**Water Smart® Facts**

## Ice Myths

### Ice Safety Tips:
- Skate on designated ponds.
- Measure ice thickness in several places.
- Stay off river ice.
- Take proper safety equipment.
- Avoid traveling on ice at night.
- If you drive on ice, have an escape plan.
- Wear PFD over your coat.

For more ice safety tips please visit

[www.lifesaving.org](http://www.lifesaving.org)

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**Myth:** Ice forms at the same thickness everywhere on a body of water.

**Reality:** Ice is rarely uniform in thickness. It can be a foot thick in one place and only an inch thick just 10 feet away.

**Myth:** For the same thickness, all ice has the same strength.

**Reality:** Clear blue, black or green ice is the strongest. White/opaque ice should be at least twice as thick.

**Myth:** Snow on top of ice makes it stronger and freeze faster.

**Reality:** Snow acts like an insulating blanket. The ice under the snow will be thinner and weaker. A new snowfall can also insulate, warm-up and melt existing ice. Ice with layers of snow may not support anyone.

**Myth:** Extreme cold means safe, thick ice.

**Reality:** A cold snap with very cold temperatures quickly weakens ice and can cause large cracks within half a day. A warm spell can take several days to weaken the ice.

**Myth:** The better you swim, the better your chances of rescuing yourself if you fall through ice.

**Reality:** After as little as 5 min., cold water begins to rob you of your ability to move your limbs.