



U.S. ARMY



405th AF SB, LRC Wiesbaden



Annual Winter Driving Training





Winterize your vehicle with the right equipment

Winter tires are **mandatory** in Germany. They should already be mounted.

Regular motor oil is sufficient for our local winter in Germany.

It is important, that the engine coolant doesn't freeze during winter. Older vehicles should be topped off with antifreeze if water was used several times prior. This means the antifreeze has been diluted and could freeze if not topped off correctly. A small vial from an auto store can be used to determine the needed proportion of antifreeze.

During the winter months, the following basic equipment should be included in the car: De-icer, ice scraper with broom, gloves, and a spare canister of windshield washer fluid.

Heavy snow fall especially in the countryside will show additional equipment as useful: i.e. a defrosting agent for windows, snow shovel, granules as traction help and snow chains (with working gloves, torch and blanket). Additionally ensure you refuel in time.





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PEEP HOLE DRIVERS

Before you drive, remove snow and ice completely from all windows. It is dangerous and prohibited to only clear a peephole.

The windshield, front side windows and review mirrors have to be cleared and free of snow / ice. It is best to remove the snow with a broom. If you don't want to scrape ice all the time, **you can use a defroster as it is also used for airplanes. Small spray cans are useless, expect liters.** Advantage: even thick ice coats can be dissolved quickly with defrosters.

Do not idle the car before driving. This is **prohibited** in Germany and harms the environment. Running the air conditioning in temperatures above 0 Celcius, can prevent windows from fogging up.





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AUTOBAHN HAZARDS

- > Reduce your speed
- > Turn your lights on
- > Triple your distance to the cars in front of you
- > Stay within the already driven tire tracks on the road
- > Most Autobahn accidents occur at **EXITS** so prepare your exiting in timely matter
- > Anticipate tight curves and ice
- > Slow down when entering a EXIT





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Driving conditions

The breaking distance during ice and slick road conditions is considerably longer even with winter tires. To prevent possible accidents consider reducing your speed. Abrupt braking and steering should be avoided. Keep a longer distance than usual.

Hint: try braking after a few meters distance to get a feeling for the street conditions. Check your review mirror before you do this.

Shady forest areas, bridges and streets close to bodies of water are especially prone to developing sheet ice. Ice can develop already at plus three to four degrees Celcius. An external thermometer can provide important information here.





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Steering and braking in snow

In snow and ice conditions, the basic principles of physics are applied. This includes steering and braking which is transmitted to the ground through the tire grip. Therefore as soon as it's slippery, you shouldn't steer and brake at once. The reduced speed required for turning should already be reached while still driving straight.

Warning: Vehicles with ABS, the brake has to be fully hit and slight steering done at the same time if needed.

Utterly wrong, but done quite frequently is the following mistake: speedy driving on a cleared road, braking only during the turn. Exactly when the front tyres leave the cleared area and don't find any grip on the snow-covered side road. The vehicle will slide uncontrollably.





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Caution Snow Plows

Driving slowly behind a snow plow, you are moving on a cleared and gritted surface. Passing is dangerous and meaningless because you shouldn't be driving faster than a snow plow on a snow-covered road.

When a snow plow is oncoming to a country road, caution is necessary. The massive snow shovel is very wide. Driving next to the vehicle you might find yourself in a maelstrom of snow and slush which will hinder your view. If you are insecure, pull over, stop and let the giant pass.





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CERTIFICATE OF TRAINING
This is to certify that

Name: I _____

reviewed the Winter Driving Slides completely, and I'm aware
and understood the content entirely.

Drivers Training Course 2023/2024

Given at: LRC Wiesbaden, DTTS

Date/Signature: _____