



# Is Your Car Ready for Winter?

The season for snow and ice, slipping and sliding, and traffic accidents is quickly approaching. But you don't have to be a victim of the leading cause of death during winter storms. You can reduce your risk of an accident by preparing your vehicle for the winter season, learning how to react if you are driving in slippery conditions, and knowing what to do if you are stranded or lost on the road. Here are some tips that can help.

## *Before the Winter Flurries*

### Check the following items in your car:

"	Battery	"	Antifreeze
"	Oil level	"	Wipers and windshield washer fluid
"	Brakes	"	Ignition system
"	Heater	"	Defroster
"	Thermostat	"	Flashing hazard lights
"	Lights	"	Exhaust system

## *Before You Hit the Road*

### Install good winter tires.

Make sure the tires have adequate tread. All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some areas require that vehicles be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs to drive on their roads. For more information on the chain law visit [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com).

### Keep a windshield scraper and small broom handy for ice and snow removal.

Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.

**Plan long trips carefully.** Listen to the radio or call 800.977.ODOT (6368). for the latest road conditions. To check road conditions on-line: Oregon roads [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com) or [www.usroadconditions.com](http://www.usroadconditions.com). Always travel during daylight and, if possible, take at least one other person.

**Dress warmly.** Wear layers of loose-fitting, layered, lightweight clothing.

**Carry food and water.** Store a supply of high energy "munchies" and several bottles of water.



## Emergency Management

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# Winter Car Kit

Be prepared for the unexpected emergency. . . Keep these items in your car:

## *Must Haves*

- Windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal



- Flashlights with extra batteries
- First aid kit with pocket knife
- Necessary medications
- Several blankets
- Matches and a lighter



- Extra set of mittens, socks, and a wool cap
- Small sack of sand for generating traction under wheels



- Small shovel
- Booster / Jumper cables
- Brightly colored cloth to use as a flag
- Canned fruit and nuts (choose ones with pull tabs or screw on caps)
- Non-electric can opener
- Bottled water

## *Other Useful Items*

- A cell phone to call for help
- Rain gear and extra clothes



- Small tools (pliers, wrench, screwdriver)
- Sleeping bags
- Extra newspapers for insulation
- Plastic bags (for sanitation)
- Set of tire chains or traction mats
- Cards, games, and puzzles

*A message from your friends at:*

**Umatilla County Emergency Management**