

EVERYTHING AUTO

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WINTER 2016-17 | PUBLISHED BY THE DAILY ASTORIAN



6 COLD WEATHER CAR CARE TIPS

Winter is approaching, bringing cold temperatures, salty roads, wet conditions and other challenges for drivers. To ensure your vehicle is at its best, follow these six simple tips to get your vehicle winter-ready.



Add Antifreeze

Antifreeze can help protect your engine from extreme temperatures and help keep fluids from freezing as cold sets in.



Check Tires

When temperatures fall, air inside tires contracts and causes the pressure inside to drop, which can make tires susceptible to damage.



Change Oil

Colder temperatures can cause motor oil to thicken, which can cause starting problems. Change your oil just before winter to keep oil flowing easily through your engine, helping your car start easier.



Wash and Wax

Washing and applying a fresh coat of wax before fluctuating temperatures set in can be the first line of defense against ice, salt, sand and slush. Visiting a car wash is also a great way to get the underbelly of the car clean to avoid rusting, which helps maintain the overall value of the vehicle. Additionally, washing at a car wash regularly in the winter can help keep the windshield, mirrors and lights clean, which is important in ensuring the best possible vision for the driver.



Replace Wipers

As thick snow starts falling, or when rain and water turn to ice, it's important to have properly fitted wiper blades to keep your windshield.



Pack an Emergency Kit

To help ensure safe travel and be prepared for emergency situations, keep these essential items in your vehicle: gloves, ice scraper, shovel, salt or sand, warm clothing and blankets, jumper cables and a first-aid kit.

TIPS FOR AVOIDING THE

HOLIDAY TRAVEL BREAKDOWN

Every year, as tens of millions of travelers take the road for their holiday trips and vacations, at least one million people will be stranded. But many of them would be able to avoid these problems if they started planning in the fall.

That figure is an estimation by the American Automobile Association, which is ready to deploy its assistance specialists to help with lockouts, battery replacements, jump starts, extricating vehicles from snow and towing cars for repair.

BE PREPARED

Drivers can avoid some roadside breakdowns by keeping their vehicles properly maintained. The AAA advises motorists to follow their recommended maintenance schedule and make sure their vehicle is ready for the holiday travel season.

Have a certified technician check your vehicle's fluid levels, lights, brakes, exhaust system and heater/defroster. You should continue to schedule regular services, including oil and filter changes, throughout the winter driving season at the intervals recommended by the vehicle manufacturer.

COMMON ISSUES

Every year during the holiday season, this is how AAA service calls are broken down:

- Nearly 300,000 requests for help with a dead battery.
- More than 80,000 failed batteries repaired on the spot.
- Nearly 200,000 sets of keys retrieved from inside locked vehicles.
- More than 166,000 tire changes.
- About 21,000 vehicle extrications.

BEING STRANDED

The AAA projects its roadside technicians can fix the issues of more than three out of five stranded motorists and send them on their way. The remaining two travelers will still need a tow.

Keeping you and your family safe while you're stranded is important. This means pulling your car fully onto the shoulder of the road and keeping your hazard lights flashing.

You could also benefit from having an emergency kit full of blankets, batteries, water, flashlights and other essential items to keep you safe and warm during long delays.



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