



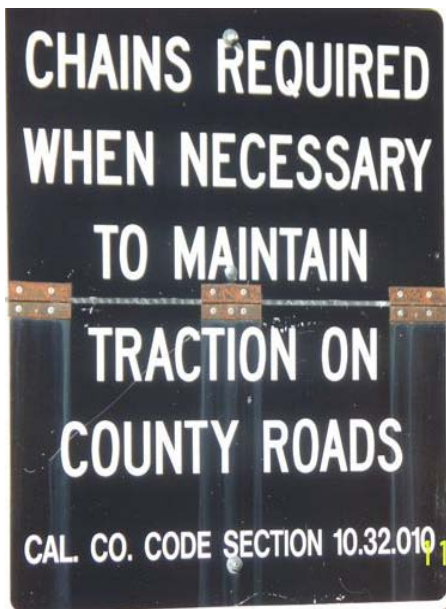
## Winter Conditions Driving Tips

Winter weather is upon us and us at Calaveras County Public Works want to be sure that you stay safe in the rain, snow, sleet and icy conditions that are often the norm during this season.

The best advice for winter driving is not to drive at all and to stay home whenever possible. However, our busy schedules don't always allow for a "snow day" so we'd like to give you a few tips for driving in inclement weather.

- **Invest in snow tires** – the best way to maintain a good grip on the road is to use snow tires (aka winter tires). When buying, look for tires with a "snowflake on the mountain" symbol on the sidewall, indicating that they meet industry standards for snow traction and use studded tires when necessary.

- **Be sure you can see** – replace windshield wiper blades, clean the inside of windows thoroughly, make sure your windshield washer system works and is filled with anti-icing fluid.



- **Use the air conditioner to defrost** – select the fresh air option when using your AC to remove condensation and frost from the interior of your windows (it's alright to set the temperature to high)

- **Check your lights** – use your headlights so that others can see you at all times and make sure your headlights and taillights are clear of snow

- **Give yourself a brake** – decrease your speed and give yourself plenty of time to stop (allow 3x more space from the car in front of you than usual), brake gently to avoid skidding and if your wheels start to lock, ease off the brake. Use low gears to maintain traction

- **Look out for black ice** – this nearly transparent ice may look like a harmless puddle, so test traction with a smooth touch of the brake or slight turn of the steering wheel. Never brake while driving on ice, apply pressure to the brake pedal only while approaching

- **Too much steering is no good** – if your front tires lose grip on a slick curve, the common reaction is to continue turning the wheel, which may cause your car to continue in whichever direction the wheels were pointed (be it into oncoming traffic or a telephone pole), be sure to ease into turns and don't overdo it with the wheel when approaching a curve, especially one that looks slick



We at Calaveras County encourage you to stay safe on the road this winter and hope that you find these tips useful. Be sure to be alert when on the road and try to avoid driving when weather conditions are unfavorable if possible. Allow yourself enough time to arrive to your final destination and don't rush.

Thank you,  
Scott Anderson  
Road Superintendent  
Calaveras County Public Works