

Losing control of your car while driving in the rain can be a terrifying experience. Every year, rain has been the cause of thousands of accidents.

**Here is Driven Collision's Top 10 Tips for Driving in the Rain:**

1. Drive with caution. Wet roadways present special challenges – low visibility, longer braking distances, reduced traction, and less control – making it more important than ever to drive defensively.
2. Stopping distance. When driving in the rain, a car's stopping distance is reduced by a factor of two. On wet roads, increase your stopping distance and reduce your speed.
3. Keep your windows clean. Rain will fog up your windows, so turn on both front and rear window defrosters and your air conditioning. Use quality window washer fluid, and make sure your window wipers work properly.
4. Avoid hydroplaning. Hydroplaning occurs when the tires of your car rise up on a film of water causing you to slide and lose contact with the roadway. To avoid hydroplaning when driving in the rain, drivers should slow down or release their foot off the accelerator, avoid braking hard, refrain from making sharp turns, and drive in the tire tracks of the car ahead of you.
5. Avoid standing water or flooded roads. Driving through flooded roadways is a bad idea, because if water enters your exhaust pipe, the water can get into your engine, stall your car and cause costly damage to your vehicle. Plus, you might not know how deep the water is. Your vehicle can get stuck or swept away in rushing flood waters.
6. Know your vehicle. Conditions can change quickly, and you need to be able to react accordingly. Make sure you know where the windshield wiper controls, defrost, air conditioner, or fan are located before you encounter bad weather.
7. Avoid Cruise Control. Cruise control works great when it's not raining, but you have a greater chance of losing control of your car during wet weather when your cruise control is engaged. When driving in the rain, you need to be more cautious and may need to reduce speed more often by lifting your foot off the accelerator. This can't be done if you are using cruise control.
8. Know how to respond to a skid. If you do lose control over your vehicle and find yourself skidding, remain calm, slowly take your foot off the accelerator, and cautiously steer into the direction that you want the front of your car to go. Be prepared to steer until the front of your car is straight and you regain control of your vehicle. If your vehicle has an anti-lock braking system (ABS), brake firmly as you steer into the skid. For cars without ABS, avoid using your brakes.
9. Drive slower. When you drive slower in the rain, it reduces your car's chances of hydroplaning, increases your stopping distance between you and the car in front of you, and gives you more time to

react to avoid any situations where you need to stop or slow down.

10. Allow more travel time. Give yourself more travel time so that you can drive more slowly, prepare yourself for unexpected detours or disabled stop lights, and deal with heavy traffic caused by rainfall.