

HYDROPLANING



The term is used to refer to skidding or sliding of tires across a wet surface. Water or slush can collect on the road making your vehicle hydroplane, which means the tires lose contact with the road and you have little or no traction at all. Under these circumstances steering or braking is very hard to do, therefore you must regain control of the vehicle by releasing the accelerator and pushing in the clutch. By doing this you will be slowing down the vehicle and letting the wheels turn freely.

If your vehicle is hydroplaning, do not use your brakes. Just push the clutch in.

You'd think you need a lot of water accumulated on the road in order to hydroplane but the truth is it does not take much water to skid. Make sure your tire pressure is always at least 90 psi because hydroplaning is more likely if tire pressure is low or the tread is worn. This is because the grooves in a tire carry away water and if they're too thin they simply won't serve the purpose.

While driving watch the road surfaces for puddles, tire splashes, clear reflections etc. as these are indications of standing water and you should be extra careful.

