

Six helpful hints for your vehicle in the winter

1. Keep your headlights clear with car wax!
Just wipe ordinary car wax on your headlights.
It contains special water repellents that will prevent that messy mixture from accumulating on your lights.
2. Squeak-proof your wipers with rubbing alcohol!
Wipe the wipers with a cloth saturated with rubbing alcohol or ammonia. This one trick can make badly streaking & squeaking wipers change to near perfect silence & clarity.
3. When frost is forecast ice-proof your windows with vinegar!
Just fill a spray bottle with three parts vinegar to one part water & apply it on all your windows at night. In the morning, they'll be clear of icy mess.
Vinegar contains acetic acid, which raises the melting point of water preventing water from freezing!
4. Prevent car doors from freezing shut with cooking spray!
Spritz cooking oil on the rubber seals around car doors & rub it in with a paper towel. The cooking spray prevents water from melting into the rubber.
5. Fog-proof your windshield with shaving cream!
Spray some shaving cream on the inside of your windshield & wipe it off with paper towels.
Shaving cream has many of the same ingredients found in commercial defoggers.
6. De-ice your lock in seconds with hand sanitizer!
Just put some hand sanitizer gel on the key and the lock - the problem's solved!

Anon

Check weather and travel conditions before heading out.

Don't take chances if the weather is bad. Allow yourself extra time for travel, or wait until conditions improve.
Call the Ministry of Transportation's information number on road conditions, listed in your local phone directory or check the online Winter Road Condition Reports.
If you are traveling a long distance, **plan your route** ahead of time. Let someone know of your destination and expected time of arrival.

WINTER VEHICLE SURVIVAL KIT

Shovel
Sand or kitty litter
Traction mats
Tow chain
Warning lights or Road flares
Extra clothing and footwear
Emergency food pack
Booster cables
Axe or hatchet
Ice scraper and brush
Orange garbage bags (for heat / distress flag, etc)
Candles and matches or lighter
Tin Can
Fire extinguisher
Windshield Washer fluid
Methyl hydrate (fuel tank anti-freeze)



The following should be kept inside your vehicle:

Road maps Flashlights
First-Aid kit Blankets
Cell/Sat. phone

Tips for driving in the snow:

- Accelerate and decelerate slowly. Applying the gas slowly to accelerate is the best method for regaining traction and avoiding skids. Don't try to get moving in a hurry. And take time to slow down for a stoplight. Remember: It takes longer to slow down on icy roads.
- Drive slowly. Everything takes longer on snow-covered roads. Accelerating, stopping, and turning. Nothing happens as quickly as on dry pavement. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly.
- The normal dry pavement following distance of three to four seconds should be increased to six to eight seconds. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.
- Know your brakes. If you have antilock brakes (ABS) stay **ON the pedal when braking, do NOT PUMP ABS brakes.**
With 'Regular' brakes, the best way to stop is threshold breaking, keep the heel of your foot on the floor and use the ball of your foot to apply firm, steady pressure on the brake pedal, ease off and repeat.
(Same principle as pulling on bicycle brakes).
- Don't stop if you can avoid it. There's a big difference in the amount of inertia it takes to start moving from a full stop versus how much it takes to get moving while still rolling. If you can slow down enough to keep rolling until a traffic light changes, do it.
- Don't power up hills. Applying extra gas on snow-covered roads just starts your wheels spinning. Try to get a little inertia going before you reach the hill and let that inertia carry you to the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed down hill as slowly as possible. Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road, get some inertia going on a flat roadway before you take on the hill.