

# IS YOUR VEHICLE WINTER READY?

Winter vehicle preparedness includes a visit to your mechanic, and being ready with the right equipment if you get stuck on the road during the winter.

## Vehicle Safety Checklist

**Check your battery.** As the temperature drops, so does your battery power. This also means more battery power will be used to start your car.

**Make sure all the lights on your vehicle are in working order.** This includes; headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers and interior lights.

**Be sure you have enough coolant** in your vehicle and that the cooling system is in working order.

**Make sure your windshield wipers, rear and front defrosters work,** and that your wiper fluid tank is full.

**Tires deflate when the temperature drops.** Make sure each tire is filled to the manufacturers' recommended inflation pressure.

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## What if I get stuck on the road in the winter?

- Stay with your vehicle and don't over exert yourself.
- Put bright markers on your vehicle's antenna or windows and keep the interior dome light turned on.
- To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, don't run your vehicle for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space. If you must run your vehicle, clear the exhaust pipe of any snow and run it only for short periods of time – just long enough to stay warm.

## KEEP A WELL STOCKED CAR



Water



Cell phone



Flashlight



Radio



Snacks



Blankets



Road salt, cat litter or sand



Shovel and ice scraper



Hazard flags or flares



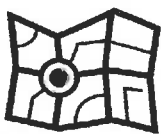
Chains or rope



Coats, hats and mittens



Compressed air



Road maps



Jumper cables



Compass



First Aid Kit



Pocket knife



Batteries

# ON THE ROAD

The harshness of North Country winters makes it important to prepare your vehicle for bad weather or extreme cold. Regular vehicle maintenance can decrease your risk of an accident, vehicle breakdown, or other problem. Every vehicle handles differently. Take time to learn how your vehicle handles under winter weather conditions.

## Driving Tips

**Keep your gas tank full.** A full tank will keep the fuel line from freezing.

**If road conditions are hazardous, avoid driving if possible.** Wait until road and weather conditions improve before venturing out in your vehicle.

**Before driving your vehicle, clear snow, ice, and dirt from the windows, forward sensors, headlights, tail lights, backup camera and other sensors around the vehicle.**

**Drive slowly.** It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface. Give yourself more room between you and the car in front of you to allow plenty of time to stop. **Do not use cruise control.**

**Know whether your vehicle has an anti-lock brake system and learn what to do if your vehicle starts to slide.** Anti-lock brake systems prevent your wheels from locking up.

## Navigating around snow plows

**Don't crowd a snow plow or travel beside it.** Snow plows travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often, overlap lanes and exit the roadway frequently.

**The road behind an active snow plow is safer to drive on.** If you find yourself behind a snow plow, stay put or use caution when passing.

When you are driving behind a slow plow, **don't follow too closely.** A snow plow operator's field-of-vision is limited; if you can't see their mirrors, the driver can't see you. **Materials used to de-ice the road could also hit your vehicle.**

**Snow plows can throw up a cloud of snow that can reduce your visibility to zero in less time than you can react.** Never drive into a snow cloud—it can hide vehicles or other hazards.



## Car Seats

Winter is a tricky time for car seats. As a general rule, bulky clothing, including winter coats and snowsuits, should not be worn underneath the harness of a car seat. To keep your child safe and warm in the car, dress your child in **thin layers** and use a coat or blanket **over the straps**. Don't forget hats, mittens, and socks or booties.



## Check your child's seat!

The Clinton County Sheriff's Office holds **FREE** Child Safety Seat Checks throughout the County.

For more information on this program or to find an upcoming date, call (518) 565-4300 or visit [www.clintoncountygov.com/sheriff](http://www.clintoncountygov.com/sheriff).