Winter Driving.
BEING PREPARED TO WEATHER THE COLD SEASON

What Can I Do?

Prepare
Remove any ice and snow from windshield, windows, and mirrors.

Aware
Be aware that as ice melts, conditions can become slippery.

Operation
Make turns as gently as possible. Do not brake jarred more than necessary.

Speed
Slow down. Drive slowly and smoothly. If road is slippery, don’t drive. Stop at first safe place.

Starting
Start gently. Get the feel of the road.

Winterize Your Car
- Antifreeze levels - ensure they are sufficient to avoid freezing.
- Battery and 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.
- Fuel and air filters - replace and keep water out of the system by using additives and maintaining a full tank of gas to prevent freezing.
- Gas - keep gas tank full to avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Heater and defroster - ensure they work properly.
- Lights and 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.
- Tires - check tire tread or, if necessary, replace tires with all-weather or snow tires.
- Windshield wiper equipment - repair any problems and use a wintertime formula in your windshield washer.

Emergency Kit
- shovel
- windshield scraper
- small broom
- flashlight
- booster cables
- flares
- tire pump
- bag of sand or cat litter (for traction)
- compass and maps
- battery powered radio
- extra batteries
- plastic bags (for sanitation)

- water
- snack food
- matches
- extra hats, socks and mittens
- first aid kit with pocket knife
- necessary medications
- blanket(s)
- tow chain or rope
- road salt and sand
- booster cables
- emergency flares
- fluorescent distress flag

Traveling in Weather
- Be aware of current and forecast weather conditions at all points of your journey.
- Avoid traveling when the weather service has issued advisories.
- Inform a friend or relative of your proposed route and expected time of arrival.

If Stranded
- Stay with your car unless safety is no more than 100 yards away, but continue to move arms and legs.
- Stay visible by putting bright cloth on the antenna, turning on the inside overhead light (when engine is running), and raising the hood when snow stops falling.
- Run the engine and heater only 10 minutes every hour.
- Keep a downwind window open.
- Make sure the tailpipe is not blocked.

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