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Eighty per cent of drivers don't think Britain is prepared to deal with snow

Eight in 10 drivers (80%) don't feel Britain is prepared to cope with snowy conditions, according to an RAC poll of 2,172 motorists*.

Of those, 29% believe the country is 'not at all prepared' for snow while more than half (51%) think those responsible for the nation's roads are 'not very prepared'. Only 20% feel we are ready for a snowy conditions.

Snow is by far the most disruptive weather for motorists with three-quarters (77%) saying they have made a conscious decision not to drive as a result of it. Six in 10 (59%) say they are prepared to drive in the snow, but have not been able to simply because they were blocked in.

Asked to name the most worrying types of bad weather, only 15% of driver cited snow. Instead most (45%) were more concerned about driving in icy conditions. A quarter (26%) said fog was the most worrying weather, with only 8% listing heavy rain and 2% strong winds. A hardy 5% said they were not fazed by any form of weather.

Eighty-one per cent of motorists say they have made a conscious decision not to drive in bad weather. In this instance snow was the prime reason they chose not to get behind the wheel. Icy conditions slipped into second place with 61% saying they had stopped them setting out. Almost a third (31%) said they had been prevented from driving by fog, and to far lesser extent by strong winds (13%) and heavy rain (12%).

Motorists do, however, feel local authorities and those responsible for the country's major roads are good at gritting surfaces when there is a risk of ice. Sixty-nine per cent claimed they were satisfied with their councils' gritting

practices and when asked about those responsible for gritting major roads the satisfaction level rose to 78%.

RAC Rescue spokesman Simon Williams said: “Figures from the Local Government Association show that local councils have stockpiled 1.5m tonnes of salt in readiness to make sure the country’s roads don’t turn to ice when the thermometer plummets. This is clearly appreciated by motorists as most seem satisfied with the way local authorities treat roads when there is a risk of ice.

“Snow, however, is another matter as the vast majority of motorists don’t think the country is well set up to deal with more than a dusting of the white stuff. When it comes to winter driving, preparation is everything and that applies to both those in charge of our roads and to motorists themselves as they have to make sure they and their vehicles are ready for whatever the weather throws at them.

“While most councils are well stocked with grit to prevent roads becoming dangerously icy when cold conditions are forecast, a prolonged period of heavy snow presents an altogether more challenging situation which is harder for them to deal with due to the infrequency with which the country has to endure the worst winter weather. Grit generally works very well, apart from in extreme low temperatures, but it does need vehicles to be driving on it to be effective so if large amounts of snow fall in short periods councils are then faced with having to try to clear roads with snow ploughs.

“Drivers should always make sure their vehicles are ready for winter driving with good tread on their tyres, the right coolant so that it doesn’t freeze, a well topped up high quality screenwash that protects down to at least -15°C and windscreen wipers that are in good working order. They should also ensure they are well equipped with de-icer and a scraper, warm clothing, food and a drink, blankets or a sleeping bag in case they get stuck, a shovel, and that they have a fully charged mobile with charging cable and a back-up battery supply.”

To protect against the FORCES of winter the RAC recommends:

F – fuel – making sure you have plenty for your journey

O – oil – checking and topping up

R – rubber – checking your tyres have good tread and are inflated to the correct pressure. Also making sure your wipers are in good condition

C – coolant – checking and topping up

E – electrics – making sure all your lights are working properly

S – screenwash – topping up with screenwash that protects down to at least -15°C

More information on winter driving can be found on the [RAC website](#).

Notes to Editors

* Survey carried out with 2,172 members of the RAC Opinion Panel from 1-8 November 2017.

About the RAC

First formed in 1897 the RAC has been looking after the needs of its members and championing the interests of motorists for 120 years.

Today it has more than eight million members and is one of the UK's most progressive motoring organisations, providing services for both private and business motorists. Whether it's roadside assistance, insurance, buying a used car, vehicle inspections and checks, legal services or up-to-the-minute traffic and travel information – the RAC offers a solution for all motoring needs. The RAC is committed to making motoring easier, safer, more affordable and more enjoyable for drivers and road users.

The RAC is the motorist's champion and campaigns to support the interests of its members and UK motorists at a national level. This includes voicing concerns about the increasing cost of motoring, particularly the price of fuel and the high level of tax levied on it, advancing levels of road safety, and

supporting the needs of all drivers, from young to old.

The RAC's annual [Report on Motoring](#) – first published in 1989 – provides a clear insight into the concerns and issues facing today's motorists.

For the very latest news on UK fuel prices, check [RAC Fuel Watch](#) or follow [#racfuelwatch on Twitter](#). RAC Fuel Watch is a comprehensive guide to the latest UK unleaded petrol and diesel prices – both at the wholesale level and at the pump. RAC Fuel Watch analyses how prices changed through the previous month and compares the most recent prices with those from three, six and 12 months before.

Key facts:

- RAC patrols fix four out of five vehicles at the roadside and on average within 30 minutes
- RAC vans carry more than 500 parts and tools to get members' vehicles going again
- 92% of members would recommend RAC Rescue to their friends and family

Contacts



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