

# IF YOU'RE GOING TOO FAST - IT'S TOO LATE.

## Loss of Traction - Common Causes:

Loss of traction happens when tires lose their grip on the road. Here's why:

### OVER-BRAKING

Braking too hard can lock up the wheels.

### OVER-STEERING

Turning the wheels too sharply can cause the back end of the vehicle to slide out.

### OVER-ACCELERATION

Supplying too much power to the drive wheels can cause them to spin.

### DRIVING TOO FAST

The most serious loss of traction results from driving too fast for the conditions.

## REMEMBER

YOU are responsible for your vehicle and your safety. If the roads are dangerous, let your employer know. Give yourself more time, consider adjusting your route or schedule, or don't go.



Know before you go.

For more information:

[DriveBC.ca](http://DriveBC.ca) | [ShiftIntoWinter.ca](http://ShiftIntoWinter.ca)



Ministry of  
Transportation  
and Infrastructure



WINTER DRIVING  
SAFETY ALLIANCE



BC Forest Safety



# GET A GRIP WHEN DRIVING IN WINTER CONDITIONS



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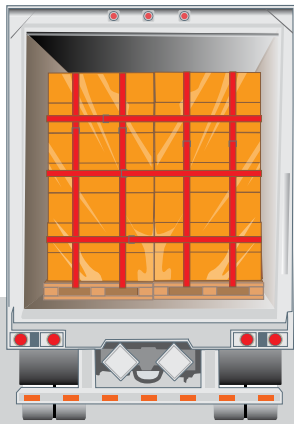
In winter, loss of traction can occur anytime, anywhere – when going too fast around a corner, when dry conditions quickly change to rain or ice, when parked incorrectly on an icy hill, or applying too much brake (causing the wheels to lock).

Any of these actions can have devastating consequences.

This brochure provides quick tips for drivers on how to avoid skids, spinning out, and general loss of traction in winter conditions.

## How to Prevent Loss of Traction:

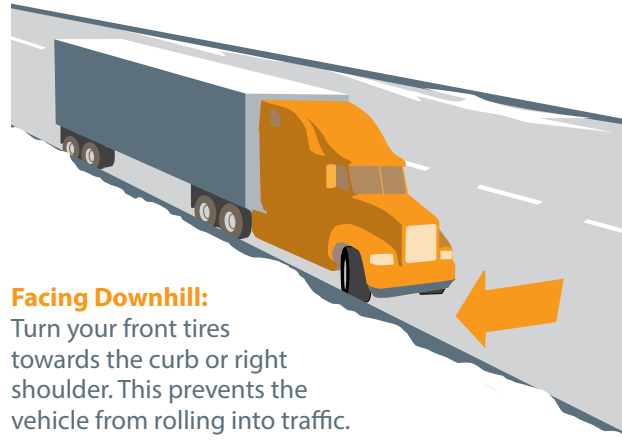
- **Always have a balanced load spread evenly from left to right.**



- **Ensure your tire tread depth meets or exceeds the legal minimum of 3.5 mm (5/32”).**
- **Ensure your tires are properly inflated.** Because of differences between tire manufactures' inflation recommendations, ply rating and load, it is recommended that you visit your nearest qualified commercial tire service centre to ensure your tires are inflated to the proper PSI. Inspect and install properly sized chains (or a suitable traction device) where required.
- **Don't drive too fast for the conditions.** For example, when a nice sunny day is followed by rain, oil rises to the top making the road slippery. Slow down.
- **Beware of fatigue.** It can affect your ability to read the road and be a significant factor at night when visibility is limited.

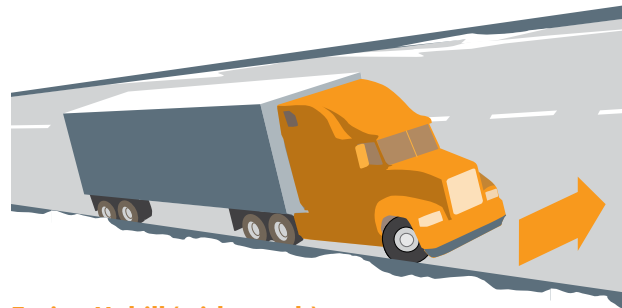
## Parking on a Hill:

Generally, it's best to avoid parking on any steep hill. Instead, select a location that's flat. If you must park on a hill:



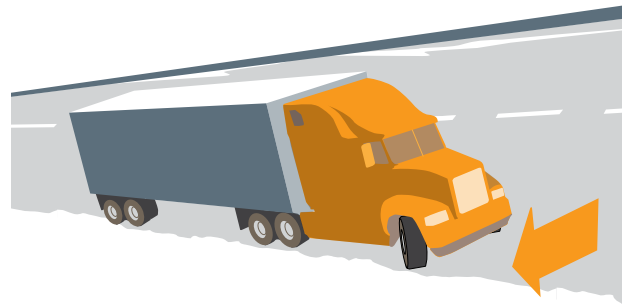
### Facing Downhill:

Turn your front tires towards the curb or right shoulder. This prevents the vehicle from rolling into traffic.



### Facing Uphill (with a curb):

Turn your steering wheel to the left so the tires are turned towards the road. They'll catch the curb if it rolls back.



### Facing Uphill (no curb):

Turn your tires sharply to the right. If the vehicle rolls, it will go off the road, not into traffic.

**Note:** If the area is icy, spread a little sand under the tires.

## If You Lose Traction:

How you react depends on the specific circumstances. Here are a few general guidelines:

### Drive Axle Skid

If drive axle tires are not locking up:

- Gently reduce pressure on brakes – if on ice, push in the clutch to let the wheels turn freely.
- Turn the steering wheel quickly – look and steer in the direction you want to go.
- Counter-steer – as the vehicle gets back on course, counter-steer to avoid skidding in the opposite direction.

If drive axle tires are locking up:

- If only the Jake brake is on, turn it off or reduce number of heads applied until traction is recovered.
- If only the wheel brakes are on, decrease or release pressure on the brake pedal.
- If both the Jake and wheel brakes are on, turn off the Jake brake or reduce number of heads applied. If still skidding, decrease or release pressure on the brake pedal. Note: If you have to release both the Jake and wheel brakes, gentle application of the trailer brakes can also help.

### Steering Axle Skid

Gently turn the steering wheel back towards centre. As the tires straighten you should “feel” the steering tires recover traction.

### Steering and Drive Axle Skid

If both the steering and drive axle tires are skidding, reduce or briefly release pressure on the brake pedal.

### Don't Forget Your Own Personal Traction

In icy conditions, wear shoes or boots with good traction. Maintain three points of contact with your hands and feet when entering or exiting the cab.

