

# PREPARING FOR WINTER DRIVING

DRIVING IN THE WINTER CAN BE HARROWING, ESPECIALLY IN SNOWSTORMS AND ICY CONDITIONS. GETTING YOUR VEHICLE READY FOR WINTER CAN HELP YOU PREVENT ANY UNWANTED EVENTS AND BE BETTER PREPARED FOR ANYTHING THAT MAY COME UP IN AN EMERGENCY.

- BE SURE TO WINTERIZE YOUR VEHICLE BEFORE WINTER STARTS
- MAKE SURE TO HAVE A FULLY STOCKED EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT
- PLAN YOUR WINTER DRIVING TRIP BEFORE GETTING OUT ON THE ROAD



**BC Forest Safety**

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## IN ADDITION TO ANNUAL MAINTENANCE, HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO WINTERIZE YOUR VEHICLE:

- Test your battery; battery power drops as the temperature drops
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car
- If using all-season tires, check the tread on your tires. Remember some highways and roads require that you use winter tires or carry chains
- Check the tire pressure; tire pressure drops as the temperature drops
- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30 degrees
- Keep gloves and a snow brush/scrapper in your vehicle

## REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR CAR'S EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT FULLY STOCKED, TOO. A WELL-STOCKED WINTER DRIVING KIT HELPS TO HANDLE ANY EMERGENCY. IT SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Properly fitting tire chains
- Bag of sand, salt or sand/salt mixture (kitty litter also works)
- Tow rope
- Snow shovel/Snow brush/Ice scrape
- Booster cables
- Warning devices such as flares or emergency lights
- Extra windshield wiper fluid appropriate for sub-freezing temperatures
- Roll of paper towels
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit and Blanket
- Extra clothing, including hat and wind-proof pants, and warm footwear
- Snack bars or other "emergency" food and water
- Matches and emergency candles

## PRIOR TO STARTING YOUR TRIP DURING WINTER CONDITIONS BE SURE TO FOLLOW SOME OF THE FOLLOWING STEPS.

- Plan your driving in advance
- Review Drive BC and look at the "Road Reports" to get updates regarding road conditions in the region to which you are going
- Wherever possible, postpone the trip when the weather is bad
- Check weather conditions for your travel route (and time) before you begin driving
- Plan your arrival time at a destination by considering any delays due to slower traffic, reduced visibility, roadblocks, abandoned automobiles, collisions, etc.
- Inform someone of your route and planned arrival time
- Choose warm and comfortable clothing. If you need to remove outdoor clothing later while driving, STOP the vehicle in a safe spot and keep the outdoor clothing close at hand
- Warm up your vehicle BEFORE driving off. It reduces moisture condensing on the inside of the windows.
- Remove all snow and ice from your vehicle before you start driving (including the roof)
- Bring a cell phone if you have one but do not leave it in the car as the battery will freeze



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