

10 SAFETY TIPS FOR SPRING DRIVING

Winter often gets all the attention for hazardous road conditions, but spring driving has safety hazards of its own. Here are ten spring driving safety tips to help reduce your risk.

Keep an eye out for potholes. The roads take a beating during winter, which means potholes. Your best option is to avoid potholes when it's safe to do so. If you must drive over one, slow down and release the brake when you pass over it to minimize impact.

Check your tire pressure. Cold winter temperatures often result in lost tire pressure. Take a moment to check your tires and reinflate them if needed.

Check your wiper blades. Wiper blades can get worn down by winter snow and ice. Check your wiper conditions and replace them if needed so you are prepared for rainy weather.

Watch for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcycles. After the long winter, people are ready to get outside and enjoy the warm temperatures. Make sure to slow down and share the road with walkers and cyclists, and keep an eye out for motorcycles when merging, passing, turning, and approaching intersections.

Respect work zones. Springtime means construction crews will be out in force to fix winter wear and tear.

Obey posted speed limits in work zones, pay attention to signs and flagger instructions, and take your time. Leave enough space so you can react to anything unexpected, such as construction vehicles or other drivers entering your lane suddenly.

Avoid puddles. Puddles can put you at risk of hydroplaning and hide hazards underneath, like potholes. Avoid them when possible. If you have to drive through one, proceed slowly and leave plenty of room between you and the vehicle in front of you.

Prepare for sun glare. More daylight hours can mean bright driving conditions. Keep a pair of sunglasses in the car to avoid being blinded.

Pay attention to medication side effects. Over-the-counter allergy medications may have side effects like drowsiness that impact your ability to drive. Carefully read medication labels, and if you are impaired do not drive.

Be aware of animals. As animals become more active during the warmer weather, it's important to stay alert. Pay special attention around dawn and dusk, and slow down to a speed where you can stop safely if needed.

Take your time during spring showers. According to AAA, wet pavement contributes to nearly 1.2 million traffic accidents each year. In addition to slowing down and leaving extra distance between you and the car in front of you, turn on your headlights and avoid hard braking.

