

Prepare your Car for Winter

8 ESSENTIAL CAR CARE TIPS

A big part of staying safe in the winter is making sure that your car is adequately prepared to handle whatever driving conditions you may face. Here are some steps you can take to prepare your vehicle and give yourself the best chance of staying safe over the winter months.

Make sure your battery is in good condition.

The last thing you need is to be stuck in the middle of nowhere and not be able to start your car. Make sure your battery's connections are free of corrosion and if your battery is more than 3 years old, consider having a repair shop test its ability to hold a charge.

Check your tire pressure.

Due to the colder air, your tire pressure tends to drop a little bit in the winter. Keeping your tires at the manufacturer's recommended pressure makes your car easier to handle, making you safer on the roads and will even save you money by improving fuel economy!

Make sure your windshield wipers are in good condition.

Faulty windshield wipers can significantly impair your ability to see in wet weather conditions. If your wipers are bent, twisted or simply don't clear your windshield adequately, then replace them.

Consider snow tires.

Snow tires have deeper grooves that provide significantly more traction than all season tires, making them capable of stopping your car as much as 40% faster than all season tires. In addition, snow tires are made of a different type of rubber which allows them to maintain their flexibility even in very cold conditions. You'll feel safer and more confident in your ability to adequately control your car, no matter what happens on the roads!

Make sure you keep an emergency kit in your car at all times.

A well stocked emergency kit can be a lifesaver if you find yourself stranded on a highway in the middle of nowhere.

Keep your gas tank as full as possible.

Not only does this prevent you from running out of gas and being stranded, it also lowers the chance that your gas lines will freeze up due to water vapours and condensation in very cold weather.

Take your car in for a tune up prior to the first snow fall.

Keeping your car well maintained is a good idea at any time, but it's especially important during the winter when driving conditions are poor and you may be taking lengthy trips for the holidays. Keeping your car in peak condition lowers your chances of getting stranded and gives you the peace of mind to know you're prepared.

Have your brakes checked.

If it's been more than six months since your last brake check, have them checked again before the winter driving season. With the slippery road conditions that winter brings, being able to stop quickly is even more important than usual.

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