



WINTER CAR CARE CHECKLIST

- FLUIDS**

Check all fluid levels under the hood including transmission, brake, power steering, and windshield washer fluids. Top them off with the recommended fluid if they are low to prevent damage from inadequate lubrication or freezing.
- WASHER FLUID**

Fill the windshield washer fluid reservoir with a winter cleaning formula containing antifreeze to prevent icing in low temperatures.
- WINDSHIELD WIPERS**

Carefully inspect the full sweep of the windshield for streaks or missed spots when using the wipers. Replace any wiper blades that leave gaps or skip areas after wiping. In regions with frequent snowfall, install special winter blades that fully encapsulate the blade assembly to prevent snow and ice buildup from impeding contact with the glass.
- BATTERY**

Schedule an appointment with a certified technician to completely inspect the battery and charging system. Replace old batteries that are no longer holding a proper charge. Clean corrosion off battery terminals and tighten cable connections to ensure good electrical contact.
- TIRES**

Install a full set of high-quality snow tires on all four wheels to maximize winter traction in areas with heavy snow. All-season tires can work well in light snow if the tread depth is 3/32 of an inch or greater. Frequently check and fill tire pressure as outside temperatures drop. Promptly replace any unevenly worn tires, which can indicate suspension, wheel balance, or alignment issues.
- COOLANT**

When the engine is completely cooled down, check the coolant level in the overflow tank and add the appropriate 50/50 mixture of coolant and distilled water as needed to reach the full line. Test the antifreeze protection level annually with an inexpensive tester available at any auto parts store.
- HOSES**

Thoroughly inspect all cooling system hoses and heater hoses for tiny leaks, cracks, brittleness, or sponginess when squeezed. Also check clamps are tight enough to prevent leaks. Replace any hose that is damaged or deteriorated.
- DRIVE BELTS**

Carefully examine the underside of all accessory drive belts for cracks, fraying, or other signs of wear. Many modern serpentine belts made of long-lasting materials still require replacement around 60,000 miles.
- BRAKES**

Have your brake system thoroughly evaluated by a certified professional if you notice any issues like noises, vibration, pulling, pulsation, or increased stopping distance. Catching problems early can prevent more extensive repairs later on.
- EMERGENCY SUPPLIES**

Prepare a winter emergency kit with a phone charger, drinking water, non-perishable snacks, first aid supplies, traction aids like sand or mats, an ice scraper, snow brush, warm blankets, extra gloves and hats, a flashlight, towels, and other essential items.
- AIR FILTER**

Check the engine air filter by holding it up to a bright 60-watt light bulb. If light passes through much of the filter, it is still in acceptable condition. Replace filters that are so dirty that most of the light is blocked.
- LIGHTS**

Methodically check the operation of all exterior lights including headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers, and reverse lights. Replace any burnt out or dim bulbs to ensure full visibility.
- PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE**

Find reliable certified mechanics that meet high standards for training, quality, and service. Consult a professional for any maintenance needs beyond your technical capability.