



Locust swarm

# Staying Safe when driving through locusts

**Victoria is facing what could be the biggest locust plague for 75 years.**

It is possible to encounter locusts when travelling around Victoria as locusts can fly hundreds of kilometers in a day and are swept along by wind currents.

Locust eggs started hatching in early spring and will soon be on the move. You need to be prepared for a possible encounter with locust swarms, especially if you are heading north over the border into New South Wales.

Information on the locust situation and locust management can be found at [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts)

Report locust activity or contact the **DPI Locust Hotline on 1300 135 559.**

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or visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/locusts).**



## Locusts can be a road hazard - be prepared

Locust swarms can obstruct your vision when driving so it's important that you are prepared. Locusts may also swarm at night, so it's important to make sure you keep your windscreen and headlights clean.

### 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.



Locust damage to radiator

### 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 (available at larger supermarkets, auto accessory outlets and service stations)
- consider attaching an insect screen (not green in colour) to your external radiator air-inlet for extra protection
- pack a bag with spare water and extra insect cleaning agent and cloths/rags/brush.

## Driving through a swarm of locusts

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

- slow down – gradually
- reduce your speed and continue driving carefully
- turn on your headlights to alert oncoming traffic to 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 – locusts will leave a residue of body parts and fat at the point of impact with your windscreen
- monitor the temperature gauge on your dashboard – dead locusts can reduce air flow to an engine and cause overheating
- pull over and use cleaning agent and cloths/rags/brush to remove residue from windscreen, wipers, headlights and radiator air-inlet.

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

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

