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Safely Navigating Skids

A skid is when your bus tires lose their grip on the road. Skidding can happen in four ways:

Over-braking: Braking too hard can cause the wheels to lock up.

Oversteering: Turning the wheels more sharply than your vehicle can allow for.

Over-accelerating: Giving too much power to the drive wheels, which can cause them to spin.

Driving too fast: Most serious skids results from driving too fast for road conditions.

Two Types of Skids

Rear-wheel skids – Rear-wheel skids occur when the rear drive wheels lock and, because locked wheels have less traction than wheels in motion, the rear wheels usually slide sideways in an attempt to “catch up” with the front wheels. To correct a braking skid, stop braking. This will allow the rear wheels to roll again, which will keep them from sliding. Also, attempt to counter steer. When your bus gets back on course, it may have a tendency to keep on turning, and unless you quickly turn the steering wheel the other way, you may go on skidding in the other direction.



Front-wheel skids – Front-wheel skids tend to “go in a straight line regardless of how much you turn the steering wheel.” The only way to stop these types of skids is to let the vehicle slow down. Do not turn or brake too hard.