

MAFES Dawg Tracks

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MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
MS AGRICULTURAL AND
FORESTRY EXPERIMENT STATION

Headlights

Most new vehicles have day-time running lights, because regardless of the conditions during daylight time, it improves visibility and safety. In Mississippi, headlight laws do not require the use of headlights during the day unless poor weather decreases visibility.

However, there are instances when using your car headlights during the day can help you decrease chances of an accident:

• During adverse weather, such as:

- ✓ Rain.
- ✓ Snow.
- ✓ Sleet.
- ✓ Fog.
- ✓ Smoke.

• On rural and mountain roads.

• On narrow two-lane highways.

• Just after sunrise and just before sunset.

During these periods, it may be more difficult to see other vehicles. Turning on your head lights will also turn on your tail lights, reducing your chances of a rear-end collision.

Miscellaneous headlight tips:

If an approaching vehicle is using high beams, when they should not or have installed those blue-white aftermarket bulbs (you know the annoying ones that seem on high even on low), keep your eyes to the right edge of your lane to help avoid being blinded by their light.

If you notice your car headlights pointing in unusual directions, they may need to be serviced. Headlight adjustments are usually needed if you modify your vehicle with a lowering/ lift kit or change from stock tire size.

Using the **high beam** setting on your headlights will make it easier to see the road if...

- There are few or no streetlights on the road, high beams will help you see farther down your path, preventing you from hitting any animals or pedestrians crossing in front of you.
- On open roads when no other vehicles are present.

Use the **low beam** setting on your car headlights when...

- Poor weather limits visibility during the day.
- Driving in the fog or rain. Using high beams is more dangerous because of light reflection.
- City driving at night when short-range light is sufficient.
- Another vehicle is approaching in the opposite direction.
- Following another vehicle at night.

Clean the covering on your headlights often.

Headlights can quickly become dirty or, more often, cloudy from age. You've heard the saying "they just don't make things like they used to" ... well it definitely seems true regarding headlights on newer vehicles. While several manufacturers have poor headlight designs to start with, a long term problem is increasing cloudiness over time. If the plastic is not routinely polished and maintained to remain crystal clear it can cause problems. Clouded headlights will cause glare to oncoming vehicles because the light can no longer be focused and creates a shorter, broad area of light. This can be a problem for you and on-coming vehicles. So maintain your headlights, use a headlight restoration product or replace the lenses.

For more info contact – Leslie Woolington
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Sources:

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