



WINTER DRIVING TIPS

As part of a promotional program to introduce its new line of snow tires, Goodyear recently issued these "10 Tips for Winter Driving." They serve as a good reminder to be copied and distributed to new and veteran fleet drivers alike.

1. When winter weather strikes, SLOW DOWN. Wet, snowy or icy roads offer less traction and make it harder to stop and turn. By slowing down, you give yourself more time and you make it possible for your tires to better use the available grip on the road.
 2. Consider buying a set of winter tires which are specifically designed to offer more traction on snow and ice than conventional all-season tires. It's best to replace all four tires at a time because differences in tire type and size can negatively affect a car's handling and stability.
 3. Use extra care when driving across bridges and overpasses during the winter. Because they are exposed to cold air and winter winds above and below, ice can form on bridges even when the roads on either side are free from ice.
 4. If possible, carry a sack of sand or gravel in the trunk of your car. If your car has rear-wheel drive, the added weight over the drive wheels will improve traction. In addition, the sand or gravel can be used to help get you out if you become stuck.
 5. Because there is less traction available on wet, snowy or icy surfaces, avoid sudden inputs on the steering wheel, brakes or accelerator. Instead, make gradual movements to avoid upsetting the balance of the car. If you feel the car begin to skid, ease off the gas, steer into the skid and look at where you want the car to go.
 6. Ice and mud can build upon wheels and underneath your car. This could cause your wheels to become unbalanced, which can upset the ride and lead to unnecessary wear on tires and suspension parts. Check the wheels and underside of the vehicle often and wash off any mud or ice as soon as possible.
 7. If you are planning a long winter trip, be sure to pack extra blankets, water and food, just in case you get stranded by the side of the road or in a snow bank. You may also want to include a few chemical heating packs (available at camping or sporting goods stores). If you do get stuck, stay with your vehicle until help arrives.
 8. Before winter sets in, have your cooling system checked. The radiator should contain a 50-50 mix of water and antifreeze. Contrary to popular belief, 100 percent antifreeze is not better at protecting your engine than a 50-50 mix. At the same time, check your coolant and have the hoses, belts and water pump checked for wear or leaks.
 9. Check your tire pressure regularly throughout the winter. Your tires are the only part of your car that actually touches the road. Proper inflation will ensure that your tires have maximum contact with the road. Inflation pressure that is too high or too low can cause unnecessary tire wear and reduce the size of the tire's "footprint" or contact area with the pavement.
 10. In snowy conditions, check to make sure that your car's air intake is free from buildup of snow. Many of today's cars draw most of the air needed for the engine and cooling system from below the radiator. If this intake becomes clogged with snow, your car could over heat, even on a cold winter day.
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