

Driving for a Rainy Day

While it's best to stay inside when it's wet outside, sometimes we just need to drive. For when the rains inevitably come this spring, here are some tips on safe wet weather driving:

Low light bright. Turn on your headlights, but on low beams. High beams can reflect the rain and actually make it harder to see.

Take it easy. Adjust to road conditions by slowing down, and avoid using cruise control.

Early signs. Signal early when you're planning a turn or lane change, and be more careful at curves, turns and ramps.

Keep your distance. Increase your driving distance from the car in front of you. When you brake in wet weather, it takes longer to stop.

Make contact. If you're driving too fast, or your tires are worn or underinflated, you could hydroplane. This is when your tires ride on top of the water instead of on the pavement and you can lose control of the car. Take your foot off the gas and slow down to regain control.

On the skids. If your rear wheels begin to skid, stop braking or accelerating. Turn the wheel in the direction you want to go; for example, if your rear wheels skid left, steer left. As you start to recover, if your rear wheels start sliding in the other direction, turn the wheel toward that side.

Protection and savings too

For more on driving in challenging weather and safe driving practices, consider taking a driver training or defensive driver course. It might just give you a "brake" on your Kemper Personal Insurance auto premium.

Sources: New York Department of Motor Vehicles, AARP

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