

**ALLOW FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS** Watch for road maintenance crews. They're working for you to keep roads clear of flooding, snow and/or landslide debris. Give roadside crews a wide berth as you pass them. Keep your distance behind snowplows and road sanding trucks because sand aggregate thrown up by the vehicles' wheels can damage windshields and vehicles if you're following too closely.

## DRIVEWISE.... WINTERIZE!!

**BE PREPARED** Ensure your vehicle is properly equipped and tuned for colder temperatures and slippery roads.

**CHECK YOUR TIRES** When the rubber meets the road will it hold its grip on black ice, snow and slush?

**ANTICIPATE POOR DRIVING CONDITIONS** Be ready to steer through them safely. Give yourself extra time to get to your destination.

**UPDATED ROAD REPORTS** Are available through your local newspaper, radio road reports and the weather information channel on cable television or check [www.drivebc.ca](http://www.drivebc.ca)

For additional driving tips visit [www.icbc.com](http://www.icbc.com)



# DRIVE WISE....



# WINTERIZE!!

Winter weather places extra demands on you, your driving skills and your vehicle's performance. You can handle changing road and weather conditions by anticipating and preparing for them.

## BE PREPARED

Before winter arrives, take your vehicle to a reputable garage for a thorough tune-up and inspection:

**BRAKES** Ensure your brakes are properly adjusted to prevent pulling to one side in a skid. Check for wear on the linings or pads.

**TIRES** Check all tires for ample tread and the right pressure. Never mix radials and non-radials. If you live in a snow belt region change to snow tires. All 4 tires must be snow tires. Studded tires may be used between Oct. 1 and Apr. 30.

**ENGINE OIL** Switch to a lightweight, multi-grade oil. Heavy oil thickens in cold weather, making it harder for the engine to turn over.

**COOLING SYSTEM** Anti-freeze should be renewed every two years. Check the level and the tolerance of all fluids in your vehicle.

**WINDSHIELD WIPERS** Make sure the sweep of your windshield wiper blades clears off rain, sleet and snow without leaving streaks or smears which will reduce your visibility. Add windshield washer anti-freeze to the washer fluid.

**EXHAUST SYSTEM** Check the muffler and exhaust system for carbon monoxide leaks to prevent gas poisoning.

**LIGHTS** Make sure all vehicle lights are working and that headlights are correctly aimed.

**BATTERY** Battery power decreases in cold weather. Test your battery to ensure it is reliable. Clean and grease the terminals to prevent corrosion.

**HOSE, BELTS AND WIRING** Check all hoses for leaks and belts and wiring for signs of wear.

## WINTER EMERGENCY KIT

Take the added precaution of developing your own vehicle winter emergency kit. The basics should include:

- \* Road maps
- \* Scraper and brush
- \* Shovel
- \* Booster cables
- \* Sand, salt or kitty litter
- \* Traction pads, chains/cable chains or pieces of old carpeting
- \* First aid kit
- \* Flashlight, matches and a candle
- \* Extra vehicle supplies like fuses, belts and hoses
- \* Tools
- \* Road flares or reflectors
- \* Extra clothing, footwear and blankets
- \* Drinking cup
- \* Non-perishable, high energy snacks
- \* Names and addresses of people to call in an emergency

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

- \* Check the weather forecast and road conditions.
- \* Take warm clothes for the weather, not the in-vehicle temperature.
- \* If you are going on a trip, notify people at both ends of your route and your estimated times of departure and arrival.
- \* Clean ice and snow off all windows, exterior lights, vents, hood and roof to maximize visibility.
- \* If necessary, clear a path for the wheels. Straighten your front wheels and ease out. If the wheels begin to spin, ease up on the accelerator until traction returns.
- \* Run the heater and defroster and open the window a crack to prevent windshield fogging.
- \* Ensure your gas tank is at least half-full at all times.

## ON THE ROAD

**INCREASE YOUR FOLLOWING DISTANCE** It takes much longer to stop on a slippery road. Increase your usual following distance by up to six times on icy surfaces.

**SLOW DOWN** Decrease your speed when you're unsure of the road condition and/or visibility is poor. Your slower speed gives you more time to correctly react to road hazards or emergency situations.

**SEE AND BE SEEN** Drive with headlights on at all times. Clean your windows and exterior lights often. In a snowfall, use low beams.

**BRAKING** Apply the brakes gradually and gently—pressing the brakes to the point just before they lock up. If they start to lock up you will lose steering control. Ease up slightly on the brakes—don't pump them.

**AVOID HYDROPLANING** If there is too much water on the road and you are traveling too fast for conditions, your vehicle may lose road contact and ride on top of the water. Slow down to regain traction.

**STEERING OUT OF A SKID** If you start to skid, take your foot off the accelerator. Don't brake. Look and gently steer the vehicle in the direction you want to go. When you feel the vehicle regaining traction, straighten the wheels.

**IF YOU GET STUCK** Clear away snow from around the tires and spread sand or rock salt for traction. Gently rock the vehicle back and forth, shifting quickly from forward to reverse, gradually increasing the distance traveled with each rock. Check your vehicle owner's manual before rocking the vehicle.

**IF YOU ARE STRANDED** If your vehicle breaks down or you're stranded due to a blizzard or very cold weather:

- \* Call for assistance if you have a cellular phone and you're in an area with cellular coverage.
- \* Stay with your vehicle. Tie a cloth or piece of clothing to the aerial to attract attention of roadside patrols.
- \* Ensure the tailpipe is clear to prevent carbon monoxide build-up inside the vehicle.
- \* Wrap yourself in warm clothing and light the candle from your emergency kit.
- \* Open a window a crack to allow fresh air in and prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- \* Run the motor no more than ten minutes each hour to conserve fuel.