

Tips for safe driving in autumn

Autumn is a fairly stable time of year for New Zealand roads. However changeable weather conditions are normal, so take extra care when driving New Zealand's winding roads. Here are some autumn driving tips to keep in mind.

-  **Check weather forecasts before you drive**
Stay informed about weather forecasts along your fleet's routes and plan accordingly. Tune into a local radio station to check weather updates in-transit.
-  **Allow extra time for your journey**
Poor weather conditions can restrict visibility and impact the quality of the roads, making vehicles more prone to skidding. Driving more slowly will keep you safe.
-  **Plan for sun glare**
Glare from the low angle of the sun at the beginning and end of the day can be tricky. Keep a pair of sunglasses handy and use your sun visor to reduce glare.
-  **Adjust your driving for road and weather conditions**
Autumn in New Zealand can be unpredictable, with rain, fog, and even snow in some areas. Falling leaves can make roads extra slippery when it's raining. Slow down, and allow for braking to take longer.
-  **Increase following distances**
It's not as easy to stop quickly in rain, ice, or snow. Make sure to allow greater following distance with any vehicles in front of you.
-  **Autumn is wildlife mating season**
Animal collisions are higher in autumn than any other season so keep an eye out for wildlife, especially at dawn and dusk. If you do hit an animal, make sure you and your vehicle are safe before checking on its welfare. You can call Traffic Emergency Services on 555 for assistance.
-  **Electric Vehicle (EV) driving tips**
 - ▶ Cold weather can reduce the efficiency of your EV's battery. Keep an eye on your battery level, especially on longer trips, and plan accordingly.
 - ▶ Many EVs allow you to pre-condition the cabin while it's still plugged in, which can conserve battery power and help keep you comfortable in colder weather.
 - ▶ Regenerative braking may be less efficient in cold weather, so be prepared for slightly reduced efficiency in recharging your battery.
 - ▶ If your EV has Eco mode, consider using it to help conserve battery power.
-  **Maintain your regular service schedule**
Fleet vehicle drivers should always ensure routine maintenance is completed. If you have any concerns regarding the drivability of your vehicle, book it into a dealership or service centre to be inspected.