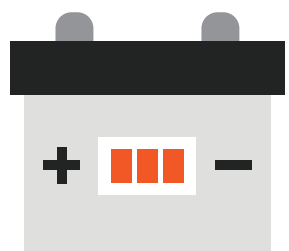




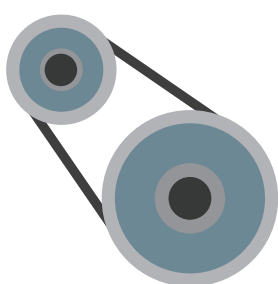
# WINTER CAR CARE EQUIPMENT CHECK

We've all heard about the importance of winterizing your car. But when should you do so — and how? Just before winter is the perfect opportunity for you to make sure your vehicle is ready to handle the snow, sleet and freezing temperatures to come. The following should be included in any "winterizing" package offered by your local repair shop, but you can also handle many of them yourself. Below is a checklist to ensure you are covering all of your bases.



## BATTERY

It is important to test your battery and charging system. A fully charged battery in good condition means you won't be stuck with an engine that won't start.



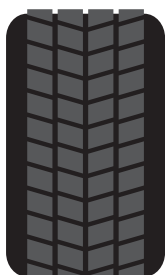
## DRIVE BELTS

Inspect the underside of your drive belts for signs of wear. The American Automobile Association recommends replacing your belts every 60,000 miles.



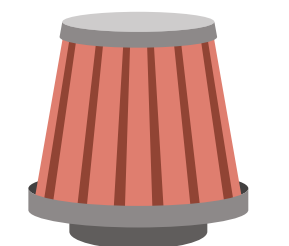
## ENGINE HOSES

Check your cooling system hoses for leaks or loose clamps. You can also feel and squeeze the hoses for brittleness or sponginess.



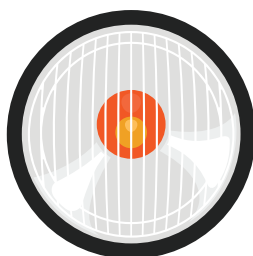
## TIRE PRESSURE

Test your tire inflation pressure because falling temperatures in fall and winter may have lowered tire pressures.



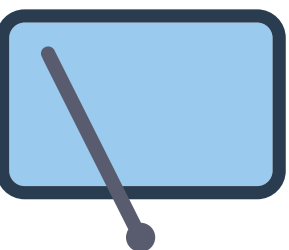
## AIR FILTER

The AAA recommends you check your car's engine air filter by holding it up to a 60-watt light bulb. If light can be seen through much of the filter, it is still clean enough to work effectively. If the light is blocked, it is time to replace it.



## LIGHTS

Properly working lights are crucial. Check the operation of all headlights, taillights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers and back-up lights. Replace any burned-out bulbs.



## WIPER BLADES

Wiper blades should always be soft and pliable, but the best way to tell whether they need to be replaced is by using them. Your wipers are designed to clear the rain from your windshield so you can see safely.



## BRAKES

Have your brakes checked and changed at the first indication of a problem, usually identified by a squeaking or grinding noise.



## GET 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

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.

### WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID

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.

There are special de-icing washer fluids during the winter months.

### ALL-WEATHER TIRES

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

The deeper your tire treads are, the more water they'll be able to displace on wet roads, 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.

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