

How to keep yourself and your vehicle safe during the winter months

As the days get colder, it's important to be prepared when planning your journeys in case you break down, become stranded, or encounter an unexpected incident.

Why is it important to be prepared?

The winter months bring unique challenges such as icy roads, reduced visibility and in some cases, severe weather conditions. These factors increase the risk of accidents and delays. By dedicating a few extra minutes each morning to prepare your vehicle, you contribute to safer travel for all.

By following these key tips, you can be prepared for all eventualities during winter travels.



Tyre Tread

Your tyre tread should be at least 3mm, so you should check them regularly. Inspect the whole tyre including the inner and outer crown, looking for uneven wear, embedded objects, tears, cuts or bulges.



Oil Levels

Check and top up your engine oil if needed. Make sure the engine is cool, turned off, and your vehicle is on a level surface. Use your dipstick to see the oil level in relation to min and max marks.



Snow & Ice

By law, you must be able to see out of every glass pane on your vehicle. Make sure you have fully de-iced and removed any snow, this includes the roof of your vehicle.



Windscreen Wash

Remember to top up your windscreen wash with a good quality product. Your windows need to be clear of debris for you to see clearly on the roads.



Engine Coolant

Coolant is essential in winter to prevent freezing and overheating. Regularly check that your coolant is topped up. Many garages offer free winter checks and can do this for you.



Electrics & Lights

Before you drive, remember to check your vehicle lights are in working order. Use reflections to check your brake lights or ask someone to check for you.



Is your journey essential?

Drivers are almost 20% more prone to collisions during the darker winter months. The safest journey is always the one not taken.



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Check if your service is due!

Prior to going into the harsh winter months, it is especially important to check if your vehicle service is due or needs a service.

This is to ensure your vehicle is in a road worthy condition.

- A service typically becomes due every 12,000 miles or every 12 months.
- Check your vehicle's handbook for the manufacturer's recommended service schedule.
- Make sure to book in advance as garage availability may vary.

Snow on your roof?

There is no law stating it is illegal to drive with snow on your roof however it can be hazardous. If it falls off onto your windscreen while driving or flies into the path of another vehicle, you could be penalised for 'driving without due consideration' or 'using a motor vehicle in a dangerous condition' offences.

- Even if you're only making a two-minute journey, thoroughly clean your vehicle of snow, ice or condensation.
- Use a scraper and de-icer - it will save you time.
- When possible, travel on major roads. These are more likely to have been cleared and gritted, offering safer driving in snowy conditions.



Remember to carry the right essentials, just in case:

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| • Ice scraper | • Sunglasses (low winter sun can be blinding and affect visibility) |
| • De-icer spray | • Torch and batteries (preferably wind-up) |
| • Warning triangle | • Mobile phone |
| • Jump leads | • Charging cable |
| • Warm clothing | • In-vehicle phone charger |
| • Blanket, rug or sleeping bag | • Shovel (for snowy conditions) |
| • Sunglasses | • Snacks & water (if you get stranded) |
| • Practical footwear like wellies | |
| • High visibility clothing | |



Find out more

You can find out more about the dangers of driving in snow and ice or find more tips about driving in snow from the [RAC here](#).



Visit our website



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