

How to Drive Safely on Wet & Slippery Roads?

Worksheet

Safe wet-road driving means reducing speed to 50% of normal, increasing following distance to 6+ seconds, using gentle braking and smooth steering, and avoiding sudden maneuvers. Wet roads increase stopping distance by 2-3x.

Questions

1. At 60 km/h, wet-road stopping distance is roughly...

- A) 36 m
- B) 54 m
- C) 72 m
- D) 108 m

2. Heavy rain reduces visibility to 40 m. Your stopping distance must be...

- A) 10 m
- B) 20 m
- C) 40 m or less
- D) 80 m

3. Your car skids on a wet road. Correct action is...

- A) Brake harder to stop faster
- B) Release brake; steer gently where you want to go
- C) Accelerate to regain traction
- D) Honk and hope others avoid you

4. In heavy rain, should you use high-beam or low-beam headlights?

- A) High-beam to see further
- B) Low-beam to reduce reflection
- C) Headlights don't matter in rain
- D) Fog lights only

5. You're driving at 90 km/h on a dry road. It suddenly rains heavily. What speed is safe on the wet road?

6. You brake on a wet road and feel the car skid. Your wheels are locked. What is your recovery procedure?

7. Heavy rain reduces visibility to 30 metres. What adjustments must you make?

8. Define: How much longer is stopping distance on a wet road?

9. Define: What is the safe following distance on wet roads?

10. Define: If you skid on a wet road, what do you do?

Answer Key

1. C) 72 m — Wet stopping distance is about $2\times$ dry distance. Dry at 60 km/h $\approx$ 36 m; wet $\approx$ 72 m.
2. C) 40 m or less — Your stopping distance should not exceed your visibility distance. Visibility = your speed limit.
3. B) Release brake; steer gently where you want to go — Release the brake to restore steering control, then steer gently. Braking harder locks wheels and worsens skidding.
4. B) Low-beam to reduce reflection — High beams reflect off rain and reduce visibility. Low beams penetrate rain better and let others see you.
5. Dry-road stopping distance at 90 km/h $\approx$ 81 m. Wet-road stopping distance at 90 km/h $\approx$ 162 m (double). Safe wet speed $\approx$ 60 km/h (stopping distance $\approx$ 72 m, comparable to dry 60 km/h stopping). Action: Reduce speed gradually and increase following distance to 6+ seconds.
6. Release the brake to unlock the wheels (restore steering control). If skid continues, steer gently in the direction you want the front to go. Once steering responds, resume gentle braking (avoid full lock again). Key: Modern ABS brakes do this automatically; do not 'pump' ABS brakes.
7. Reduce speed so your stopping distance = your visibility distance (30 m). With stopping distance = 30 m, safe speed $\approx$ 35–40 km/h on wet roads. Use headlights (low beam) to see and be seen. Increase following distance to 8+ seconds to account for reduced visibility. Key: Your visibility is your speed limit in poor weather.
8. $2\text{--}3\times$ longer than on a dry road at the same speed. At 60 km/h: wet $\approx$ 72 m, dry $\approx$ 36 m.
9. At least 6–8 seconds, compared to 3 seconds on dry roads. This accounts for increased stopping distance.
10. Release the brake to unlock wheels and restore steering. Steer gently in the direction you want to go. Avoid sudden movements.

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