

Best Practice Guide

Cruise Control



Before You Cruise

Cruise control is a system installed in some vehicles which automatically controls the vehicle's speed. The driver is able to set a required speed at which the vehicle takes over the acceleration of the vehicle until the driver brakes or cancels the system.

Cruise control can help to improve fuel efficiency by maintaining the same speed and can also reduce the chances of a driver speeding inadvertently. However, it can be dangerous if drivers do not know how to use it correctly and when to use it.

Only Cruise On The Straight

Driving safely on corners requires a great deal of skill relating to braking and accelerating. It is therefore not appropriate - and highly dangerous - to use cruise control on winding roads. Instead, the system should only be used on long, straight journeys.

Take Over The Controls In Traffic

Cruise control must not be used on roads with heavy traffic where it is likely that you will need to adjust your speed regularly.



Don't Cruise Up Or Down Hill

Cruise control on hills is hazardous. When driving on hills it is best to control your speed using the accelerator and brake. This is because cruise control may not accelerate your vehicle properly up a hill, making it move dangerously slowly.

Similarly, if you use cruise control down a hill the gradient may cause your vehicle to speed up faster than the cruise control setting, possibly leading to loss of control. It is much safer to control speed manually in these conditions.

Stick To A Safe Speed

You must only engage the cruise control system when travelling at a safe speed. Usually, the system can only be operated at speeds over approximately 30 mph / 48 kph, but you should make sure that the speed you set does not exceed the legal speed limit and is appropriate for the conditions.

Stay Alert

When using cruise control you need to remember that you are still in control of the vehicle's steering and braking. A false sense of security can lead to lack of attention and collisions.

Make sure to:

- Stay alert.
- Keep your brain engaged in driving.
- Scan the road ahead for hazards.



Cancel When Not In Use

Turn cruise control off completely when not in use rather than simply disengaging the system with the brakes. This will prevent you from re-engaging the system by accident.

Don't Rest Your Foot

During cruise control your foot is able to take a rest from operating the accelerator - but you must keep it ready for use. Don't allow your leg to move far from the pedal as you may need to take over the controls suddenly.



Watch The Weather

Don't use cruise control when the road is wet or slippery. If your wheels begin to skid while the system is maintaining the acceleration of your vehicle this could cause you to lose wheel traction and control of the vehicle. If you do step on the brake or deactivate cruise control the change in speed could also cause the wheels to slip and skid out of control.

- C** Cancel cruise control completely when not in use.
- R** Remember to stay alert and keep your brain engaged.
- U** Use cruise control on straight, flat roads only.
- I** It is dangerous to use cruise control on roads which are wet or slippery.
- S** Stick to a safe speed.
- E** Ensure you don't use cruise control in heavy traffic.

WARNING

Before operating the cruise control system on your vehicle make sure you read your vehicle owner's manual to learn about the safe operation of the system.

Cruise control systems can vary from vehicle to vehicle so don't assume that one system will work in the same way as a different one.