



Eight Tips to Safely Handle Driving on a Muddy Road

Here are eight things to keep in mind in order to ensure safety while driving on muddy roads.



1. **Drive slow!** You are much less likely to slide around if you are taking it easy. Try a lower gear to control your lead foot.
2. **Never stomp on the gas pedal!** If you are losing traction, either take your foot off the gas pedal or keep it steady. Nothing gets you stuck quicker than gunning the engine, which only makes your tires spin faster and your ruts deeper.
3. **Drive so your tires ride the high areas of the road, not the ruts.** Ruts are wetter, therefore muddier, slippery, etc.
4. **Do not ride the brakes.** If you are going downhill, shift to a lower gear or just go slow!
5. **Do not stomp on the brake pedal to stop.** Pump it slowly. This is called cadence braking; it's what your ABS on modern cars does automatically when there is a loss of traction, i.e. wet or icy conditions.
6. **If you start to slide, turn your wheels into the direction of the slide (as you would on ice), and start pumping the brakes.** If you can't stop and are heading off the road, turn into the slide and turn the car as gently as possible away from the edge. Sudden turns can turn the car over!
7. **If you get stuck in the mud, put it in park, calm down and get out of the car/van/truck.** Survey the lay of the land and figure out the easiest way out of there.
8. **Bring your cell phone so you can always call for help as a last resort.** If you have no cell phone or phone service, always travel with drinking water and supplies so you can wait it out.

