



# *Winter* **Car Care** **2024**



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Winter Car Care

# Don't let WINTER SNEAK UP ON YOU!

## Why winter car care matters

Winter can wreak havoc on your car. Here's why a professional tune-up is important for your vehicle at this time of year.

### CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

When temperatures drop below freezing, your car can be affected. Among other potential issues, vehicle fluids can freeze and damage the engine. Plus, if the gas tank is almost empty, condensation can form inside it and affect your car's performance. Furthermore, the battery's capacity to provide power can be obstructed by the cold.

### DE-ICING CHEMICALS

On top of the difficulties caused by frosty temper-

atures, exposing your car to de-icers can be problematic. Road salts in particular are corrosive and can damage your vehicle's exterior components.

### TREACHEROUS ROADWAYS

If your vehicle isn't mechanically sound enough to face winter road conditions, you're

more likely to get into a car accident. Operational brakes are a must, and tires with sufficient tread are just as critical.

Your headlights and tail-lights should also be in good working order. Afterall, the ability to see and be seen on the road, especially in blustery conditions, will help keep you safe. Likewise,

functional windshield wipers will ensure you can see sufficiently during winter storms.

To stay safe on the road this season, make sure your vehicle is professionally inspected and maintained.



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**Winter Car Care** Don't let WINTER SNEAK UP ON YOU!

**8 things to check on your car before winter**



Do you want to ensure you'll stay safe on the road this winter? To guarantee your car is up to the task, here are eight components you should inspect.

- 1. BELTS AND HOSES**  
Make sure there aren't any bulges, cracks or leaks in your belts and hoses. Cold weather will worsen these issues.
- 2. HEADLIGHTS**  
Verify that your headlights work, and replace any burnt-out bulbs. Also, to increase your visibility on the road, consider polishing them.
- 3. BLOCK HEATER**  
Use a multimeter to ensure your block heater is working properly. You should also inspect the power cord and plug for damage.
- 4. ALTERNATOR AND BATTERY**  
Verify that your alternator and battery are in good working condition. Otherwise, you could put undue stress

- on your car's electrical system.
  - 5. WINDSHIELD WIPERS**  
Replace your windshield wipers if they show signs of wear or were purchased more than a year ago. This will maximize their effectiveness.
  - 6. FLOOR MATS**  
Inspect your rubber floor mats for holes and cracks. Replace them if necessary.
  - 7. WINDSHIELD WASHER FLUID**  
Use windshield washer fluid that can withstand winter temperatures. This will prevent it from freezing and damaging the lines.
  - 8. HEATING SYSTEM**  
Check to see if your heating system is working. Also, ensure the defrost function is fully operational.
- For repairs or a professional inspection, bring your vehicle to a local mechanic.



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**Winter Car Care** Don't let WINTER SNEAK UP ON YOU!

**5 criteria for selecting a snow brush**

If your current snow brush has seen better days, or you're buying your first one for a new car, keep these five criteria in mind when shopping for this must have accessory.

**1. SIZE**

If you're short or your vehicle is particularly wide or tall, choose a telescopic snow brush to easily clean hard-to-reach places.

**2. SCRAPER**

Instead of purchasing a separate ice scraper and brush, look for a model with a brush and ice scraper on opposite ends.

**3. BRUSH**

Although effective, bristle brushes can dam-

age your vehicle's paint. Instead, look for a brush with flexible foam strips or a soft squeegee.

**4. HANDLING**

If you choose a telescopic snow brush or one with a rotating end, test it first to ensure the mechanisms won't jam.

**5. STURDINESS**

Winter can be hard on snow brushes, especially in icy conditions. Select a quality model that will last a few winters, so you don't have to replace it prematurely.

To find your new snow brush, visit your local automotive store.



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## 7 winter car care tips

On top of investing in a pre-winter vehicle inspection, it's important to make time for cold-season car care. To prolong your vehicle's lifespan and ensure safe driving, make sure you perform the following tasks.

### 1. WASH YOUR VEHICLE REGULARLY

To remove calcium, prevent corrosion and avoid premature wear and tear, clean your car often.

### 2. USE THE DEFROST FUNCTION

If you remove ice from windshield wiper blades with an ice scraper, it can damage the rubber. Also, you should never pour hot water on your wipers because it may crack your windshield. Instead, use your car's defrost function to melt ice gradually.

### 3. ALLOW THE ENGINE TO WARM UP

To prevent wear and tear on your engine's moving parts in winter, warm up the oil and other lubricants before driving.

### 4. CHECK THE TIRE PRESSURE

Cold temperatures can cause tire pressure to drop, and driving on underinflated tires is a safety hazard. To prevent accidents, keep your tires inflated.

### 5. TOP UP YOUR FUEL TANK

To prevent condensation from forming on the inside of your gas tank when it's cold out, you should keep it relatively full. If moisture makes its way into the fuel lines, you may have trouble starting your car.

### 6. CHECK THE WASHER FLUID

Using your windshield wipers without washer fluid can wear out the rubber or scratch your windshield.



Always keep washer fluid levels high, and keep a spare jug of it in your trunk.

### 7. KEEP YOUR WIPERS DOWN

Lifting your wiper blades off your windshield when your car is parked has more drawbacks than benefits. Over time, it can damage the springs in the wiper arms and make them less effective.

If you're concerned about the condition of your vehicle, make an appointment with your local mechanic.

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