other motorists to see you.

Taking a few precautions and using wet weather driving techniques may prevent you from becoming an accident statistic.

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