

DriveWise

Driving and car care tips for monsoon

It's that time of the year again. The Indian monsoon is a sure-fire test of an individual's driving capability and the vehicle as well. Therefore, it demands extra effort in terms of preparedness and daily driving habits. Here's a lowdown on how to breeze through the rainy season.

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Distancing on the road

By now, the concept of 'social distancing' has certainly been imbibed in everyone. However, vehicular distancing is another handy way that can protect you, while driving. Wet brakes mean longer stopping distance and therefore, your ideal driving gap in dry conditions just won't cut it in the wet. So, it is best to maintain some extra gap from the vehicle in front to have a good buffer for emergency manoeuvres.

The middle lane is king

Frequent drivers, especially in India, would have noticed that our roads are made with sloping sides. Therefore, most of the rainwater is always collected on the sides. To avoid aquaplaning (water surface acting as a solid sheet when the tyre grooves fail to displace water), which is quite possible while driving over standing water, it is best to stick to the middle lane for as long as possible.



Moderation is key

Moderation in braking & acceleration goes a long way in driving safely on wet roads. Brake too hard and the ABS may get overridden, resulting in a skid. Accelerate too hard and the resulting wheelspin may destabilise the car. To get maximum traction from the wheels, it is advisable to drive in a relatively lower gear while going over moderate to heavily wet roads.

Tyres should not look tired

A vehicle's tyres perhaps play the most crucial role while driving in wet conditions. After all, they are the ones that make direct contact with the road and have the job of displacing as much water as possible. To this end, make sure your car's tyres don't look tired, that is, they should have a good amount of tread. If not, it is best to have them replaced before the rainy season arrives.



Greasing up

Driving through a prolonged season of rain can take a toll on your car's moving parts, especially the suspension & bearings. Reason? The dirt & grit, which gets settled on such parts with the rainwater, can cause roughness and hinder movement. To avoid the embarrassment of using a car with squeaky & clattering suspension, ask your mechanic or vehicle in-charge to carry out greasing of all suspension joints and any other moving parts.

Maximise visibility

This point pertains to all the glass surfaces of your vehicle. Make sure the wiper blades are working at an optimum level, so that driving in rain is not an issue. When it stops raining, the formation of water droplets on the side glass and ORVMs can make it nearly impossible to look clearly. To tackle this issue, simply keep a good quality microfibre towel handy, that can absorb maximum water in a single swipe.



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