

Winter Driving Tips

1. Keep your gas tank above half-full at all times. Condensation can build up in a near-empty gas tank in extremely cold temperatures, which can cause fuel line freeze-up and no-start conditions.
2. Check the weather forecast before you head out and find out the current and forecasted weather and road conditions.
3. Never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area. Carbon monoxide (CO) is an invisible, odorless gas that can build up in enclosed areas and kill humans and animals quickly and silently.
4. Keep your exhaust pipe clear of snow. A blocked pipe can force carbon monoxide (CO) back into your car's interior.
5. Use your snowbrush and/or ice scraper to clear your car of snow and ice, especially the entire windshield, side and rear windows, your side mirrors, front and back lights, air intake grill and don't forget the roof.
6. Make sure your windshield wipers are in good shape.
7. Make sure your wipers are turned off when you turn off your car's ignition. If you leave the wipers on and they freeze to your windshield, they will try to move when you start the car and this can damage the wiper motor.
8. Check your heater, front and rear defroster for proper operation. Leave plenty of distance between you and other cars. As winter progresses we tend to feel over-confident.
9. Start out slowly; gauge the weather and road conditions before you attempt to drive at the posted speed.
10. Leave yourself lots of time so you're not rushing to get to where you need to be. As winter progresses, drivers tend to feel over-confident, which can lead to accidents. Continue to drive appropriately for the road conditions.
11. When turning, accelerating, or stopping, slow down to maintain control of the vehicle and avoid loss of traction on the roads.

Vehicle Maintenance Tips

1. Check all tires for proper inflation pressure including the spare tire on a monthly basis. Tires lose pressure every month due to normal leakage. Tire pressure information can usually be found on the inside of the driver's door. Make sure your spare tire is properly inflated.
2. Keep your battery terminals tight, clean and dry.
3. Even though most cars today are equipped with maintenance-free batteries, they still require periodic attention. Checking the state of charge and keeping terminal connectors secure and free of corrosion will ensure quick winter starts.
4. For better stopping and handling control, have all brakes and suspension components inspected at least once a year or every 20,000 km. Have any defective or worn out components replaced promptly.
5. Keep your windshield washer fluid topped up and use washer fluid with antifreeze.
6. Let your engine idle only briefly. Anything more wastes fuel, increases engine wear, reduces the life of engine oil, and puts extra emissions into the environment.
7. Check your engine oil level. Oil marked "SAE or API-SJ" or higher provides the best protection.



Vehicle Maintenance Tips (Continued)

8. Most car manufacturers recommend 5W-30 oil for year-round operating conditions because it improves cold-weather starting and provides better fuel economy and performance.
9. Securely close the lid on antifreeze products and do not allow washer fluid to pool on the ground or garage floor, as even tiny amounts are toxic to dogs and cats.