

# SAFE WINTER DRIVING

## *Drive according to road conditions*

- \* Slow Down: Driving too fast on wintry roads is the **leading** cause of crashes.
- \* Travel at a safe distance of at least 3 car lengths, leaving plenty of room to stop.
- \* Do not crowd slow moving maintenance and emergency vehicles.
- \* Do not use cruise control while driving in a storm.
- \* Do not overestimate the capabilities of your four-wheel drive vehicle.
- \* Clear all snow and ice from the vehicle prior to travel.
- \* Be aware of black ice on what appears to be bare pavement.

## **SLOW DOWN AND BUCKLE UP!**



## Properly Prepare Your Vehicle for Winter Driving

- \* Winter tires
- \* Wipers and washer fluid
- \* Heaters and defrosters
- \* Properly adjusted brakes
- \* Ensure battery and charging system operate properly
- \* Carry tire chains for large trucks

## Recommendations

- \* Keep your gas tank 2/3 full to prevent the fuel line from freezing
- \* Whenever possible, plan your trip daylight hours
- \* Check weather and road condition before you leave
- \* Remove ice and snow from windows, license plates and lights, and be sure to clear snow from the vehicle's hood, roof and trunk.

## Be prepared - Pack a winter car kit:

- \* Booster cables
- \* Two or more blankets
- \* Candles and matches
- \* Snow shovel and scraper
- \* Flashlight and extra batteries
- \* Extra clothing: cap, mittens, parka and overshoes or boots in case you have to walk for help.
- \* High calorie, non-perishable food like candy and canned nuts
- \* Sand or strips of carpet for traction
- \* Extra windshield washer fluid and antifreeze.
- \* Flares or reflectors

For more information, contact VTrans at  
**802-828-2587**,  
or visit our website at  
**[www.aot.state.vt.us](http://www.aot.state.vt.us)**,  
or you can contact the Department of Public  
Safety at  
**802-244-7345**,  
or visit their website at  
**[www.dps.state.vt.us](http://www.dps.state.vt.us)**.



**[www.VermontVacation.com](http://www.VermontVacation.com)**

# The 511 Travel Information System

Check 511 before you take to the road for up-to-the-minute travel information. Find out about road conditions, weather, construction, crashes or any major delays before your trip. Just dial 511 and follow the simple, voice-activated prompts, or you can log on to [www.511vt.com](http://www.511vt.com).



## 511 is Easy to use

Dial 511 or go to [www.511vt.com](http://www.511vt.com)

- \* Available 24 hours a day/seven days a week
- \* Voice recognition
- \* Winter road conditions
- \* Road construction, maintenance and incident information
- \* Covers all interstate and most major routes
- \* Normal airtime and roaming charges apply to wireless callers

# Winter Travel

Our “Safe Roads at Safe Speeds” policy divides Vermont’s state highway into three levels of service.

Suggested maximum driving speed during a winter storm:

- Interstate system - 45 MPH
- US / State Highways - 40 MPH
- Rural or lightly traveled state highways - 35 MPH

These speed limits are “suggested” only. Always exercise caution and drive according to road and weather conditions.

# Winter Maintenance

VTrans follows a “Safe Roads at Safe Speeds” policy for maintaining winter roads. Our mission is to plow, sand, and/or salt state roads during a winter storm to keep them open to traffic.

In Vermont, there is no “bare road” policy for any road during a snowstorm. The roads are to be returned to bare pavement after the storm is over.

As most travel in Vermont is during the day, the majority of resources (trucks, drivers, sand and salt) are used during daylight hours. Motorists should anticipate reduced coverage and varying road conditions at night and drive accordingly.

# Driveways



The diagram above indicates the suggested driveway clearing method and best mailbox locations to avoid damage to your property, and to help minimize the amount of snow in your driveway after the plow passes.

