

# WINTER DRIVING

## INTRODUCTION

Driving in any kind of weather has its risks, but winter and its slick roads, bad storms, and cold temperatures can make driving especially dangerous. Therefore, you should take extra precautions during winter to make sure you stay safe.

## CHECK/MAINTAIN YOUR CAR

Take extra time to inspect your car and make sure that everything is working correctly. Pay special attention to:

- Emergency Lights
- Windshield Wipers
- Brake Lights
- Tires

At the beginning of the season, have a mechanic check your:

- Battery
- Antifreeze
- Ignition system
- Thermostat
- Heater
- Exhaust system

If something needs to be fixed, do so right away.



## WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

In winter, roads can close or your car can get stuck. Either way, you'll want to be prepared and know what to do. Preparation includes having an emergency kit with at least the following items:

- Flashlight
- Jumper Cables
- First Aid Kit
- Warm Clothes
- Map



If you are going on a long journey, you should also have:

- A pair of boots
- A blanket
- Any medication you need to take regularly
- Food

If you get stuck on the road, stay in your vehicle. Stay warm and wait for assistance, and:

- Turn on your emergency lights.
- Make sure that your exhaust pipe is clear of any obstructions, including snow and ice, so that carbon monoxide gas doesn't build up inside the vehicle.
- Turn on the car's engine and the heater for about 10 minutes each hour.
- Make sure at least one person is always awake so rescuers can be alerted when they come.



## DRIVE SAFELY

It is especially important to be a cautious driver during the winter because of the dangerous conditions:

- Clear all windows and lights of frost and snow.
- Drive with your headlights on.
- Slow down- posted speed limits are for dry pavement.
- Look further ahead in traffic than you normally do.
- Add at least three times more space than usual between you and the car in front of you.
- Use a light touch on the gas.
- Don't use cruise control or overdrive on icy roads.

## CONCLUSION

Remember to be extra cautious while driving in winter. As long as you and your car are prepared and you remember to drive safely, many mishaps will be avoided.

