



## 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 by visiting our Web site at [www.aot.state.vt.us](http://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](http://www.dps.state.vt.us).

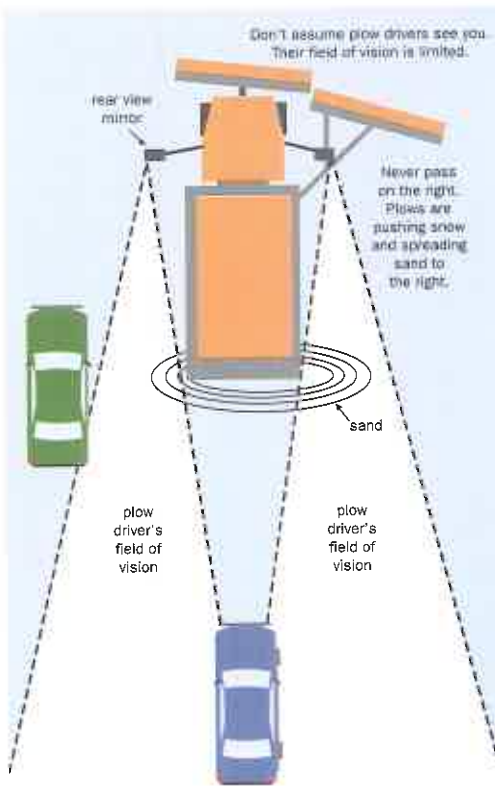


[www.VermontVacation.com](http://www.VermontVacation.com)

## 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.



# Safe Winter Driving



Good habits for bad weather





## 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