



Car Care Guide

How to get your car ready for winter driving

Part I

Before the long road trip home for the holidays, be sure your car is in good mechanical condition. Regular car maintenance can save you costly repairs in the future, and will help ensure a safe trip home.

From a mechanical operation aspect, winter conditions—wet, cold and icy weather—present the greatest challenge to your engine's operating efficiency. Since these conditions cannot be avoided, prepare for winter by getting a complete vehicle check-up in the fall. Have your mechanic check the following items:

IGNITION SYSTEM:

Damaged ignition wires, a cracked distributor cap, or worn spark plugs can make starting difficult or may cause a sudden breakdown. A fall check-up will reveal any problems.

BRAKE SYSTEM:

To avoid skids on slippery surfaces you need to prevent the wheels from locking when brakes are suddenly applied. Many cars are equipped with antilock brakes. They are designed to prevent wheel lock and allow you to steer the vehicle during sudden or panic braking. Brakes should be checked, and if needed, properly adjusted to ensure proper braking.

TIRES:

Tires are the only contact your car has with the roadway. The amount of traction that exists between the tires and roadway surface determines how well the vehicle starts, turns and stops. Make certain your tires are properly inflated and in good condition.

Maximum tire pressure should not exceed that shown on the tire sidewall (the number molded into the rubber). If the use of chains is necessary, they should be used on all four wheels.

BATTERY:

The heart of your vehicle's electrical system is the battery. Cold weather starts require a battery that is fully charged. Recharge or replace weak batteries. If appropriate, check the fluid levels and make certain the battery posts are clean and tight. Have your alternator or generator and voltage regulator checked, too.

Continued Monday, Dec. 4

Source: "How to go on Ice and Snow," courtesy of the Automobile Association of America (AAA).

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IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY...

Carry these items in your car:

- Small bag of abrasives material (sand, salt or kitty litter)
- Small snow shovel
- Warning devices (flares or triangles)
- Cloth or roll of paper towels
- Blanket • Snow brush
- Traction mats • Flashlight
- Tire chains • Ice scraper • Booster cables

(Source: "How to go on Ice and Snow" courtesy of American Automobile Association)

Is your car ready for winter? 3-IN-1 SPECIAL

1. Complete Vehicle Inspection

An in-depth visual analysis of your vehicle's major systems including tires, brakes, radiator system, starting and vehicle maintenance.

2. Oil Change and Filter

Install new filter. Refill with up to 5 quarts. Kendall 10W-30 oil and lubricate chassis (if applicable). Includes waste disposal fee.

3. 4-Tire Rotation

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