



## Be prepared for driving this winter

Regular servicing and checks on your vehicle will reduce your chances of breaking down on the road, particularly in the winter months.

### What should I check?

- \* Fluid levels - especially the anti-freeze. Anti-freeze is much cheaper than repairing a cracked engine block
- \* Lights - make sure they all work and are clean
- \* Tyres - the AA recommend at least 3mm of tread for winter driving
- \* Windscreen washer—make sure levels are sufficient and that you use screen wash and not just water

### Winter driving survival kit

Make sure you have these essential supplies in case you become stranded:

- \* Ice scraper
- \* Shovel
- \* Anti-freeze
- \* Torch and batteries
- \* Mobile phone and in-car charger
- \* First aid kit
- \* Small tool kit
- \* Bottled water
- \* Extra layers of clothing, such as a winter coat



**WARRINGTON**  
Borough Council

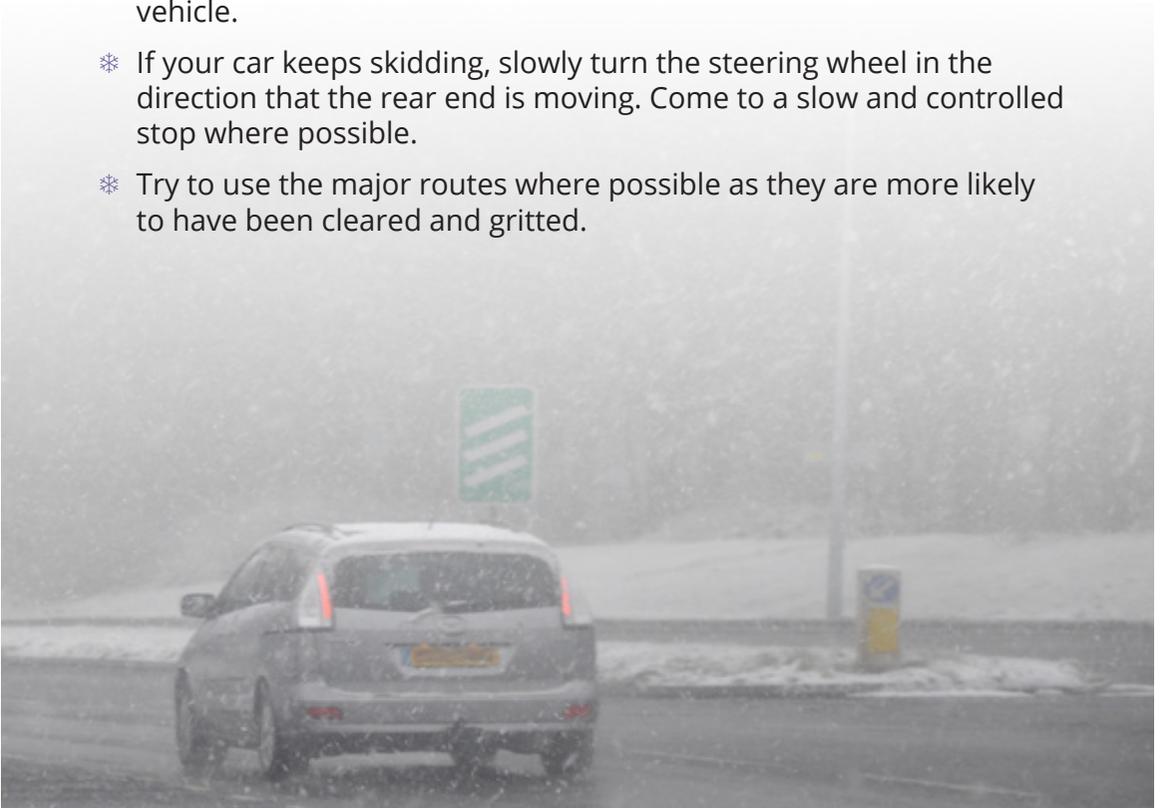
## Before setting off

- ❄ Is the journey essential? If you don't need to make the journey it's best to stay home; or use public transport if possible.
- ❄ Get up at least 10 minutes earlier to prepare the car. Clear all snow from the car, including the lights and the roof. De-mist and de-ice fully before you start the journey.
- ❄ If the lock on the car door is frozen, heat the key up first with a cigarette lighter.
- ❄ Prepare a flask with a hot drink or soup to take with you, in case you become stuck.



## Tips for driving in snow and ice

- \* Wear comfortable, dry shoes. Snow covered shoes slip on pedals.
- \* Don't make harsh movements. Always brake and accelerate slowly and smoothly.
- \* Select second gear when pulling away. Ease your foot off the clutch gently to avoid wheel spin. Continue to drive in the highest gear possible to your speed.
- \* Leave plenty of space between you and the vehicle in front. Stopping distances are 10 times longer in snow and ice.
- \* If you get stuck, clear the snow from the wheels and put newspaper or old rugs down underneath the front tyres. This will give the tyres something to grip to. Once you're on the move don't stop until you're on firmer ground.
- \* If your car starts to skid, take your foot off the accelerator. Sometimes this is all you need to do to regain control of your vehicle.
- \* If your car keeps skidding, slowly turn the steering wheel in the direction that the rear end is moving. Come to a slow and controlled stop where possible.
- \* Try to use the major routes where possible as they are more likely to have been cleared and gritted.



# What to do after an incident on the road

- \* Switch off the engine and turn on the hazard warning lights.
- \* If anybody is injured, call 999 (or 112) immediately.
- \* Do not leave the scene, but stand in a safe place on the footway or away from traffic.
- \* Take photographs of the scene if possible.
- \* Note as much information about the incident as possible.
- \* Inform your insurance company, regardless of who is to blame.
- \* Inform the police—the police will not attend if no injury has been sustained, but its worth making a log of the incident.

## If you're involved in a road incident

If you're in a motor incident, such as a crash, your car insurance provider or police service may need the following information:

- The date and time of the incident
- The place where it happened (this may include specific junctions, motorways or road names)
- If another driver is involved in the incident, their name, address, phone number, license number, license plate and vehicle make and model.
- If there are any witnesses to the incident, their name, address and phone number.