

# Thanksgiving Driving Tips

Thanksgiving is a time for gratitude, family, food and, for many, lots and lots of driving. Over 40 million drivers take to the roads every Thanksgiving weekend (which runs from 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 21 to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 25) to spend time with loved ones that make the holiday worth celebrating. Although this is a warm and loving time of year, it's also one of the most dangerous times to be on the roads and highways across America. The following Thanksgiving driving tips are helpful to stay safe this holiday and arrive at your destination with ease.

## Plan Ahead

There's nothing more stressful than running late when everyone is depending on you to be on time. You should expect to encounter traffic that's worse than normal, so plan to leave a half hour or a full hour ahead of schedule to avoid stress on the road and at your holiday destination. To make travel even easier on yourself, make sure that your vehicle is ready for long distance, stop-and-go travel before you leave. Make sure that your windshield wipers work well, that you have enough wiper fluid, that your tires are properly inflated, and that no service lights illuminate your dashboard.

## Watch the Weather Reports

In many parts of the country, Thanksgiving weekend means the potential for hazardous weather. Watch the weather reports before you set out for the weekend and before you travel back home to make sure that the roads aren't too treacherous to drive.

## Avoid Distractions

Distracted driving is never good idea, whether it's a holiday weekend or any time of the year. But the holidays do have a way of taking our minds away from common sense practices, like driving safely and responsibly. Even if your mother-in-law is calling and texting you non-stop on the drive, ignore all distractions until you can safely pull off the road and respond. Cell phone distractions and holiday traffic don't mix, and no call or text is worth risking your life over.

Most of these tips are things that you, as an experienced, professional driver practice on a daily basis. We hope that you have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving holiday this year!

