

# GETTING YOUR CAR READY FOR STORMY WEATHER



Getting your car ready for bad weather isn't difficult or expensive, but it does require some forethought. Here are some things to check to make sure your car is ready to face a storm.

## WIPER BLADES

Most drivers forget about their windshield wiper blades until they need them the most: in the middle of a heavy rainstorm.

Don't wait until a storm hits to think about your wipers. While it's dry and sunny, check the condition of your wiper blades. The rubber should be soft and easily bendable. If it seems hard, dry, cracked, torn or peeling, get new blades right away.

The Car Care Council recommends you replace the blades every six months to make sure they're in good condition.

## WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID

Have you ever had a big truck splash mud and grime onto your windshield after a storm? If so, you know how nerve-wracking it can be to see your frontal vision completely obscured on the highway — even for just a few seconds.

It's important that you're able to clear your windshield very quickly, which is why keeping your washer fluid topped off can actually be a big safety advantage for drivers.

While you should use special de-icing washer fluid during the

winter months, there are more specialized washer fluids that can do a better job during the summer driving season for removing bugs or sticky mud from your windshield.

## TIRE AND ALIGNMENT

Finally, nothing provides more confidence in wet conditions than a set of good, all-weather tires.

You should always keep your tires in top condition, but it's especially important in areas that see a lot of stormy, rainy weather. The deeper your tire treads are, the more water they'll be able to displace on wet roads, which gives you added traction and better handling in the rain.

For even more confidence, you can opt for tires that are specially designed for wet-weather driving. These tires will funnel extra water away from the driving surface as they roll, which keeps the vehicle firmly planted during storms.

It's also a good idea to check your car's alignment. Over time, your suspension can get out of adjustment, which can result in worse handling and sometimes unpredictable skids. A professional tire shop can precisely check the alignment.



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