

Winter Driving Course

The winter driving course is for students who wish to receive training in the following areas and offered in the winter months:

Slippery and icy road conditions

What to do if you start sliding

Braking distance with ice and snow

Vehicle preparation for cold conditions

How to get unstuck

Proper procedure in an accident

Winter Driving

At Alberta Driver Education & Training Inc., we believe that even though we can't always be prepared for unpredictable weather conditions, having the proper knowledge and preparation is the key to conquering winter driving and feeling safe and confident. Remember, safe winter driving is having the knowledge and training while using it in winter driving situations.

Chinooks and icy roads

All Albertans know that winter is the biggest challenge for all drivers alike. This is especially true for Calgary and surrounding areas because of Chinooks. Chinooks can occur at any time and wind speeds can vary in short distances. Chinooks warm up the ice and snow past melting point, however the cold temperatures that follows at night and after the Chinook winds have left produce black ice, a condition that unique to Alberta's roads. These road conditions cause countless accidents each year in Alberta and can be avoided with experience and training.

Winter storm conditions

Albertan winters can be unpredictable. Winter storms and blizzard like conditions can develop very quickly. Winter storms can catch unprepared or inexperienced drivers off guard. Knowing what to do can save lives.

Furthermore winter storm conditions can make any distance of icy roads seem treacherous. Multiple accidents during winter storms may take emergency services longer. Seasoned winter motorists know that however unlikely you must be prepared to know what to do in all situations.

Tips for winter driving

Winterizing your car

- Winter tires greatly increase the stopping power of your vehicle in winter
- Replace windshield washer fluid with one that is made for cold temperatures
- Check tire pressure regularly, flat tires can result in loss of control
- Make sure the vehicle is equipped with a snow brush and ice chipper
- On cold days make sure the gas tank is at least half full to avoid freezing in the gas line
- Clean wind shields to reduce condensation fog
- Test wind shield wipers to make sure they can clean wind shield properly
- Regularly check that tail lights and head lights work for low visibility conditions
- Plugging in your car during cold nights can help your car start up in the morning

Prepare an emergency car kit

During extremely cold days, the chance of vehicle break down or mechanical failure is increased significantly. This means that you will not be the only one who is waiting for help. During extreme cold snaps emergency services could take hours to arrive. It is very important to ensure that you have the proper gear with you while waiting. Every kit should contain:

- Blankets for warmth
- Brightly colored jacket in case you need to leave the vehicle
- A candle can keep a small contained area above freezing
- Water for consumption
- Pylons or flares to warn incoming traffic
- Medical kit

Having the proper tools to help yourself

- Small collapsible shovel should you get stuck in deep snow
- Extra gloves and clothes to keep dry and warm
- Bags of sand can weigh your car down increasing traction
- Booster cables
- Flashlight
- Extra batteries

