

# Winter Driving Fact Sheet



## What should I do to prepare my car for the winter?

To prepare your car for the winter, check the following:

**Electrical system** – Make sure that your battery is in good condition. If it is weak, be sure to recharge or replace it. Check all lights to make sure that they are working.

**Brakes** – Make sure that brakes and brake pads are in good condition.

**Tires** – Use winter tires. Do not mix radial tires with other types. Make sure that your tires have adequate tread. Check your tire pressure often.

**Exhaust system** – Make sure that your exhaust system is free of leaks, this will help reduce the risk for carbon monoxide poisoning. If you are stuck in the snow, keep your engine running to stay warm, but crack your window slightly. Make sure that your exhaust pipe is free of snow and ice.

**Heating/cooling system** – Check for leaks in the radiator and hoses. Check your antifreeze levels often.

**Windshield wipers** – Replace any old or worn windshield wipers. Be sure to top off your windshield wiper fluid often, especially when bad weather is expected.

**Fuel** – Do not let your fuel level get too low. If you are stuck in traffic or snow, you will need to run your engine to keep warm. If bad weather is expected, fill up your gas tank ahead of time.

## What should I have in my car?

You should make an emergency kit for your car. Your kit should include:

- Blankets
- Extra clothing for layering
- Extra hat, mittens and gloves
- Food (granola bars, energy bars, nuts)
- Bottled water
- Jumper cables
- First aid kit
- HELP sign for back window
- Shovel
- Ice scrapers
- Road salt
- Kitty litter or sand
- Bright cloth to use as a flag
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Flares or warning triangles
- Fire extinguisher

Local Health Department  
Address  
City, State Zip  
Phone  
Website

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## What do I do if I get stuck?

If you get stuck in your car:

- Do not leave your vehicle unless you can see help within 100 yards.
- Turn on your flashing hazard lights.
- Tie a cloth to your antenna to use as a flag.
- If you have a HELP sign, display it in your back window.
- Run your car and your heater for 10 minutes every hour. Be sure to crack your window open while the car is running to reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Try not to stay in one position for too long. Do minor exercises to keep your circulation going.
- If there is more than one person in the car, take turns sleeping so that somebody is awake when help arrives.
- Try not to waste unnecessary battery power.
- At night, turn on your inside light so that rescuers can see you.