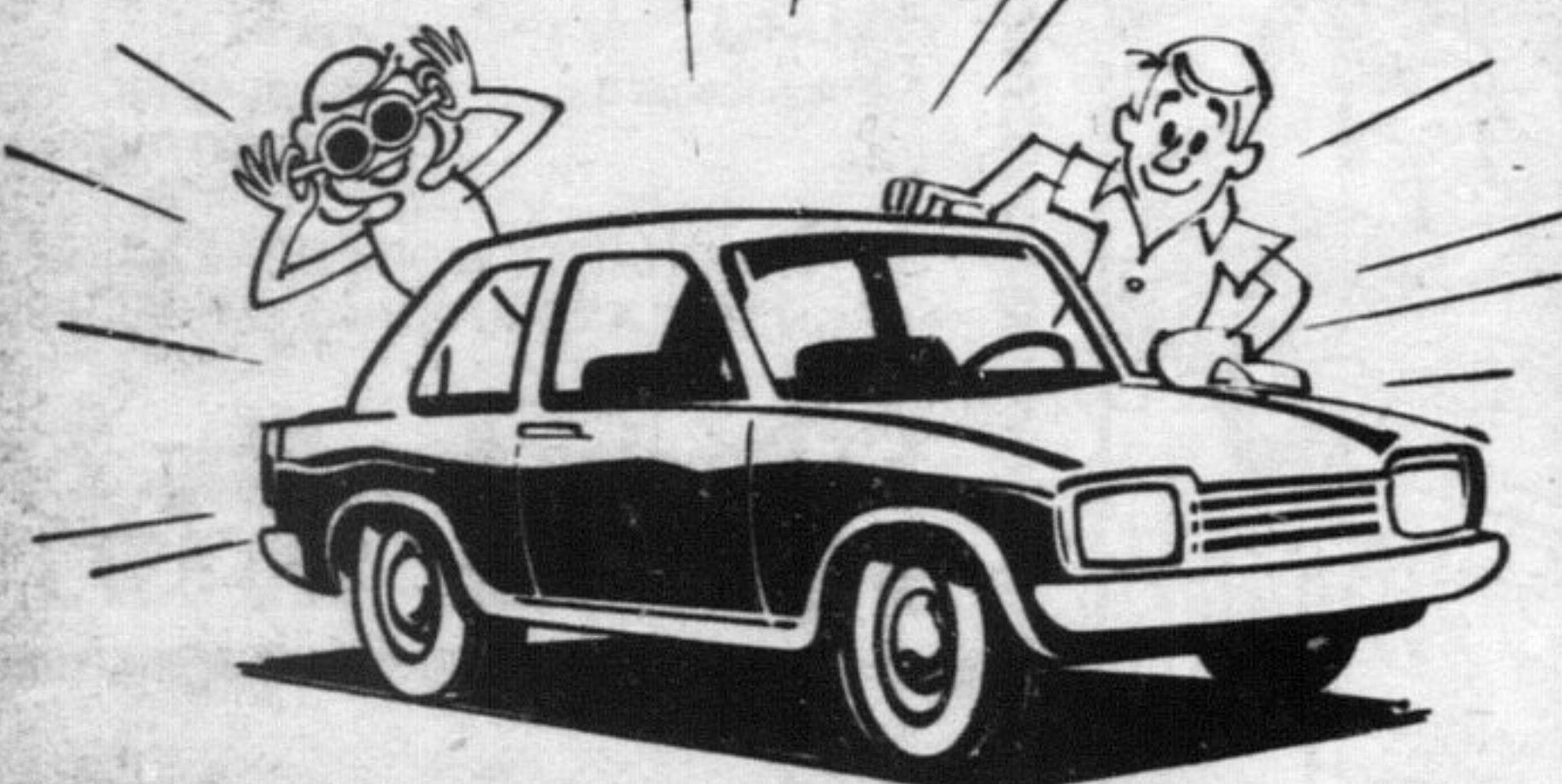


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Winterizing your car

The automobile needs the same attention in preparing for winter that houses receive, the Automotive Parts & Accessories Association points out.

Much as storm doors and window, car doors and windows should be cleaned and the weatherstripping checked to assure they are sealed properly.

The weatherstrips should be given a bath with mild soap and water, then lubricated with a silicone spray.

Inspect the windshield

washing system to see that it will operate through the winter. This should include checking the hoses for cracks and dry rot, cleaning the spray nozzles and adjusting them so the washer solvent hits the proper area of the windshield.

Check for cracked or worn windshield wiper blades, particularly if they have not been replaced in the past four months. If the blade chatters or streaks when wiping across the windshield, replace the blade and the arm.

Using cables

Batteries produce hydrogen gas when they discharge or are exposed to extreme loads such as cranking the engine for a long period of time.

An explosion can be caused by a spark near this hydrogen gas when the car is being jump-started.

If you ever need to jumpstart your car or someone else's, the Automotive Parts and Accessories Association suggests the following procedure so as to avoid any chance of your car's battery exploding.

1. Pull the two cars close enough to avoid over-extending

the jumper cables.

2. Connect one end of the other cable to the positive terminals of each battery.

3. Connect one end of the other cable to the negative terminal of the good battery.

4. Connect the other end of the cable to the engine block of the vehicle being started. Do not connect the cable to the negative terminal of the bad battery under any circumstances!

Avoid damage to the electrical components of the vehicle being started by making certain the engine is running at idle speed before disconnecting the jumper cables.

Emergency kit is vital item

The editors of Popular Mechanics Magazine say these are the things you should keep in your car if you live in a blizzard-prone region of the country.

- Red flares (for protection against plows and to help guide rescuers).
- Two fresh, powerful flashlights.
- Blankets.
- Heavy sweaters, parkas, double mittens and strong lacing for parka hoods.
- Skier's face masks with very small eye slits.
- One knife for slitting seat cushions or other emergency use.
- Several cans of canned heat; or several thick candles and tins to put them in.
- Full gas tank.
- CB radio.
- Heavy boots and warm socks.
- A change of clothing and socks.
- Sandwiches and coffee. (Not necessary for survival, perhaps, but they will help to keep you warm and your strength up.)
- An axe you can use to chop branches to provide shelter (especially if you may be caught out in wild country).
- A good storage battery in your car.
- A winter-tuned engine (important).
- Blanket or tarp to seal off engine against snow. Once a car stops snow quickly fills the engine compartment.
- Plastic garbage bags sometimes help. (They are windbreaks and keep in body heat).
- Long-handled shovel (shorties are hard to use) or a hoe.
- De-icing fluid for windshield.

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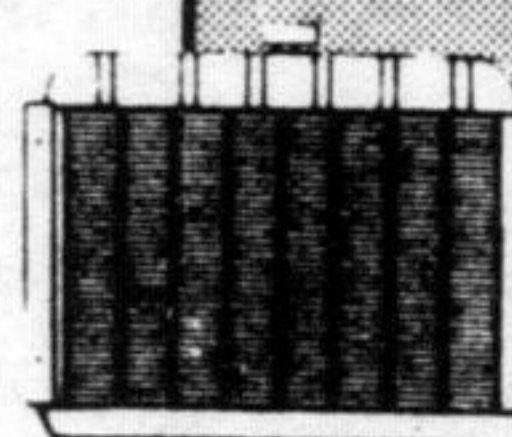
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- inspect rad & heater hoses
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- fill with new coolant
- check operation of thermostat



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