



# April Newsletter



April showers bring May flowers and also create unsafe driving conditions. Weatherizing your car for the rain is one step towards safe driving:

- Have a good set of wiper blades that either have refillable rubber units or complete blade assembly. This ensures complete visibility while driving in rainy conditions.
- It is also important to have rain or weather resistant tires. This ensures traction while driving in any weather condition. Also remember to check the pressure of your tires. Properly inflated tires prevent hydroplaning.
- A good rain repellent will also help with a clear view of the road. This is simply an invisible coating that is sprayed on the windshield that repels the rain.



Now that you are all ready to drive let's talk about safety on the road:



- Skidding and hydroplaning can be prevented by driving slowly and carefully, especially around curves. Steer and brake with a light touch.
- If you find yourself in a skid, remain calm, ease your foot off the gas, and carefully steer in the desired direction.
- If you find yourself hydroplaning, DO NOT brake or turn suddenly. Ease your foot off the gas until the car slows and you can feel the road again.

*A defensive driver adjusts his or her speed to the wet road conditions in time to avoid having to use any of these measures!!*

April showers bring May flowers and potential floods!

*Floods and flash floods happen in ALL 50 states!*



- Most homeowners insurance does not cover flood damage.
- If you live in a low-to-moderate risk area and are eligible for the Preferred Risk Policy, your flood insurance premium may be as low as \$112 a year.
- In 2007, one-third of all claims paid by the NFIP were policies in low-risk communities.

*Check out your flood risk at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov)*

Rainy weather also causes unwanted water damages to our homes. The following tips help to prevent costly repairs in the future:



- Check annually for water or moisture in the crawl space, attic, and basement. This will prevent a small problem from becoming a pricey repair.
- Check your sump pump! Make sure the outlet pipe is not frozen or clogged and that it directs water away from your home.
- Check your gutters for debris and clogs that could damage the spouting.

The spring months are also a good time to do the yearly routine maintenance checks inside and out of the house.



- Check the foundation for cracking.
- Drain a gallon or two from your hot water heater at least twice a year to extend its life expectancy.
- Check the filters on your heating/cooling unit 6 times a year and have the unit serviced annually.



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