



DRIVING IN THE SNOW

Things to Take

- Spade to dig snow away from car if it gets snowed in
- Ground sheet or blanket to keep you off the wet ground when fitting chains
- Rubber gloves to keep your hands dry and help protect your warm gloves when fitting chains
- Plastic ice scraper to remove snow and ice from car windows
- Spray bottle of methylated spirits to melt ice off car windows
- Torch so you can see what you are doing after dark
- First Aid Kit in case of an accident
- Plenty of fuel to keep the heater running should you be held up

Things to Check

- Antifreeze
- Battery
- Chains
- Snow chains must be carried by all vehicles entering the Kosciuszko National Park from the June long weekend to the October long weekend
 - Although 4WD are exempt, RTA recommends that these vehicles also carry chains
 - Ensure that whoever hires them to you fits them - to show how to do it and to ensure they are the right size for your tyres
 - Fit them yourself - to ensure that you know how to Engine
- Tyres
- Lights
 - High beam can cause a white out effect in fog, so use low beam instead.
- Windscreen Wipers
 - Renew windscreen wipers well in advance of winter, to allow them to bed in. When parking in freezing conditions, lift wipers off the windscreen. This is to stop them from freezing onto the glass.

Chain Fitting Checklist

- Fit chains to the driving wheels
 - On the rear wheels of a rear wheel drive car
 - On the front wheels of a front wheel drive
 - On the front wheels of a 4WD car
- Use correct fitting chains
 - Test fit chains before a trip or when hiring them
 - Fit chains at fitting bays on level ground. Pull over to the left as far as you can.
- Do not use a jack to lift your car to put chains on. Icy conditions make it very easy for your car to slide off.

- Diamond chains are recommended
- Chains change your car's handling: take time to readjust your driving
- Do not put on chains before you need to or leave them on after you are clear of snow and ice areas as they cause wear and tear

Fitting Snow Chains

These instructions are for ladder style chains, which are the cheapest and most commonly hired. Know how to fit your chains well enough so that you feel comfortable doing it.

1. Place the hoops without levers over the tyres
2. Carefully drive forward or backward a 1/4 of the wheel's circumference
3. Reach behind the tyre and hook up the inner hoop as tightly as possible
4. On the outside side of the tyre, place the loose piece of chain over the lever and tighten
5. Hook keeper over end of end-lever
6. Slip any excess chain over lever
7. Drive for a few metres, stop and re-tighten the chains as necessary

General Snow Driving Tips

- Keep speed below 40km/h.
- Obey parking signs: cars parked incorrectly are vulnerable to damage from snowploughs or getting buried for winter
- Before leaving the ski fields, be sure to clear any snow from the car roof to avoid creating a road hazard to other vehicles
- Drive cautiously with gradual pressure on the accelerator to avoid wheel spin
- Avoid unnecessary gear changes: engage 1st or 2nd gear on level ground before ascending or descending hills
- Use low gears on slippery and downhill roads (this includes automatic cars) to allow you to use engine power to control the car's speed
- Brake using short pumps on the pedal to help your wheels maintain grip on the road
- Avoid braking when cornering
- Keep well behind the vehicles in front, at least twice the normal distance
- On reaching a snow covered section of road, gently apply your brakes to get an idea of using them on snowy surfaces
- Turn on headlights or fog lights in whiteouts, fog and blizzards
- Keep well away from snow clearing machines as they need to reverse and as their blowers may contain ice chunks and stones
- When meeting oncoming vehicles, give the vehicle going uphill the right of way as it is much harder for a climbing vehicle to start again if it has to stop
- Wait until visibility is good before overtaking
- In an emergency, it is better to control your car by steering rather than braking
- If you get into a skid, turn the front wheels into the direction of the skid, release the brake and disengage the clutch (if you have one). After the skid ceases, gently apply your brakes.