

## DRIVER SAFETY TIP WINTER DRIVING

Don't wait until cold weather arrives, prepare for it beforehand. Planning and preparation are essential for safe driving during winter weather. Here are a few items to check before winter weather arrives:

**Battery:** Make sure it will provide the extra power often required for cold weather starts. Keep the battery and terminals clean. Recharge or replace the battery if needed. Check the fluid levels and if needed have it serviced if it is not a maintenance free battery.

**Ignition System:** Check the condition of the wires and distributor cap. A cracked cap or damaged wires can result in engine drow out if wet slush is thrown into the engine compartment and comes in contact with the damaged wires or distributor cap. A tune-up before cold weather sets in is a good idea to help reveal ignition problems if they exist.

**Heating and Cooling System:** Have the antifreeze solution in the radiator checked and serviced if needed. Test the heater and defroster and make sure they function properly.

**Exhaust System:** Have the exhaust system inspected for damage. Leakage of carbon monoxide from a damaged exhaust system into the interior of the vehicle can be deadly. Winter driving can often involve driving with the windows up and longer periods of warming the engine up before you drive. This can result in carbon monoxide buildup inside of the vehicle from a damaged exhaust system.

**Windshield Wipers and Washer:** Check the functioning of the washer, wipers and the condition of the blades. Replace blades that streak the windshield. Keep the windshield washer reservoir filled with a solution that will not freeze. Keep the area around the washer spray nozzles clear. If the vehicle has recessed wipers, keep the area free from obstructions such as snow and ice so that the wipers will operate properly.

**Tires:** Have tires that are properly rated for winter driving mounted and correctly inflated. If you carry chains, see that they are in good condition and know how to install them correctly.

**Lights:** Make sure the headlights, brake lights and all other lighting is in good condition.

**Emergency Supplies:** Keep a set of jumper cables in the vehicle. A blanket and some energy food should be kept in the vehicle. A folding shovel and a bag of traction material (sand or kitty litter) could come in handy. If there is room carry a pair of boots, gloves and some overalls.



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