



## NEW JERSEY LAW: WIPERS ON, HEADLIGHTS ON



Many states legally require drivers to use their headlights during inclement weather, such as rain or fog, or whenever weather requires drivers to use their windshield wipers. These laws are commonly called "wipers on, lights on" laws. Headlights are required to be on when wipers are in use, visibility is less than 500 feet, or in conditions of insufficient light/adverse weather. New Jersey Traffic Laws (Title 39, Section 3-47A), now require that headlights must be on when your windshield wipers are on. This provides better visibility during times of precipitation. If stopped and convicted, the fine is \$50.00.

### Motor vehicle law 39:3-47: *Lighted Lamps Required*

1. Any time from 1/2 hour after sunset to 1/2 hour before sunrise.
2. Any other time when visibility is less than 500 feet.
3. When windshield wipers are activated.

As of April 2010, there are 27 states including New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania with "wipers on, lights on" laws.



Rain, fog, and snow make it difficult to see the road and other cars. Turning on your headlights during inclement weather helps you see better and helps other cars see you. Many drivers are unaware of this law and continue to drive without turning on their headlamps when they turn on their vehicle's windshield wipers. The state has posted signs along some highways reminding drivers of this requirement.

It only makes good sense that in poor visibility conditions, your headlights assist other drivers in seeing you and judging your approach speed. If you can see an approaching vehicle sooner it allows more time to slow down or for evasive maneuvers, if needed.

Make sure you turn on the headlights whenever you drive a municipal vehicle or your car in inclement weather. Take this information home and share it with your spouse and any young drivers in your family.