

# The key do's and don'ts of driving in Finland in winter



## Before driving

- **Take some time to consider whether you are able to drive in winter.** If you feel unsure or have very little experience in driving in harsh conditions, rely on other means of transport.
- **Check the weather forecast and take warnings seriously.** Avoid driving in bad weather.
- **Plan your route.** Prefer main roads. Lesser roads are not so well maintained. Check where you can stop for fuel along the way.
- **Off-road driving is forbidden.** Respect road closures and private areas. Yksityinen means private.
- **Be prepared in case of an accident.** In remote areas mobile phone coverage can be patchy and it may take a while before help arrives.
- **Know how to operate the AC to clear foggy windows.** Preheat your car if possible.



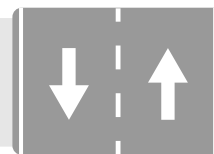
**Don't drink and drive.**  
The BAC limit is 0,5 ‰.

**Put your phone away.** It is illegal to use a handheld mobile device whilst driving.



**Fasten your seatbelt.** This applies to drivers and passengers. Children under 135 cm must use a car seat fitting their age, height and weight.

**Drive on the right and overtake from the left.** Signal before turning.



**Speed limits set the maximum, not target speed.** The speed limit is 50 km/h in urban areas and 80 km/h in rural roads unless road signs state differently.

## When driving

- **Do not become a road hazard.** Stay on your own lane. Do not stop in the middle of the road for photos.
- **Use your lights correctly.** Do not rely on auto-setting. Make sure your headlights and taillights are turned on. Use high beams outside urban areas when it is dark and there is no oncoming traffic and you are not driving close behind another vehicle.
- **Choose your speed according to weather and road conditions.** Don't be shy to slow down or pull over to a safe place and wait for the conditions to improve.
- **Keep your distance.** If the conditions are bad, slow down, increase your following distance and avoid sharp steering manoeuvres.
- **If you drive slower and a queue is forming behind you,** it is polite to pull into a lay-by and let them pass.
- **Take wildlife warning signs seriously.** Watch out for reindeer in the reindeer husbandry area.
- **If you have an accident,** or if you hit a reindeer, call 112.

Read more:

[Liikenneturva.fi/SafetyTips](https://liikenneturva.fi/SafetyTips)



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