


Winter Car Care Tips

Be prepared for winter driving conditions when the mercury drops and you reluctantly have to leave your cozy fireplace. Check out these winter car care tips to keep your vehicle in top condition and you and your passengers safe.

Winter car care tips:

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- A stylized white snowflake icon on a dark teal background.
- 1. Check lights
 - 2. Maintain car battery
 - 3. Check coolant
 - 4. Fill up on fuel and washer fluid
 - 5. Inspect tires
 - 6. Test defroster and heater
 - 7. Protect wipers
 - 8. Give your car a protective layer
 - 9. Pack a safety kit

1 Check lights

The shorter and frequently overcast days of winter means more driving at night or during low-light conditions. To make your winter commutes safer, make sure your lights are up for the job. Replace any bulbs that are out before winter hits. Brush away snow covering headlights and taillights before driving anywhere. Finally, if your headlights are yellow or foggy, consider replacing them, or ask your service advisor about BG's Headlight Restoration Service.

2 Maintain car battery

Cold temperatures add stress on your car's battery. As a result, a weak battery can become a dead battery in a hurry. Have your battery tested with a voltmeter before winter starts; if it is below 12 volts, consider replacing it.

3 Check engine coolant

Engine coolant, also called antifreeze, does just what the name suggests. It keeps the engine from freezing when temperatures drop, so it's pretty important. Make sure your car isn't low on coolant before it gets cold.

Many automotive technicians recommend a 50/50 mix of coolant and water. Check with your trusted technician and consider a coolant fluid exchange for added protection.

4 Fill up on fuel and washer fluid

While these two don't seem related, you sure don't want to be caught low on either when winter weather turns bad. A full tank of fuel can

keep you warm longer if you get stuck in the snow. Messy roads can cover your windshield with grime fast. Keep your view as clear as possible by keeping the washer fluid reservoir full.

5 Inspect tires

Make sure your tire tread and air pressure are adequate before hitting the road this winter. If snow and ice are common where you live, consider snow tires. Likewise, a set of snow chains in your trunk may be a good idea, too.

6 Test defroster and heater

These two components are critical to ensuring your comfort and safety during winter driving. Test both as fall draws to a close and have repairs made before it becomes an emergency.

7 Protect windshield wipers

When parking outdoors and expecting sleet, snow, or ice, leave wipers in a raised position to prevent freezing to the windshield. Also, invest in a good windshield scraper instead of using the wipers to clear snow and ice from your windshield.

8 Give your car a protective layer

Many people wear an extra layer in the winter months, why not give your car one, too? A coat of polymer wax can provide an extra barrier from harsh, salty road grime. Rinse away buildup after winter storms with a car wash and don't forget wheels, wheel wells, and undercarriage.

9 Pack a safety kit

Hope for the best, prepare for the worst. It may sound unnecessary to urban drivers, but even drivers in major cities have been stranded on roadways during winter storms. Here are a few items we recommend for your vehicle safety kit:

- Blanket
- First-aid kit with flares
- Multi-tool that includes a knife
- Flashlight and spare batteries
- Small shovel
- Sand or cat litter for traction when stuck
- Jumper cables

This list is meant to be a helpful guideline.

Print this list and talk with your local BG shop to make sure you are prepared for winter driving hazards. Your service advisor can help with vehicle-specific recommendations.