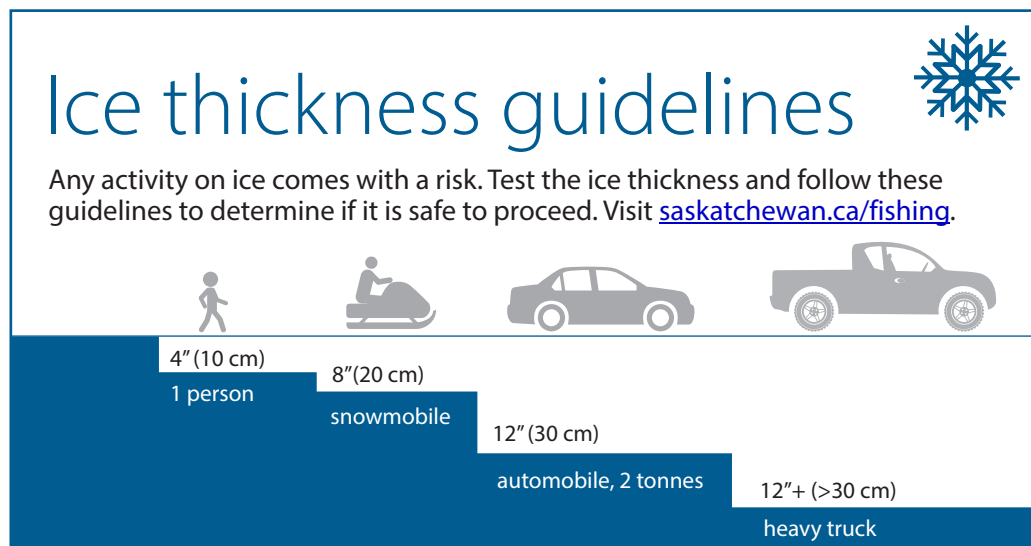




# Winter Ice Safety

Apply the following guidelines, and use caution and common sense:

- before you leave, always tell someone where you will be fishing and when you plan to return;
- try to fish with other anglers rather than alone;
- test the ice thickness before you travel on it and check with other local anglers for information about the waterbody;
- ice does not freeze at a uniform thickness and ice strength can vary considerably from one area to another due to air temperature, water currents (especially around the mouths of streams and rivers), pressure cracks, springs, old holes and heavy snow insulation;
- particularly in the early part of the winter season, ice near shore is often much thicker and safer than ice further out onto the lake;
- heavy snow cover can insulate the ice below and cause the ice to form much more slowly;
- if driving on the ice, drive slowly, keep the windows down and apply brakes gradually; and
- wear proper cold weather apparel and layer clothing to stay warm. Assemble some safety gear for emergencies such as a cell phone, ice picks, a throw rope, flares and a life jacket or flotation suit.



*These guidelines are provided to help individuals make a decision about whether to venture onto the ice. Thickness is just one consideration when evaluating ice safety. Clear, hard ice is the only ice recommended for travel.*