



## **DON'T END UP A DAMP SQUIB WHEN DRIVING IN THE FLOODS**

While some owners have their classic cars safe and snug, holed up in the garage for the winter, other classic users, who drive their cars on a daily basis, don't have that luxury and are facing driving through the heavy rain and floodwater hitting Britain.

Driving in wet conditions can be hazardous, and even those with knowledge of their local area can find themselves caught out during heavy downpours, with road surfaces susceptible to standing water. This increases the risk of drivers aquaplaning, when the tyres lose contact with the road and you lose control of the steering. If you do experience aquaplaning, hold the steering wheel lightly and lift off the throttle until the tyres regain grip.

When driving through standing water, remember to slow down and take it easy. If the steering does become unresponsive due to the rain, ease off the accelerator and slow down gradually.

If you do come across flood water, only attempt to drive through if you know it's not too deep and maintain a steady, slow speed to avoid creating a bow wave. Allow oncoming traffic to pass first and test your brakes as soon as you can after leaving the water.

As you drive slowly through standing water, use a low gear so the engine revs are higher. Don't try driving through fast-moving water, such as at a flooded bridge approach – you and your car could easily be swept away.

Also remember that driving through standing water and large puddles at speeds above a slow crawl will splash pedestrians or cyclists, which can result in a hefty fine and points on your license if the police catch you driving without reasonable consideration for other road users.

Follow these handy tips and the only paddling you'll be doing is at the seaside come the summer!



To find out more on this and other services from Heritage Classic Car Insurance, call 0121 248 9213 or visit [www.heritage-quote.co.uk](http://www.heritage-quote.co.uk).

Floodwater facts – courtesy of the AA.

- The majority of drowning deaths in the UK occur within only 3m of a safe point
- 2/3 of those who die in flood-related accidents are considered to be good swimmers
- 32% of flood-related deaths are by drowning in a vehicle
- After 20 minutes in water at 12C the temperature of the deep muscle of your forearm would drop from 37 °C to 27°C, leading to a 30% reduction in muscle strength.
- In water 1m deep (waist high), flows of 1m/s become challenging and by 1.8m/s (4mph) everyone will be washed off their feet.
- If the speed of the flood water doubles the force it exerts on you/your car is quadrupled
- Just six inches of fast flowing water can knock you off your feet and be enough for you to be unable to regain your footing.
- Two feet of standing water will float your car
- Just one foot of flowing water could be enough to move the average family car
- Just an egg cupful of water in the combustion chamber could be enough to wreck an engine
- Flood water can be contaminated and carry diseases
- Culverts are dangerous when flooded – the siphon effect of culverts can drag in pets, children and even fully grown adults

- End -

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