



Practical tips for driving in fog

With fog being statistically the most dangerous driving hazard, the best advice is... DONT! However, that's not always practical or realistic.

Know where the fog light controls are before you set off

Use dipped headlights and, if visibility is less than 100 metres use fog lights – but then turn them off when visibility improves.

When driving in street-lit areas, you probably won't need to use the fog lights

Don't use main beam when driving in fog – the light will just bounce back at you

Use windscreen wipers and demisters to keep the windows clear

Allow extra time for your journey and take it slow. Much better to get there late than not at all!

Beware of other vehicles not using fog lights when they should or using them when they shouldn't! Fog lights can distract your attention away from brake lights

Judging speed and distance is much more difficult in fog so be especially careful at junctions

If necessary in dense fog, get the windows down and the radio or CD off so you can hear as well as look

The density of fog varies – one moment fairly clear and the next like being wrapped in a blanket. Keep lots of space around you; don't hang onto the tail lights of the vehicle in front as this gives a false sense of security and means you may be driving too close

Don't speed up suddenly, even if it seems to be clearing. You can just as suddenly be plunged back into the thick of it

If there are two of you in the vehicle in dense fog, in certain situations it could be wiser for one of you to get out and walk ahead to check the way is clear – keep a high visibility jacket in the car for just such an emergency

When stopping or queuing in fog and you're at the back of the queue, always use the handbrake for extra safety but keep the brake lights showing too. Then, when a vehicle approaches, squeeze the brake pedal on & off for a few seconds to show the bright lights and make sure your presence is known

When travelling on the motorway in dense fog, use Lane One so you can get access to the hard shoulder as an escape route

If in any doubt as to your safety, find somewhere to park up and wait it out!