

---

# LIVESAFE

---

## ► Understanding Ice Strength

---

### The colour of ice may be an indication of its strength.

Clear blue ice is strongest. White opaque or snow ice is half as strong as blue ice. Opaque ice is formed by wet snow freezing on the ice. Grey ice is unsafe. The grayness indicates the presence of water. Ice thickness should be 15 cm (6 inches) for walking or skating alone; 20 cm (8 inches) for skating parties or games and 25 cm (10 inches) for snowmobiles. Many factors affect ice thickness including: type of water, location, the time of year and other environmental factors such as water depth, currents and tides, changing air temperature and shock waves from vehicles travelling on ice.

If you are planning to go out on the ice:

- Check with local authorities before heading out at any time
- Check website for depths of local ponds and lakes
- Avoid going out on ice at night
- Carry readily accessible ice picks
- Wear a personal floatation device

Adapted from Canadian Red Cross: [www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)

**WORK  
SAFE.  
LIVE  
SAFE.  
BE  
SAFE.**