

Recommended Minimum Ice Thickness for New Clear Hard Ice

No ice is without some risk.
Be sure to measure clear hard ice in several places.



7 cm (3" or less)
STAY OFF



10 cm (4")
Ice fishing,
walking,
cross-country
skiing



12 cm (5")
One vehicle:
snowmobile
or ATV



20-30 cm (8-12")
One vehicle:
car or small pickup



30-38 cm (12-15")
One vehicle: medium truck

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Get informed & go outdoors!



It is critical that ice quality and type of ice is evaluated before and during your travels.

Clear hard, new ice is the only kind of ice recommended for travel.

Avoid!

- slushy ice
- ice on or near moving water (eg. rivers, currents)
- ice that has thawed and refrozen
- layered or rotten ice caused by sudden temperature changes
- if you see water on the ice
- thin ice around man-made structures

Other risk factors that weaken or 'rot' ice:

- snow on ice that acts as a blanket to prevent hardening of ice
- pressure ridges due to wind or current pressure

No ice is without some risk. Minimize your risk.

