



Driving in Floodwater

Driving through floodwater brings risks which are all too often underestimated by motorists and can result in severe consequences. Did you know...

- **It only requires an egg cup's worth of water in your engine's intake to stall your engine and potentially cause thousands of pounds worth of damage.**
- **As little as 30cm (1ft) of standing water can float a car.** It can cause your vehicle to lose contact with the road leading to a loss in control.
- **In flowing water a depth of 60cm (2ft) can easily carry a vehicle away.**
- **Floodwater holds hidden dangers such as debris and raised manhole covers.**
- **Vehicles create bow waves which can flood nearby properties and harm pedestrians.** If your bow wave causes homes to flood, **you will not be popular with the homeowners!**

Before you set off...



1. Check weather reports.
2. Can you delay your journey?
3. If not, allow extra time.
4. Can you take an alternative route?
5. If you encounter a flooded road, consider turning around to find an alternative route.

If you absolutely MUST drive through floodwater...

- **Assess the depth of the water.** Decide if it is worth the risks mentioned above. Prepare for a breakdown and ensure you can be recovered.
- **Reduce your speed.** 3-4 mph is recommended by Green Flag and will reduce the risk to pedestrians.
- **The camber and crown of a road often means the highest point will be in the centre of the road.** Be patient and respect other road users.
- **Maintain your engine revs.** Leave space and hold a steady course.
- **It is advised that motorists do not enter moving floodwater more than 10cm (4 inches) deep.**

If driving in floodwater is avoidable, don't take the risk!