



Driving in Snow & Mountains



Before Driving to the Mountains

- ❖ Make sure car brakes, windshield wipers, defroster, and heater are in excellent condition.
- ❖ Check car antifreeze. Add special solvent to your windshield washer reservoir to prevent freezing.
- ❖ Check tires. Make sure they are properly inflated and the tread is in good condition.
- ❖ Always carry chains (required in California). Make sure they are the right size for your tires and in good condition. Keep a flashlight, flares, and chain repair links in car. Chains must be installed on the drive wheels. Make sure you know if your vehicle is front or rear wheel drive-if not sure, check your car's owner's manual.
- ❖ Other suggested items to carry in your car are gloves, an ice scraper or commercial de-icer, a broom for brushing snow off your car, a shovel to free your car if it is "snowed in" and a towel. If your tires get stuck in the snow, put sand, tree branches, etc. under your tires for traction.
- ❖ Bring water, food, warm blankets and extra clothing-in case you are stopped in the snow for a long time.
- ❖ Check road conditions before leaving. In California call **Caltrans Highway Information Network (CHIN) phone number [800-427-7623]** for updated road conditions. Preload this number to your mobile phone but remember cellular coverage can be limited in mountain areas. Updates can also be found by using an emergency Call Box.

Driving Tips

- ❖ Allow time. Mountain trips take longer during winter than other times of the year, especially with snow or ice.
- ❖ Keep gas tank full. Your car uses more gas driving uphill.
- ❖ Keep windshield and windows clear. Stop at a safe turnout-us use a snow brush or scraper. Use the car defroster and clean cloth to keep the windows free of fog.
- ❖ Slow down. Posted speed limits are safe in dry weather, but NOT in snow and ice-stopping distances are longer. Wear seat belt and leave more distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead.
- ❖ Be observant. Visibility is often limited in winter making it hard to see snow plows or stopped cars.
- ❖ If broken down stay with vehicle. Conserve fuel & maintain warmth. Be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning risk.



Visibility is limited-Drive slower!

Chain Control

- ❖ You must stop and put chains on your tires when highway signs say "chains required" or you risk being fined by the California Highway Patrol or being told to turn around.
- ❖ When finding a place to put on chains, do not stop in a traffic lane where you will endanger yourself and block traffic wait until you can pull completely off the roadway to the right, usually at chain pullout locations.
- ❖ The speed limit when chains are required is 25 or 30 miles an hour.
- ❖ If you use the services of a chain installer, always get a receipt and write the installer's badge number on it. Remember, chain installers are independent workers, not Caltrans employees. Chain installers are NOT allowed to sell or rent chains.
- ❖ During your return drive home, once you pass the "End of Chain Control" sign, you can pull off the road to a safe area to remove them.



More information at
www.ProCarSeatSafety.com

