



# Black ice – winter driving information

## What is black ice?

Black ice is a thin, nearly invisible layer of ice that forms on roads or pavements. It's called "black" ice because it's so transparent that the dark pavement underneath is visible through it.

Black ice is incredibly slippery because it doesn't have the air bubbles that give regular ice its white appearance and texture. This makes it very difficult for tyres to grip the road, resulting in dangerous driving conditions.

Black ice is most common during the early morning hours before sunrise and late at night. However, it can also form during the day in shaded areas or when temperatures suddenly decrease. Always be vigilant, especially during colder months and in areas prone to icy conditions.

## What should you do if there is black ice on the road?

It's crucial to stay calm and avoid sudden movements like braking or swerving, which can cause a loss of control.

- As soon as your car begins to slide on black ice, take your foot off the accelerator.
- Don't slam the brakes
- If your car does begin to skid on the ice, turn the wheel in the direction of the skid.

When driving in winter conditions, maintain a slow and steady speed, increase following distance, and avoid sudden manoeuvres. Use caution when approaching shaded areas, bridges, or overpasses, as these are common locations for black ice formation.

Drive safely this winter!