

- Prepare Your Car for Winter
- Before Driving
- How to Avoid a Crash
- Know Your Car's Capabilities

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER DRIVING

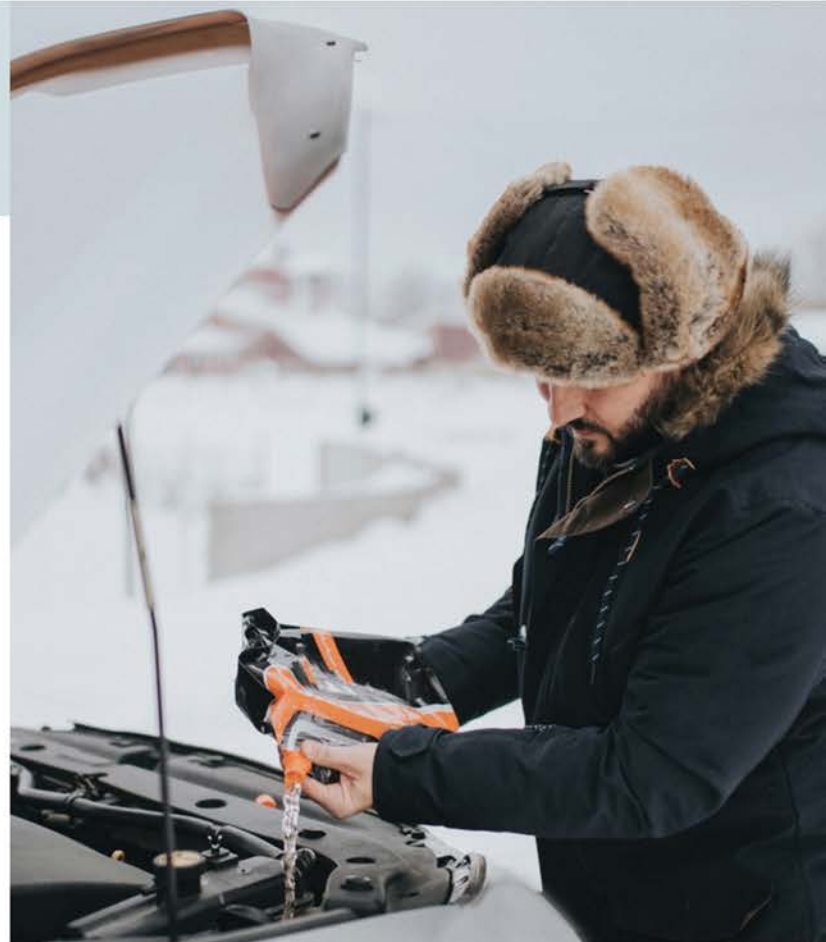
HAZARDS AND TIPS FOR PREVENTION

OBJECTIVE Driving in winter can be harrowing, especially in snowstorms and icy conditions. By preparing your car for winter and using some simple tips to drive safely, you can face almost any weather.

PREPARE YOUR CAR FOR WINTER

In addition to annual maintenance, here are some tips to winterize your car:

- Test your battery, as battery power drops as the temperature drops.
- Make sure the cooling system is in good working order and you have the right mix of antifreeze in your car's system.
- Have winter tires with a deeper, more flexible tread put on your car.
- If using all-season tires, check the tread on your tires (including your spare tire) and replace if less than 1/16 of an inch.
- Make sure each tire is filled to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure: tire pressure drops as the temperature drops.





- Check your wiper blades and replace if needed.
- Add wiper fluid rated for -30F degrees.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze.
- Remember to keep your car's emergency preparedness kit fully stocked and add extra blankets if necessary.

BEFORE YOU START OUT

- Clean your car's external camera lenses and side view mirrors.
- Remove dirt, ice, and snow from sensors to ensure assistive-driving features work, such as your car's automatic emergency braking.
- In frigid weather, you may want to warm up the car before you drive it.
- To prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, never leave a vehicle running in your garage—even with the garage door up.
- If the forecast looks iffy, wait out the storm if possible.
- If you must travel, share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave.

HOW TO AVOID A CRASH

- Avoid using cruise control in wintry conditions.
- Steer in the direction of a skid, so when your wheels regain traction, you don't have to overcorrect to stay in your lane.
- Accelerate and decelerate slowly.
- Do not text or drive distracted.
- Obey posted speed limits.
- Do not drive under the influence. Not only is it illegal, but alcohol and drugs can impair safe and responsible driving.
- Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds.
- If possible, don't stop when going uphill.

If visibility is severely limited, pull completely off the road to a safe place and do not drive until conditions improve. Avoid pulling off onto the shoulder unless it is an emergency. Limited visibility means other vehicles might not see your vehicle on the shoulder.





KNOW YOUR CAR'S CAPABILITIES

My Car Does What? is a national campaign to help educate drivers about the safety features built into vehicles. **Search for your car** and find out what safety features are already built in.

Traction control is standard on most new vehicles. It helps your vehicle gain traction on snowy, icy, or wet surfaces, particularly when accelerating from a stopped or slowed position.

Anti-lock braking system (ABS) helps you steer in emergencies by restoring traction to your tires and is also standard on most new vehicles.

Remember, you are your car's best safety feature. Take precautions to ensure you arrive safely at your destination. If you become stranded in an unfamiliar area, do not leave your car. Light flares in front and behind the car and make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow or mud.

For additional information, please contact your California Schools Risk Manager.

RESOURCES

National Safety Council California

Highway Patrol

My Car Does What?



This California Schools JPA fact sheet is not intended to be exhaustive. The discussion and best practices suggested herein should not be regarded as legal advice. Readers should pursue legal counsel or contact their insurance providers to gain more exhaustive advice.

