

WINTER DRIVING WINTER DRIVING

FACT OR FICTION?

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Winter tires stop faster on icy roads than all-season tires.

Fact. Winter tires can improve traction and control in frost, snow, and icy conditions, and can shorten braking distances by up to 25%.

The best time to install winter tires is after the first snowfall.

Fiction. Winter tires are the better option as soon as temperatures reach 7 degrees Celsius. Any colder, and your all-seasons can become stiff. Try planning to install your winter tires near the end of October or early November.

You should only use your headlights at night.

Fiction. You should use your full lighting system both at night and in a whiteout. It will help you see and be seen.

Nearly 30% of car collisions in Canada occur on snowy or icy roads.

Fact. That's over 50,000 collisions in a year that will be affected by winter precipitation.

If you're sliding on ice, you shouldn't use your brakes.

Fiction. If your vehicle is equipped with ABS, you can place consistent pressure on the brake to focus on steering. If you don't have antilock brakes, gently pump the brakes to maintain control.

Studded tires are permitted in northern Ontario.

Fact. Studs are permitted in northern Ontario from October 1 – April 30, and are great for braking on ice and heavy, hard-packed snow.

You can install your own winter tires.

Fact. If you want to save some cash, you can learn how to change your tires at home. However, it's crucial to properly install and torque the tires correctly. And ALWAYS install all 4 winter tires.

Having a full tank of gas doesn't affect winter driving.

Fiction. Keeping your tank at least half full can reduce moisture as well as add weight to your vehicle, making it safer to drive on slippery roads.