

# Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness

*(Rough Guidelines for New Clear Ice Only)*

2" or less  
**STAY  
OFF!!**



**4 Inches**  
Ice Fishing



**5 Inches**  
Snowmobile  
or ATV



**8-12 Inches**  
Car or  
Small Pickup



**12-15 Inches**  
Medium Truck



**Department of Natural Resources**



- ❄ Many ice drownings involve children. When your child is near the ice, you should be near your child.
- ❄ Avoid alcoholic beverages when you're on the ice. They can make you feel colder and slow down your reaction time in case of an ice emergency.
- ❄ Carry two large nails to use as ice picks to pull yourself out if you fall through thin ice.
- ❄ Never drive on the ice at night.
- ❄ Avoid pressure ridges, and areas with current if you do choose to drive on the ice.
- ❄ Drive with your windows down and doors partially open to avoid becoming trapped if your car breaks through.

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Boat & Water Safety Section  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155-4046  
(651) 259-5400 or call MN toll free 1-888-MINNDNR  
Telecommunications Device for the Deaf  
(651) 296-5484 or MN toll free 1-800-657-3929  
[www.mndnr.gov/safety/ice](http://www.mndnr.gov/safety/ice)

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