



FREE
EBOOK

PREPARING YOUR CAR FOR WINTER



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With winter just around the corner, drivers may find themselves wanting to get their car ready for oncoming snow. By doing so, you may find yourself feeling more confident when Jack Frost blows his winter winds or when Mother Nature covers us with a white blanket of snow. In addition to confidence, preparing your car for winter is a great way to help keep you going all season long.

In this eBook, we'll cover the following topics:

- Winter-ready maintenance
- Winter kits
- Winter tips
- Acura winter-ready features

Let's take a closer look at how to properly prepare your car for winter one section at a time.



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Winter Maintenance

Preparing your car for the months that lie ahead starts with assessing several individual aspects of your car. Doing a thorough once-over of your vehicle is a fast and easy way to see what parts are already ready for winter and which may need a little extra help.

We especially recommend performing a visual check on the following parts:

- Tires
- Windshield/wiper blades
- Fluid levels
- Battery



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Tires

Maintaining your tires goes beyond making sure your tire pressure is correct. While this is a necessary step of preparing your car, you'll also want to check your tires for signs of wear. Both low tire pressure and signs of tire wear can drastically reduce the grip your tires get, especially during snowy, rainy, or icy conditions.

To see what your vehicle's tire pressure should be, refer to your owner's manual.

To check for tire wear, all you need is a penny and one of your tires. Insert Lincoln's head upside down and facing you into your tire's tread grooves. If after inserting the penny you can see all of Lincoln's head, it's time to get new tires.

Improper tire pressure and any sign of tire wear can lead to potentially dangerous driving conditions.

Windshield

Doing a quick examination to check for cracks or chips in your windshield is important because any issues with your windshield could get worse throughout the cold months. In addition, you'll want to make sure your windshield wiper fluid reservoir is filled.

You can even switch to a winter-friendly windshield wiper fluid. These fluids are designed to handle the cold temperatures. With the winter-friendly washer fluid, the chances of the liquid freezing in the cold is far lower.



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Wiper Blades

Sure, you have that ice scraper in your car to help clear any overnight snow that piled up on your windshield, but on those days that the snow continues or turns to rain, you'll need refined wiper blades to keep your field of vision clear.

Did you know that your wiper blades should be replaced every six to 12 months? Staying up to date with these wiper blade replacements will further maximize your field of vision.

In addition to changing your old wiper blades if necessary, you could also invest in winter-specific wiper blades. Traditionally, there are small gaps between the rubber that clears your windshield and the metal components of regular blades.

Instead, the winter wiper blades are a singular piece of metal and rubber, so no snow or ice can build up in these gaps. The benefit of using winter blades is fewer streaks or missed sections after the blades clear your windshield.



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Fluid Levels

In addition to checking your windshield wiper fluid levels, you'll also want to check the coolant levels of your engine. This practice prevents your engine from freezing up during the cold months. If you plan on doing any driving during the winter, you'll want to prevent your engine from freezing!

Using an engine coolant kit, you can quickly and easily check your engine's coolant levels at home. However, it's not a bad idea to have a mechanic check this for you. Throughout the winter months, you'll also want to keep your gas tank as full as possible. It's estimated that during the winter months, fuel efficiency can drop considerably, making it possible to run out of gas much easier.



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Battery

Having a happy and healthy car battery is another important part of keeping your car running throughout the winter months. In addition to checking your battery's condition and ability to hold a charge, you'll also want to make sure the posts and connections are corrosion-free.



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Winter Car Emergency Kits

Even if you follow all of the steps for prepping your car for winter, you may still find yourself facing the harsh conditions of the season. In situations where driving is no longer safe or you're unable to continue driving for other reasons, you'll want to make sure you have plenty of emergency supplies on hand.

These kits are available for purchase online, but you could also make a DIY kit with all of the same essentials:

- Extra gloves, hats, and warm clothes
- Ice scraper
- Small shovel
- First-aid kit
- Flashlights and flares
- Non-perishables foods
- Bag of sand, non-clumping kitty litter, or other abrasive materials to help with traction

Keeping these items in your car all winter long can be invaluable in a pinch. Even if you never have to use them, they can create peace of mind when driving in harsh conditions.



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Winter Driving Tips and Tricks

After preparing your car for winter weather, you'll want to use best practices all season long when it comes to driving. Using these winter-friendly tips and tricks can make tackling the slick or snow-covered streets even easier.

