

Winter Preparedness: Winterize Your Vehicles



Check, or have a mechanic check the following items on your vehicle:

- **Antifreeze Levels** – Ensure antifreeze levels are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- **Battery & Ignition System** should be in top condition and battery terminals should be clean.
- **Brakes** – Check for wear and fluid levels.
- **Exhaust System** – Check for leaks and crimped pipes and repair or replace as necessary. Carbon monoxide is deadly and usually gives no warning.
- **Fuel & Air Filters** – Replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas. A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.
- **Heater & Defroster** – Ensure they work properly.
- **Headlights, Brake Lights & Flashing Hazard Lights** – Check for serviceability.
- **Oil** – Check for level and weight. Heavier oils congeal more at low temperatures and do not lubricate as well.
- **Thermostat** – Ensure it works properly.
- **Windshield Wiper Equipment** – Repair any problems, replace blades and maintain proper washer fluid level.
- **Install Good Winter Tires** – Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require in order to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.

Update the emergency kits in your vehicles with the following:

- Shovel
- Windshield Scraper and Small Broom
- Flashlight, Extra Batteries
- Battery-Powered Radio
- Water
- Snack Food
- Matches
- Extra Hats, Socks and Mittens
- Necessary Medications
- Blanket(s) or Sleeping Bag(s)
- First Aid Kit with Pocket Knife
- Tow Chain or Rope
- Road Salt and Sand
- Booster Cables
- Emergency Flares
- Fluorescent Distress Flag