



# Preventing damage to vehicle windshields

A vehicle's windshield is one of its most crucial safety features, yet regular care and maintenance are often overlooked. Adverse conditions like direct sunlight, frost, ice or nighttime glare from oncoming traffic can become even more hazardous with a dirty or damaged windshield.

Here are some basic measures to help prevent compromising your vehicle's windshield:

- If possible, plan your route to avoid construction zones during peak traffic times.
  - Drive at a reduced speed on roads with loose gravel, fresh asphalt or construction debris. If debris hits your car, slow down and increase the following distance from the vehicle ahead.
  - Heavy trucks or vehicles with large tires are more likely to pick up and throw larger, heavier debris.
  - Debris can also be thrown by vehicles traveling in the opposite direction.
- Exercise caution, reduce your speed and increase your following distance when driving in winter weather. Ice and snow can be dislodged from trucks and other vehicles or fall from bridges, signs and power lines.
- Regularly clean and inspect your windshield and wipers. Perform this simple task each time you stop to fuel your vehicle.
- Repair chips immediately. Temperature fluctuations can cause chips to expand into cracks, significantly impairing visibility and potentially compromising the windshield's integrity. Chip repairs are usually more cost-effective than replacing the entire windshield.
- Use a soft brush or plastic scraper to remove ice and snow. Avoid pouring water on the windshield to remove ice, as the extreme temperature change may cause the windshield to crack or shatter.

**Learn more about UFG Risk Control at [ufginsurance.com/riskcontrol](https://ufginsurance.com/riskcontrol).**

*UFG Insurance is the marketing name used to refer to United Fire & Casualty Company and its property and casualty subsidiaries and affiliates. The information contained herein was obtained from reliable sources. However, UFG Insurance accepts no legal liability or responsibility for the correctness or completeness of this information and encourages consultation of additional safety information and resources.*

*This is for informational purposes only and is accurate as of the publication date. It may not reflect subsequent revisions and is intended for use only by UFG Insurance, UFG Insurance agents and their customers, and/or UFG Service Center employees. UFG Insurance does not undertake any obligation to update the information herein between publications.*