

*Oregon's beautiful scenery is a year-round source of enjoyment. Driving in Oregon's winters, however, can be challenging. Follow these recommendations so you arrive safely at your destination!*

### Be Prepared!

Use this handy checklist to make sure you're prepared every time you take a trip in Oregon's winter wonderland.

- Tools: jack, lug wrench, shovel
- Chains or traction tires
- Flares
- Road maps
- Extra warm clothes, boots, hat and gloves
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Cell phone and car adapter
- Rechargeable flashlight
- First aid kit
- Matches or lighter
- Battery jumper cables
- Extra food and water
- Blanket/sleeping bag(s)
- Paper towels
- Pocket knife
- Extra washer fluid

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

Before you go, visit [www.TripCheck.com](http://www.TripCheck.com) or call the numbers below for the latest in road conditions, weather forecast, chain requirements, and incident information.

5-1-1

*(if available from your cell phone service provider)*

1-800-977-6368

or 1-503-588-2941



*The Oregon Winter Driving Guide is a collaborative project of the Governor's Transportation/Tourism Task Force.*

*Production assistance provided by:*



[www.TravelOregon.com](http://www.TravelOregon.com)



*Special thanks to:*



*And the following partners:*

**Oregon Association of  
Convention & Visitors Bureaus**

**Oregon State Police**

**Oregon Lodging Association**

**AAA Oregon**

# THE OREGON WINTER DRIVING GUIDE

*Drive Safely. The Way to Go.*



## TAKE YOUR TIME . . .

- Check Oregon's road conditions and weather forecasts at [www.TripCheck.com](http://www.TripCheck.com) before you leave, or call 5-1-1 for valuable travel information, updated continuously.
- Choose main routes and be rested and alert.
- Make someone aware of your routes, and if plans change, let someone know. Check in when you've reached your destination.
- Remember, cell phone coverage is not available in many remote areas.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Clear any snow, ice or frost from windows, lights, hood, heater and air inlet vents (don't forget mirrors and wipers).
- Do not drive with heater in recirculation mode; it can increase humidity.
- Drive with your lights on and reduce your speed.



## TUNE UP YOUR VEHICLE

- Make sure your antifreeze is good to -25F; check and fill washer and other fluids and make sure hoses aren't loose or brittle.
- Keep wipers clean and in good condition.
- Make sure your heater and defroster are working.
- Make certain your battery is fully charged (also check battery age and make sure cables are not loose or corroded).
- Ensure your tires are in good condition and properly inflated.
- Carry chains or use traction tires.

## USE THESE TIPS TO PREVENT SLIPS

Adjust your driving for the conditions; if there is ice or snow on the road, you must take extra care.

- Don't use cruise control in wet, icy or snowy weather.
- Position your hands on the steering wheel at 9 o'clock and 3 o'clock, or lower.
- If you lose traction, gradually slow down – don't slam on the brakes!
- Steering, braking and accelerating smoothly are key to maximum vehicle control on slippery surfaces. Steer just enough to follow the path you intend (most people steer too much or too fast).
- Be ready to handle potentially dangerous situations by thinking "15 seconds" ahead about your options, such as controlling your speed, changing lanes or communicating with others on the road.
- Use extra caution when driving on bridges or concrete highways: ice forms first on these surfaces.
- Avoid driving through snowdrifts; they may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Slow down in advance of shaded areas (especially curves) where ice and snow are the last to melt.
- Chain up early.



## WATCH OUT FOR PLOWS!



In Oregon's winters, you will encounter snowplows and sanding trucks.

- Following a plow or sander too closely can be dangerous – give them (and yourself) room.
- Don't pass the plow or sander; be patient!
- Be aware that sometimes plows work side-by-side to clear the road faster.



## FOLLOW OREGON CHAIN LAWS

Oregon's chain laws apply to all roads and highways.

- Look for signs indicating when chains or traction tires are required. When required, pull over to the right of the highway as far as possible or pull into a "chain up" area.
- Chains include link and cable chains and other devices that attach to the vehicle, wheel, or outside of the tire that are designed to increase traction in ice or snow.
- A traction tire is a studded tire or a tire that meets the tire industry's definition as suitable for use  in severe snow conditions, marked with .
- Studded tires can only be used between Nov. 1 and April 1.
- Under some conditions, four-wheel and all-wheel drive vehicles may be exempt from the requirement to use chains.
- Find out more about chain requirements at [www.TripCheck.com](http://www.TripCheck.com).