Keep Your Car Warm

No, keeping your car warm doesn't mean letting it run for five or 10 minutes before driving. What you can do is keep your car parked in a warmer location, such as a garage, if possible. By doing so, you'll increase the initial temperature of your vehicle prior to starting it.

By keeping your car away from direct exposure to the winter weather, you can potentially retain or improve your car's fuel efficiency. Think about it: If you're letting your car run for five or 10 minutes every time before you go for a drive for several months, your engine is under additional strain, which results in a possible drop in fuel economy.

If you're looking to improve your vehicle's fuel efficiency in the winter, follow these tips:

- Don't let your car run prior to traveling.
- Combine shorter trips into a single drive.
- Turn off defrosters and seat warmers, if possible.



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Consider Snow Tires

When the snow starts falling and the streets start glistening with ice, you'll thank yourself for investing in snow tires. With these winter-specific tires equipped to your vehicle, you'll have extra traction to help keep you moving.

These tires have specially designed tread rubber, tread depth, tread pattern, and biting edges to help keep you safe. The flexible rubber, deeper treads, and thousands of slits along the tread all work in tandem to provide the maximum traction possible in snowy or icy conditions.

Keep Your Car Clean

After a snowfall, no matter how big, you'll need to clean your car off. Removing snow and ice from your car windows is important for visibility, but it's also a safety precaution for other drivers on the road.

By failing to remove snow and ice from your vehicle, you're reducing the visibility of drivers behind you. The mountain of snow stacked on the roof of your vehicle will add extra inches in height. If there are drivers behind you, it'll be difficult for them to see what lies ahead, such as changes in traffic lights.

Not removing the snow from your vehicle can also cause potential hazards on the road. When driving, this snow can blow off and create a second round of snowfall. It is also possible for this snow to become dislodged from its location on your vehicle and blow off in chunks. If this happens, it's possible for the driver behind you to become temporarily blinded or shatter their windshield.

In addition to keeping your car free from snow and ice after a snowfall, you'll also want to keep the body of your car clean with a thorough wash throughout the winter months. Snow and the buildup of road salt could lead to rust.

Road salt works by lowering the freezing point of water, which helps turn ice into water. Sure, this is great for safe winter driving, but it isn't so great for the underside of your vehicle. This slush of snow, water, and road salt gets kicked up by your vehicle's wheels and other vehicles' wheels and finds a new home underneath your car—possibly leading to damaging rust and corrosion.

Rust on the underside of your car can do harm to your vehicle's muffler, coil springs, and the general frame. Washing your car throughout the winter can help reduce the risk of these long-term issues.



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Don't Forget the Inside

You may want to invest in winter-friendly car mats for your floor. These easy-to-clean mats will trap any snow you bring in on your shoes. Not only does this make for easy cleanup, but you don't have to worry about ruining the interior of your car!



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Acura Winter Features

When it comes to preparing your car for winter, you may find that you still want more features to keep you comfortable. Thankfully, Acura offers many features to help keep you warm and cozy all winter long.

Let's check out two capable Acura vehicles and see what they have to offer.

Acura RDX

The Acura RDX comes standard with the Integrated Dynamics System (IDS). This system provides drivers with four selectable drive modes: Comfort, Snow, Sport, and Sport+.

The Snow mode of this system works to systematically provide the right amount of power distribution to each wheel in order to help maintain control of your Acura RDX.

Additionally, the RDX comes with many interior winter amenities, which includes:

- Standard heated side mirrors
- Standard heated front seats
- Standard Dual-Zone Automatic Climate Control with Humidity Control and Air Filtration
- Available heated rear seats
- Available AWD system



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Acura MDX

The available Advance Package offered with the Acura MDX can take your winter experience to the next level. Some of the winter-friendly features available with this package include:

- Tri-Zone Automatic Climate Control with Humidity Control and Air Filtration
- Heated and ventilated front seats
- Heated rear seats
- Heated steering wheel
- Available AWD system

Tackle Winter Roads with Ease

With the help of this *Preparing Your Car for Winter* eBook, hopefully you feel a little more prepared to take on the winter months behind the wheel of your vehicle. After all, the world was made to be explored. Don't let winter prevent you from doing so!

