

Winter or all-weather tires

Winter tires are an expensive investment but one that can prevent issues for you and your family during the winter months. All-weather tires are an all-around good tire that may be the better choice depending on where you live.

Winter tires

If you live in an area prone to heavy snow, slush or ice, invest in winter tires. Winter tires are different than your standard tire; they contain a softer rubber compound to enhance grip. Winter tires are an investment. A complete set can cost up to \$1,000 but they can be the difference between life and death.

Winter tires give you more control in your vehicle to push through the snowy winter weather. All-weather tires contain the same traction as half-worn winter tires. If you live in an area seeing harsh winter weather, winter tires are the right investment to make. If taken care of properly, they can last up to six years.

Note that winter tires are seasonal tires and do sell out at some tire stores. It is best to shop ahead of time and be prepared before winter rolls in, and ensure the you have more options in price and brand.

All-weather tires

If you live in an area with light to little snowy weather during the winter season, your best option would be to invest in all-weather tires. These tires are a less expensive option for your vehicle. All-weather tires, as the name suggest, can be used throughout the year. They are durable and possess tread that helps them perform in wet and dry conditions.

All-weather tires can stay on your car at all times, saving you from having to make trips to the tire shop to change into your seasonal tires. All-weather tires are a convenient and versatile investment.

If you use all-weather tires throughout the year, check the quality of your tire each month. Make sure you check tread, traction and wear on the tire. It is best to start searching and replacing your tires in early fall before winter begins.



Battery basics

Batteries are an essential part of your vehicle and can cause some issues if not fixed before the winter months roll in. Here are some tips to help you check your battery and keep it lasting through the winter.

Battery maintenance

Batteries lose power over time. The longer you have had your battery, the more inclined you should be to check it. Check all the cables connecting your battery to the vehicle for damage or corrosion. Battery cables should fit tight on the battery. If there is corrosion making your battery cables loose, use a wired brush to clean off the corrosion.

Vehicle batteries usually last around three years. Check to see how long you have had your battery in your vehicle. Most local parts stores can test your battery's charge for free. Replace the battery at your local auto care store if it exceeds three years and is showing signs of degrading.

Cables, connectors and other parts for your battery can all be found and replaced at your local parts store. Invest in a portable battery charger that you can place in the trunk of your vehicle in case of emergencies.

Keeping your charge

Batteries can lose their charge if your vehicle is stored or parked for too long. If you store your vehicle for an extended time during the fall and winter seasons, you might consider purchasing a trickle charger. The device connects your battery to a wall outlet and gives your car enough power so that it does not lose charge. Trickle chargers can be found in most local parts stores.

A less expensive way to keep the charge in your battery is to have someone drive your vehicle for about 15 minutes or more a day. This helps keep not only your battery but the rest of your vehicle and engine running smoothly.

One other low-tech option you may have if you cannot find someone to help run your vehicle for you everyday is to disconnect the negative cable from your battery only. Doing so does have its cons and you will more than likely lose time, stereo and other settings.



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