



**SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY**

Top 10 Tips on How to Drive in the Rain

1. Remain Calm if You Are Hydroplaning

If you notice yourself losing control of your vehicle, stay calm. Do not slam on your breaks, as doing so could cause you to spin out of control. Instead, you should ease your foot off the gas pedal, use a light pumping action on the brake pedal, direct your steering wheel into the path you want your vehicle to go, and wait until you regain traction.

2. Drive Slowly

To avoid hydroplaning, do not speed. Take your time and slow down while following the flow of traffic.

3. Make Sure Your Vehicle Is in Good Condition

Ensure your tires, brakes, and windshield wipers are functional and responsive.

- Tires: A solid tread and adequate inflation will allow your vehicle to handle the slippery roads.**
- Brakes: Drivers are likely to make sudden stops during rainy weather conditions, so checking your brakes and brake fluids occasionally is crucial to ensure they are working well.**
- Windshield Wipers: Maintaining your windshield wipers will allow you to properly navigate your vehicle without having water streaks obstructing your view of the road**

4. Allow Extra Space Between You and the Vehicles Nearby

Being too close to another vehicle will give you less time to react to what is ahead. You should leave plenty of room in front of you to ensure enough space to act quickly to avoid getting into an accident with a vehicle or a foreseeable hazard.

5. Pull Over if the Rain Begins to Worsen

If you are having difficulty navigating through the rain, you should pull over to a safe location and wait until conditions improve before heading out on the road again.

6. Do Not Use Cruise Control

If you're using cruise control while speeding in wet weather, it could cause your vehicle to hydroplane. You should avoid using this feature during such conditions to ensure you have full control over your vehicle and can properly regulate the speed at which your vehicle is going.

7. Turn on Your Headlights

Having your headlights on in the rain will allow you to have better visibility of the road, meaning that you can detect any foreseeable hazards, focus on what the vehicles ahead are doing, or notice when a pedestrian is attempting to cross the street.

8. Keep Your Windshield Wipers on

It is important to keep your windshield wiper on throughout your drive to avoid having water build up and obstruct your visibility of the road.

9. Use Your Defroster

To prevent your windshield from fogging up during a drive, turn on your front and rear defrosters to maintain a clear view of the road.

10. Avoid Driving Through Large Puddles

Heavy rainfall can create large puddles. Generally, six inches of water could cause a vehicle to lose control. So, if you notice a large puddle on a drive, which appears to be half a foot of water or more, you should avoid driving through it. However, if the water seems less than six inches, you should be safe enough to drive over it. When doing so, keep a steady pace. Once you have passed through the puddle, you should test your brakes at low speeds. This will also help dry them off.