

Caution: Hazardous Winter Driving Ahead

Prepare Your Vehicle

1. Check the following car components to make sure everything's in good working order. You might want to take your car to a professional.

- Battery power
- Tire treads
- Windshield wipers
- Ignition system
- Thermostat
- Lights, including flashers
- Exhaust system
- Heater
- Brakes
- Defroster

2. Keep antifreeze, oil, washer fluid and gas tank levels full throughout fall and winter.

3. Check tires monthly! Cold weather can reduce inflation pressure.

4. Put together an emergency kit for your car.

- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Blankets
- Jumper cables
- Small shovel, flashlight and batteries
- Kitty litter or sand for added traction
- Flares and matches

Use Caution When Driving

1. Stopping on a wet surface can take four times the distance as on a dry road.* Reduce speed and allow additional car lengths between you and the vehicle ahead.

2. Use anti-lock brakes correctly: Step down hard and don't let up. Never pump anti-lock brakes.

3. Four-wheel drive vehicles, like SUVs, won't improve your braking or turning abilities on slippery roads.

4. Always wear your seat belt! Seat belts are the best way to reduce serious injuries in accidents; they save 9,500 lives each year.**

*Source: Tire Industry Safety Council

**Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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