

Winter Driving Safety Tips

With the winter season approaching, [Advantage Firearms Education & Training](http://AdvantageFirearmsEducation.com) is providing automobile safety tips aimed to prevent you from becoming the victim of a crime this holiday season.

- ⦿ **See Clearly.** Your wipers work overtime in winter months since windshields become dirty very quickly when sand, brine, salt and other chemicals are used to treat slippery roads. Inspect your windshield wipers to be sure they're not streaking or skipping so snow, rain and dirt can be wiped off easily. Just like you change the batteries in your smoke detectors, this is a good time to change those wiper blades to make certain you have good rubber protecting your vision. Be sure to check (and re-check periodically) the amount of windshield wiper fluid you have in your car. Running out can create a very dangerous driving situation in foul weather. Visibility is crucial to safety. Lastly, be sure you keep an ice scraper in your car to clear all windows of ice and snow before getting on your way. Remember, you are responsible not only to see out of your vehicle from every angle, but also for clearing all snow from your vehicle so that it does not become airborne and strikes another vehicle as you drive.

- ⦿ **Check Your Battery.** There isn't a worse feeling than turning the key in your car and the engine does not crank! Be sure to test your battery today before the cold temperatures take over. Perform a battery service: clean the terminals and **get your battery load tested** so you can detect damage and comprehensively inspect (or replace) your battery to be sure it's ready to tackle the frigid temperatures of winter.

- ⦿ **Tire Pressure and Tread.** Slippery road conditions are treacherous and low tire pressure or worn treads can quickly turn a difficult situation into a dangerous one. Make sure your tires are properly inflated, per your owner's manual or door sticker. Seasonal temperature changes adversely affect tire pressure. You should check your tire pressure at least monthly. Proper tire pressure will also help your fuel mileage. A quick test for tire treads is putting a penny in the tread and if you can always see the top of Lincoln's head, your tires are worn and you should consider replacing them. You may want to consider investing in snow tires if snow frequently falls in your area. Snow tires provide additional traction to keep you safe on the road.

Check Your Fluids. Be sure that you have done a thorough check of your car's fluids — coolant and oil.

- ⊙ Your antifreeze should be flushed every 24 months. Your local auto repair shop can perform a quick check to make sure your antifreeze still provides adequate protection. Remember antifreeze also performs a cooling function in the hot weather!
- ⊙ Keep the windshield washer fluid reservoir topped off, keep the jug in the back of your vehicle.
- ⊙ Hopefully you keep your oil changed every 3000 miles or as prescribed by the oil monitor computer in your vehicle, if equipped. The type of oil you use will be specified in your owner's manual. This is probably the single most important part of auto maintenance, ensuring the longevity of your engine, since oil is the life-blood of the engine.
- ⊙ Don't overlook your fuel! Always keep your fuel tank above half on the gauge. Most vehicles today have the fuel pump inside the fuel tank. The fuel pump needs to be fully submerged to keep it cooled. When you get below half tank, your pump prematurely wears. In winter, the weight of the fuel also helps keep your vehicle from skidding, as well as keeping the car running in case you are stranded on the road.
- ⊙ **Emergency Kit.** Emergencies rarely occur at convenient times so you have to be prepared! When queried, most people feel they aren't adequately prepared for an emergency situation. Keep your gas tank full, phone battery charged and consider storing these items in your car to address the long list of things that could cause you to break down in the winter.

- Flashlight
- Blankets and bottled water
- Hat, gloves, extra coat
- First Aid Kit
- Flares/safety beacon
- Tire changing tools / spare tire
- Shovel
- Jumper pack
- Ice Scraper
- Washer Fluid (Winter Mix)
- Sand/cat litter for traction

These tips are critical for the winter season, but they are appropriate all year long. For the New Year and beyond, protect yourself and your family by signing up for a Personal Safety class. You'll learn more tips like these, how to protect yourself and essential personal protection techniques! Register for a class online at www.AdvantageFET.com. Merry Christmas and happy holidays from the **Advantage** team!

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#ChristmasShopping



#ChristmasSafetyTips
#AutoSafety