

Winter Preparedness Tips For Auto And Driving

Make sure to prepare your vehicle before the winter season begins. The following handy steps will help you ensure that your vehicle is safe to drive during winter weather:

- Check your brakes, transmission and tires
 - Check that your battery and ignition system is in top condition and that battery terminals are clean
 - Check radiator coolant and sturdiness of hoses and belts
 - Check your anti-freeze and thermostat to avoid freezing
 - Check your windshield wipers and deicing washer fluid
 - Check your headlights, tail and brake lights, blinkers and emergency flasher
 - Check your exhaust system, heater and defroster
 - Check fuel and air filters
 - Check your oil and power steering fluids
 - Properly lubricate door locks that may be prone to freezing
 - Drive Safely!
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- Before beginning a trip, check the current road conditions and weather forecast.
 - Keep your car's windows, mirrors and lights clear of snow and ice
 - Buckle up
 - Allow yourself plenty of time to make it to your destination
 - Be aware of sleet and freezing rain and potentially icy areas
 - Brake early and slowly and avoid slamming on the brakes
 - Keep a safe distance of at least five seconds behind other vehicles and trucks that are plowing the road
 - When driving on ice and snow, do not use cruise control and avoid abrupt steering maneuvers
 - When merging into traffic, take it slow — Sudden movements can cause your vehicle to slide
 - Don't pass a snowplow or spreader unless it is absolutely necessary — treat these as you would emergency response vehicles
 - Keep an emergency winter driving kit in your car
 - Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season. This keeps the fuel line from freezing.