



WET WEATHER DRIVING

Driving in the rain can be a safety challenge. Driving carefully on wet, slippery roads and in low visibility conditions could save lives.

Arrive alive, what can you do?

- Slow down and try to avoid driving through puddles of water at speed. At 100 km/h on a wet road, an average tyre will have to displace up to 9 litres of water per second to maintain grip on the road surface. Even at much slower speeds, a vehicle can aqua-plane if driven through a pool of water. Aqua-planing occurs when a tyre is unable to displace the water between the tread surface and the surface of the road. When this occurs, it may cause a total loss of control of the vehicle. Steering, braking and vehicle stability are greatly affected. Driving at a slower speed and driving to the conditions, assists you in being prepared for sudden stops.



- Increase your following distance to a minimum of four seconds when driving in wet weather. Cars on wet bitumen need two to three times more stopping distance than in the dry, so allow extra distance between yourself and the car in front of you.

Exercise extreme caution after a long dry spell.

- During long dry periods, engine oil, diesel and grease build up on the road. When these substances mix with water from a rain shower,

they create an often invisible slippery film on the road surface, which substantially reduces the friction or grip. A vehicle driving in these conditions can suddenly experience the same effect as aqua-planing. When tyres lose grip, a driver loses control of the vehicle. Continued rainfall will eventually wash away the oil, but the first 24 hours can be the most dangerous.

- Brake earlier and with less force than you would normally. This reduces the potential for skidding and provides more warning for the driver behind you. You will need to make sure that you have plenty of room to stop, so drop back a little more from the car in front.
- Water on a road surface creates a heightened level of risk whilst driving. Reducing speed, particularly when cornering, driving to the conditions – not just the speed limit, thinking about using turn signals a little earlier so that other drivers know your intentions with plenty of time to react and looking well ahead for hazards are some very good ways to reduce your risk of crashing.
- During wet weather, visibility is reduced so turn on your headlights, as it helps other road users see you.

***It is better to be safe than sorry:
WIPERS ON LIGHTS ON
.....and remember to turn them off
when you finish your journey.***



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IS YOUR VEHICLE PREPARED FOR WET WEATHER?

- Check the tyre tread (look at the wear bar indicators). If in doubt check with a tyre dealer. Driving with worn or bald tyres on a slippery surface is a major factor in skidding and aquaplaning.
- Incorrect inflation will cause tyres to overheat and wear unevenly. It will also substantially reduce their service life and cornering ability. Ensure that your tyres are inflated to the levels recommended by the vehicle manufacturer – check your owner's manual or tyre placard. A tyre placard is usually a sticker inside the glove box or on one of the door frames.
- Check brakes periodically. After driving through a puddle, check that brakes are working properly by applying them gently a few times.
- Ensure that your heater demister is working correctly. You can use the air conditioner in conjunction with either hot or cold air, to quickly clear the moisture from the inside of your windscreen. The demister will only remove moisture; it will not remove the greasy film that builds up on the inside of windows in modern cars. This film can reduce visibility in both low light and bright sunshine. Clean the inside of the windows with a good quality glass cleaner at least once a month.
- Check that all lights, including tail lights are working correctly. Clean the lenses and remove any grime which would impede the light's full working potential.
- Make sure windshield wiper blades are in good condition. Streaks or skipping on the vehicle's windshield are signs of worn wiper blades. Inspect wipers once a month and check the washer reservoir to ensure that it is kept full.



For further information, contact:

South Australia Police, Traffic Training and Promotion Section
Email: DLSAPOLTrafficTrngandPromotions@police.sa.gov.au

Phone: (08) 8207 6586 Fax: (08) 8207 6593
Internet: www.police.sa.gov.au

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