

Start gently, keep going

The Hamilton Automobile Club recommends that snow tires be installed before the first snowfall.

When snow comes, start with an easy foot on the accelerator. Don't spin the wheels. Traction is greatest just before the wheels spin.

If the wheels start to spin try rocking the car forward and backward. If you dig yourself a pocket use sand or traction mats to get out. Keep the front wheels pointed straight ahead when possible.

Once underway, keep going. When approaching a hill keep far enough behind the vehicle ahead so you will not have to slow down or stop. A little extra speed at the bottom of the hill will give extra momentum to help carry you over the top. If wheels start to spin release accelerator slightly.

Do not lower tire pressures! This reduces control without increasing traction. Remember that on loosely packed snow,

snow tires increase traction 50 per cent.

Another tip during snow and ice conditions is to leave yourself an out when you park. On a downhill slope leave ample space in front of your car so you can pull out without backing. Avoid parking on an upgrade unless there is ample room to back out.

Icy surfaces make steering difficult. Slow down before reaching curves. It may be necessary to creep around curves to avoid side skids.

When entering a curve turn the steering wheel gradually and no further than necessary. On icy curves traction may sometimes be improved by using the shoulder.

If the rear of the car starts skidding release the accelerator and steer the front of the car in the direction the rear is skidding. Just as soon as the car starts to straighten out, straighten the front wheels. Don't oversteer.

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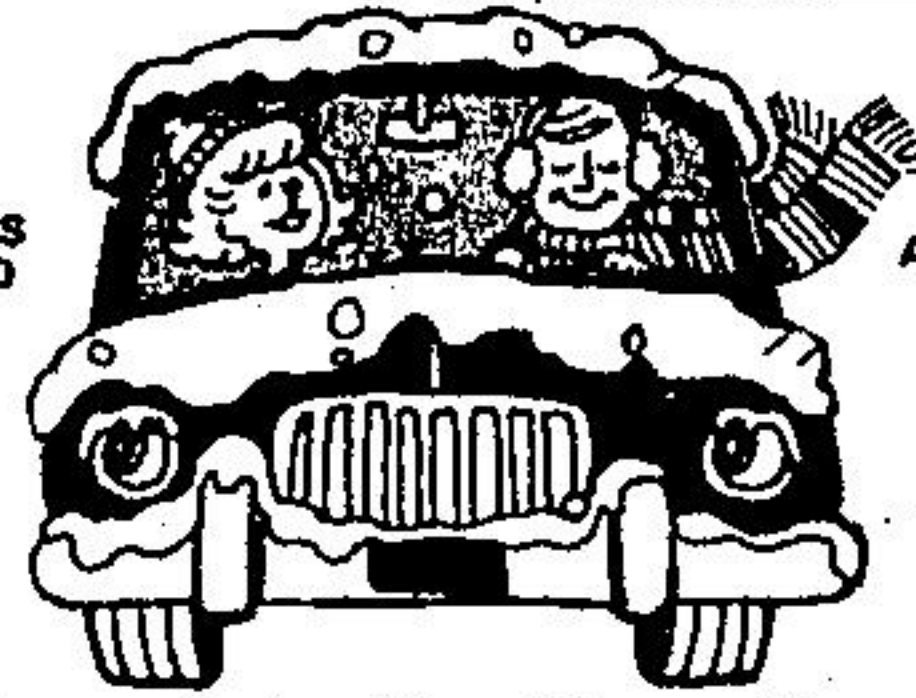
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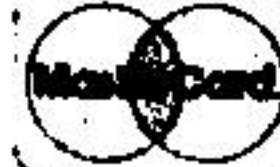
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