

Getting Your Vehicle Ready For Winter Car Care Tips Prepare You for Fall & Winter Driving

It's foolhardy to head out in a poorly maintained vehicle in the dead of winter, of course, but even vehicle owners in light temperate zones need a car care check as the days grow Shorter.



ENGINE PERFORMANCE

hard starts, rough idling, stalling, diminished power, etc. — Have these diagnosed and if possible Get these corrected at a reputable repair shop that employs certified repair professionals. Cold weather makes existing problems worse



REPLACE DIRTY FILTERS

such as air, fuel, and PCV. A poorly running engine is less efficient and burns more gasoline.



OIL

Change your oil and oil filter as specified in your manual more often (every 3,000 miles) if you make frequent short jaunts, extended trips with lots of luggage, or tow a trailer.



WORN TIRE'S ARE DANGEROUS IN WINTER WEATHER

Examine tires for remaining tread life, uneven wearing, and cupping; check the sidewalls for cuts and nicks. Check tire pressure once a month, letting the tires "cool down" before checking the pressure. Rotate as recommended. Don't forget to check your spare, and be sure the jack is in good working condition.



fuel

As the temperature drops below freezing, add a bottle of fuel de-icer in your tank once a month to help keep moisture from freezing in the fuel line. Keeping the gas tank filled also helps prevent moisture from forming.



REPLACE OLD BLADES REGULARLY.

If your climate is harsh, purchase rubber-clad (winter) blades to fight ice build-up. Stock up on windshield washer solvent — you'll be surprised how much you use during the winter months. And don't forget to always carry an ice scraper.



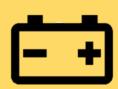
THE COOLING SYSTEM SHOULD BE FLUSHED AND REFILLED;

as recommended The level, condition, and concentration of the coolant should be checked periodically. A 50/50 mix of antifreeze and water is usually recommended. Do-It-Yourselfers: Never remove the radiator cap until the engine has thoroughly cooled! The tightness and condition of drive belts, clamps, and hoses also should be checked by a professional technician.



INSPECT ALL LIGHTS & BULBS

Replace burned out bulbs; periodically clean road grime from all lenses. To prevent scratching, never use a dry rag. Clouded lenses can be refinished by many service outlets or by using a DIY kit found in major auto parts outlets.



HAVE YOUR BATTERY CHECKED

The only accurate way to detect a weak battery is with professional equipment. However, most motorists can perform routine care: Scrape away corrosion from posts and cable connections; clean all surfaces; retighten all connections. If battery caps are removable, check fluid level monthly. Avoid contact with corrosive deposits and battery acid. Wear eye protection and rubber gloves.



HAVE YOUR BRAKES CHECKED PERIODICALLY;

For safety, And to prevent costly repairs that can be caused by neglect



THE TRANSMISSION IS OFTEN NEGLECTED UNTIL A MAJOR FAILURE

Routine checks and fluid changes at the recommended intervals can prevent very costly repairs down the line.



ALWAYS CARRY AN EMERGENCY KIT WITH YOU:

Extra gloves, Boots and blankets; a small shovel & sand or kitty litter A Flashlight and extra batteries; extra phone charger. It is also a good idea to put a few "high energy" snacks in your glove box