



## Safety Alert

### Driving Safely Through Locusts

Locusts can be a road hazard.

It is possible to encounter locusts anywhere on your travels because locusts can fly hundreds of kilometres in a day and are swept along by wind currents.

Locusts may also swarm at night, so it's important to make sure you keep your headlights clean.



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#### Locusts can be a road hazard

When driving, be aware that locust swarms can:

- reduce your ability to see the road and oncoming traffic
- block your vehicle's radiator, causing overheating.

To prepare for your trip and a possible encounter with locusts, it's advisable to:

- add some specially formulated insect cleaning agent to the windscreen washer system
- consider attaching an insect screen on your external radiator air-inlet for extra protection (not green in colour)
- pack a bag with spare water and extra insect cleaning agent and cloths/rags/brush (for your windscreen).

#### Driving through a swarm of locusts

If you are having *some* trouble seeing the road because of the locusts:

- slow down – gradually reduce your speed and continue driving carefully
- turn on your headlights – to alert oncoming traffic of your presence
- be aware that traffic coming from the opposite direction will also have reduced visibility
- use your windscreen wipers to clear locusts from your windscreen – well-fed locusts leave a residue of body parts and fat at the point of impact

- monitor temperature gauge on your dashboard – dead locusts can reduce air flow to an engine and cause overheating
- pull over & use cleaning agent and cloths/rags to remove residue from windscreen, wipers headlights and radiator air-inlet.

If you are having *a lot of* trouble seeing the road because of the locusts:

- slow down – gradually reduce your speed and stop only where it is safe to do so
- turn off your engine – to avoid overheating turn on your headlights – to alert oncoming traffic of your presence
- remain in your car until swarm subsides
- when visibility improves, apply water and insect cleaning agent and use cloths/rags to remove locust residue from windscreen, wipers headlights and radiator air-inlet

Check the Department of Primary Industries website for the latest locust information at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts) or call the **DPI Locust Hotline on: 1300 135 559.**

#### For more information

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