



## Driving Into Curves

### Focus

All drivers need to have a basic understanding of why curvy roads are dangerous. When a vehicle rounds a curve, there are two types of motion occurring: the vehicle's tires moving forward because of acceleration and the inertia of the body of the vehicle as it travels around the curve. The conflicting movements sometimes cause skidding, a hazardous driving situation. Slow Down! Big trucks do not go through curves like a Ferrari, nor do they handle like one. Always take curves slowly. Speed signs are for cars, not tractor-trailers. It does not matter if you hold up traffic. The main focus is to get through the curve and remain upright.

### Anticipate

Slow down! Most accidents that occur on curves could have easily been prevented by reducing the speed of the vehicle. Reduce your speed before approaching a curve. Watch out for road signs warning of approaching curves so that you have ample time to slow down before steering through the curve. It is advisable to drive below the posted speed limit as you approach and drive through curves.

### Correct

When driving into curves, you need to slow down while your equipment is still straight and proceed through the curve rather than deaccelerate while going through the curve. Going too quickly through curve can cause weight to shift in trailer that can possibly lead to trailer falling over. This is even more dangerous on slippery icy roads.

Not all roads are level correctly. When a car is taking a curve on an unleveled road, it is easy for it to slow down. When a truck is taking a curve on an unleveled road, the driver will need to let off the gas and not hit the brakes, which can cause the load to shift and flip over. Take foot off gas, it takes a lot of power to push a semi so once it loses that power, it starts to slow down real quick. Let it ease its way into the curve, it will settle and if the road is unleveled in the curve, your equipment will settle into the unleveled curve.

It's recommended that you scan your mirrors every 5-8 seconds and check to make sure that your trailer is not veering towards either side of your lane.

### Talk

Travel slowly and maintain control. Always drive with care and control. Don't drive as fast as you think you can get away with.