

# NZSki - Alpine and Winter Driving Tips

1. Make sure your windscreen is clear from ice, snow and condensation before driving.
  - a. Use a scraper to get rid of ice or snow and don't forget to clear any snow off your bonnet and roof too. Never use hot water as this can crack your windscreen!
  - b. To clear condensation quickly, open a window slightly and turn your cars demister on full, turn on the air conditioning and select the fresh air option.
2. Always adopt a conservative driving style in cold conditions. A good way to do this is to drive as if you had an open cup of coffee in your lap! Keep your acceleration, braking and turns smooth and gentle and you'll avoid losing traction.
3. Ice may be present on the road even if you can't see it. This is often called 'black ice' and is prevalent in the mornings and as soon as direct sunlight has moved off the road. Shaded areas and bridges are also areas to take extreme caution.
4. If you find yourself on ice – don't panic! Ease off on the accelerator and allow the vehicle to slow down. Carry on driving at a slower speed and look for areas of traction, like grit on the edges of the road.
5. Increase your following distance to at least four seconds and if a vehicle stops in front of you when you are travelling uphill, give them plenty of space in case they slide backwards.
6. Use 4WD if you have it, but remember that it won't perform miracles and it does not improve your stopping ability.
7. Carry snow chains. Make sure that they are damage free and that you know how to put them on. Always put them on where directed or when conditions demand. Use a designated chain fitting area or somewhere that is ideally flat and away from traffic. Keep your speed under 50kph and stop to tighten them if they start making more noise than usual. Take them off where directed.
8. Never ride your brakes when travelling downhill. Use a pulsing technique instead and use your gears to help regulate your speed. If your brakes start to feel mushy pull over in a safe place immediately.
9. Always allow plenty of time for your journey and make sure everyone in your car wears their seatbelt.
10. And finally, if you ever get stuck on one of our skifield access roads – turn on your hazard lights and remain in your vehicle. One of our roads crew will be along soon to help.