



Safe Winter Driving

Stuck or stranded

Sliding off the road in wet or icy conditions unfortunately happens to many. If you are stuck or stranded, stay calm, focused, and follow these simple guidelines:

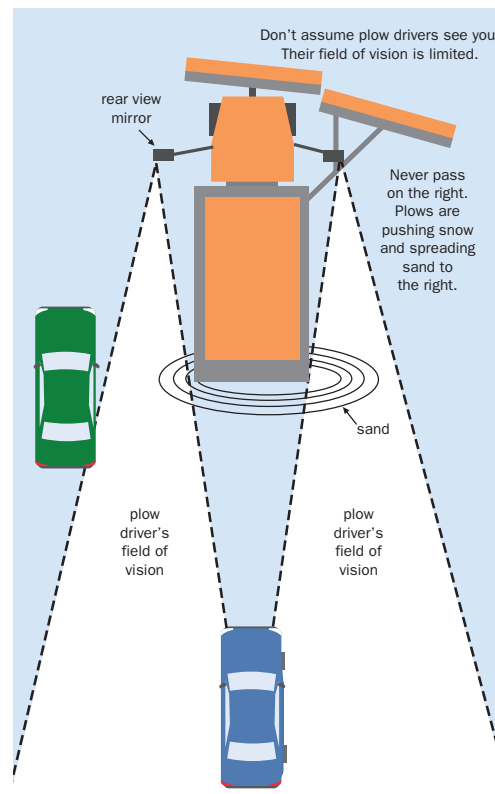
- If the road ahead is not clear or if there is no shelter in sight, do not abandon your vehicle. It is your only certain source of shelter.
- Keep windows rolled down slightly for ventilation, and make sure your exhaust pipe is clear of snow.
- Light a candle. It will help keep the inside of your vehicle warm.
- Cover your entire body with a blanket or sleeping bag. If there is more than one person, huddle together for warmth.
- Run your engine only for short periods.
- Turn on your vehicle's flashers.
- If you are stranded on a State Highway, U.S. Route or Interstate, keep an eye out for VTrans crews as they can assist you.
- If you are stuck on a more secluded road, remain in the shelter of your vehicle until the storm passes.
- Access items in your safety kit as needed.

For more information, contact VTrans at 802-828-2587, or visit our Web site at www.aot.state.vt.us. You can also contact the Department of Public Safety at 802-244-7343, or visit their Web site at www.dps.state.vt.us.

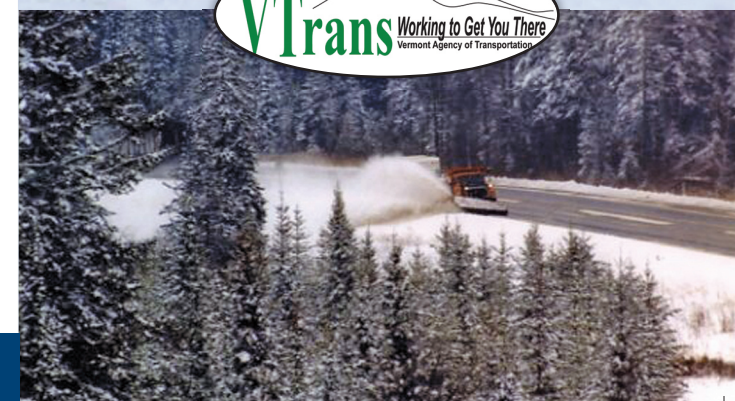
Don't crowd the plow

Do not travel beside a snowplow for long periods. The impact of plowing through snow drifts or packed snow can jostle the truck sideways without warning. Snowplows can create a snow cloud that reduces visibility to zero. Never drive into a snow cloud as it could conceal a plow.

Do not attempt to pass a snowplow when visibility is severely reduced. When you pass, be sure you can see clearly ahead. Allow plenty of room, and be aware that a snowplow driver's vision is restricted. You may see him, but he may not see you.



Good habits for bad weather



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Slow down, drive smart

Speed

Slow down and drive according to the road conditions. Driving too fast is the leading cause of winter crashes.

Distance

Leave more room than usual between vehicles – you'll need the extra time to brake safely. Signal early, merge slowly and carefully.

Brake

Brake early and slowly to prevent skidding. Never slam on the brakes on winter roads.

Control

Do not use cruise control during a storm, don't overestimate the ability of four-wheel drive and look out for black ice on what appears to be bare pavement.

Focus

Stay off the cell phone and minimize other distractions. You'll need added reaction time in case something happens.

Vision

Look ahead – the actions of other vehicles will alert you to what is happening ahead so that you can react safely.

Advanced preparation

Winterizing your vehicle as well as your driving habits will help make for incident-free winters.

Start with the basics

Have good snow tires, traction strips, a shovel, working heat and defrosters, new wipers, and plenty of washer fluid – carry extra.

Clean up your act

Clear all snow and ice from windows, mirrors, lights, hood, trunk, and roof. You need to see and be seen.

Call ahead

Call 511 or visit 511vt.com to find out about road and weather conditions before you leave, and plan accordingly.

Take your time

You will need extra time on winter roads – relax, don't rush or speed. Travel during daylight whenever possible.

Fill 'er up

Keep your tank 2/3 full to prevent fuel line freeze-up.

Safety first

Keep an emergency kit with blankets, flashlight, batteries, warm clothes, booster cables, a candle, and matches in your vehicle.

Road maintenance

Vermont during the winter follows a "safe roads at safe speeds" policy, not a "bare roads" policy. This means roads during a storm are plowed, sanded, and salted to allow safe travel at safe speeds. Roads will be returned to bare pavement only after a storm is over.

Most travel takes place during the day, so the majority of Vermont's resources are used between 4 a.m. and 10 p.m. Motorists should anticipate reduced coverage and varying road conditions at night and drive accordingly.

Vermont's safe roads policy distinguishes three different types of roadway: Interstates, U.S. and State Highways, and rural or lightly traveled state highways. During storms, the following maximum speeds are advised:

- Interstate System: 45 mph
- U.S. or State Highways: 40 mph
- Rural or lightly traveled State Highways: 35 mph

These speeds are "suggested" maximums. Every storm is different. Motorists should always exercise caution and drive according to road and weather conditions.



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Travel Info to Go