

Winter Driving.

BEING PREPARED TO WEATHER THE COLD SEASON

What Can I Do?

Prepare

Remove any ice and snow from windshield, windows, and mirrors.



Aware

Be aware that as ice melts, conditions can become slippery.



Operation

Make turns as gently as possible. Do not brake harder than necessary.



Speed

Slow down. Drive slowly and smoothly. If road is slippery, don't drive. Stop at first safe place.



Starting

Start gently. Get the feel of the road.



Winterize Your Car

Antifreeze levels - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.

Battery and ignition system - should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.

Brakes - check for wear and fluid levels.

Exhaust system - check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary.

Fuel and air filters - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas to prevent freezing.

Gas - Keep gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.

Heater and defroster - ensure they work properly.

Lights and flashing hazard lights - check for serviceability.

Oil - check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.

Thermostat - ensure it works properly.

Tires - check tire tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires.

Windshield wiper equipment - repair any problems and use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.

Emergency Kit

shovel

windshield scraper

small broom

flashlight

booster cables

flares

tire pump

bag of sand or cat litter (for traction)

compass and maps

battery powered radio

extra batteries

plastic bags (for sanitation)

water

snack food

matches

extra hats, socks and mittens

first aid kit with pocket knife

necessary medications

blanket(s)

tow chain or rope

road salt and sand

booster cables

emergency flares

fluorescent distress flag

Traveling in Weather

Be aware of current and forecast weather conditions at all points of your journey.

Avoid traveling when the weather service has issued advisories.

Inform a friend or relative of your proposed route and expected time of arrival.

If Stranded

Stay with your car unless safety is no more than 100 yards away, but continue to move arms and legs.

Stay visible by putting bright cloth on the antenna, turning on the inside overhead light (when engine is running), and raising the hood when snow stops falling.

Run the engine and heater only 10 minutes every hour.

Keep a downwind window open.

Make sure the tailpipe is not blocked.