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## Safe Driving Precautions During the Rainy Season

Driving during the rainy season is always challenging — especially at night when visibility is poor, roads are slippery, and unexpected hazards may appear. To help motorists stay safe, here are some important precautions and best practices to follow.

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### Vehicle Preparation

1. **Electrical Safety** – Check all wiring connections to ensure they are intact and insulated from water.
2. **Lighting Systems** – Test headlights, taillights, brake lights, and turn signals. Proper lighting is essential to see and be seen.
3. **Regular Servicing** – Ensure your vehicle is maintained as per manufacturer guidelines before the monsoon begins.
4. **Emergency Equipment** – Always keep a spare tyre, jack, recovery rope, and basic tool kit.
5. **Tyre Health** –
  - Check tread depth: deeper tread improves grip and reduces aquaplaning risk.

- Ensure proper inflation: follow the manufacturer's air pressure specifications (often found on the fuel door, glove box, or in the owner's manual).
  - Replace worn-out tyres immediately; worn tyres are extremely unsafe in wet weather.
6. **Wiper Blades** – Replace old or brittle wipers before the rainy season. Wiper blades should ideally be changed at least once a year.
7. **Rain Repellent Products** – Applying these to windows and mirrors can improve visibility by clearing raindrops faster.

### **Parking Precautions**

8. Park in **dry, elevated areas** to prevent water damage and avoid getting stranded if flooding occurs.

### **Driving Techniques in Wet Conditions**

#### **General Driving**

9. **Reduce Speed** – Wet roads combined with oil and dirt can make surfaces slippery. Slowing down reduces the risk of skidding.
10. **Avoid Splashing Pedestrians** – Not only is it courteous, but splashing water can also reduce your visibility and control.
11. **Stay in Middle Lanes** – Water usually pools in outer lanes, increasing aquaplaning risk.
12. **Avoid Flooded Roads & Bridges** – Do not attempt to cross unless absolutely necessary. Even SUVs and 4x4s can get stuck in mud or deep water.
13. **Hands on the Wheel, Eyes All Around** – Keep both hands firmly on the steering wheel, avoid distractions like phones/radio, and use mirrors frequently to maintain 360° awareness (watching for landslides, falling trees, or power lines).
14. **Use Low-Beam Headlights** – Turn them on even in light rain or gloomy weather so you can see ahead and be visible to others. Avoid high beams, as they reflect off rain and reduce visibility.
15. **Safe Distance** – Maintain at least **five car lengths** or a **4–6 second following gap** from the vehicle ahead to allow extra braking time.

16. **Watch Large Vehicles** – Keep distance from buses and trucks; their spray reduces visibility. Overtake only when absolutely safe.

17. **Control Speed with Tyre Safety in Mind** – Even the best tyres lose grip when tread is worn. Radials perform better than old bias-ply tyres but still require good tread depth.



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### **Skid & Hydroplaning Safety**

18. **Hydroplaning Awareness** – If your car rides up on water and loses grip:

- Ease off the accelerator.
- Steer straight or gently in the intended direction.
- Do not brake suddenly. Stay calm.

19. **Avoid Sudden Movements** – Steer, accelerate, and brake gently to maintain traction.

20. **Steering Into a Skid** – If the back of your car slides, gently steer in the same direction. For cars with ABS, apply steady braking; for non-ABS, avoid braking until you regain control.

### **Flood Water Safety**

21. **Do Not Restart a Flooded Engine** – If water has reached the exhaust outlet, restarting can cause hydrolock and destroy the engine. Move the vehicle to higher ground before attempting to restart.
22. **Know Water Depth** – If water reaches the bottom of your doors or one-third of your tyres, avoid driving through. If unavoidable, proceed slowly and steadily, never rushing.

### **Additional Safety Habits**

23. **Never Use Cruise Control** – It can cause uncontrolled acceleration if tyres lose contact with the road.
24. **Follow Tyre Tracks** – Driving in the tracks of the vehicle ahead reduces water resistance.
25. **Defog & Demist** – Use the defroster and AC to keep windshields clear.
26. **Brake Awareness** – Drum brakes lose stopping power when wet. Test brakes gently after driving through water.
27. **Night Driving Risks** – Rain at night amplifies glare from headlights, reduces contrast, and hides pedestrians, cyclists, or animals. Drive slower, rest more often, and avoid fatigue.
28. **Thunderstorm Safety** – Lightning, high winds, and sudden downpours create dangerous conditions. Delay travel if possible.

### **Special Precautions for Electric Vehicles (EVs)**

EVs are designed with waterproofing and insulation, making them safe to drive in rain. However, they require **extra caution** because of their higher weight, instant torque, and regenerative braking systems.

### **EV Preparation**

- **Battery Charge** – Keep higher charge levels since wipers, lights, and AC consume extra power in rain.
- **Tyres** – Essential for grip; EVs are heavier, so worn tyres are riskier.
- **Wipers/Defoggers** – Vital for visibility; ensure they're working efficiently.

### EV Driving in Rain

- **Gentle Acceleration** – Instant torque can cause wheel spin. Accelerate smoothly.
- **Adjust Regenerative Braking** – Lower regen levels in slippery conditions to prevent skidding.
- **Maintain Extra Distance** – Heavier EVs need longer stopping distances.
- **Avoid Standing Water** – While sealed against rain, deep water can still affect traction and electronics.

### Extra EV Safety

- **Avoid Charging During Thunderstorms** – Even though equipment is weatherproof, do not plug/unplug during lightning.
- **Pedestrian Awareness** – EVs are quieter, so pedestrians may not hear you in rain. Use horn/light when necessary.
- **Hydroplaning Response** – Same as other cars: ease off accelerator, steer gently, avoid sudden braking.

**Conclusion:** Whether you drive a conventional car or an EV, the key to rainy season safety lies in **preparation, patience, and defensive driving**. By anticipating hazards and driving smoothly, you reduce risks for yourself, your passengers, and others on the road.

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