



Winter Car Care 2019

PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE TODAY!



Five ways to keep rust at bay

It's no secret that road salt is terrible for our cars. It does a great job melting ice and keeping roads safe during the winter, but it's also a major catalyst for rust. Of course, putting your car in storage until the return of warmer days is the best way to keep it safe from winter's harsh effects, but if that isn't an option, here are some ways you can help prevent rust from taking hold in the cold:

1. Have your car professionally rust-

proofed. This is especially recommended if you frequently park indoors. Drastic temperature variations, especially combined with the humid air in garages, provide rust with the perfect environment to thrive.

2. Slow down and keep your distances. It's the best way to minimize contact with road debris (e.g. salt, sand, rocks from other cars). Your

paint job will thank you!

3. Protect the body. Install mud flaps, a grille guard (clean it often to avoid an accumulation of road salt, which could scratch the paint), or clear plastic strips to protect the lower body frame.

4. Wash your car often. It's important to clean your vehicle periodically during the winter — even though the results won't last long! — to get

rid of calcium deposits and other dirt. A dirty car is more likely to rust. Make sure to thoroughly dry everything off, and avoid washing your car when temperatures fall below -10 °C.

5. Apply surface wax. This will protect your paint job, but you'll need to act fast: the procedure requires outdoor temperatures above 10 °C to be successful.

Nine simple steps to get your car ready for winter

The days are getting shorter and it's time to start thinking about getting your car or truck winter-ready. The last thing you want is to be left in the cold while out on the roads. Here are ten easy ways to keep your vehicle running smoothly all winter.

1. Install your winter tires and have their pressure checked (don't forget the spare!)

2. Change oil and replace any dirty filters

3. Fill the radiator with a 50/50 blend of antifreeze and water

4. Make sure your windshield wiper blades are in good condition

5. Fill up on winter-formula washer fluid and keep a spare jug in your trunk

6. Make sure the heater and defroster are working properly

7. Inspect your vehicle's headlights, tail lights and turn signals

8. Check the battery for any signs of buildup

9. Lubricate the locks and buy a lock de-icer

And there you have it: your car or truck is now ready for winter. All that's left to do before you hit the frozen road is to clear the snow off your vehicle!

Pre-winter inspection
Having your car inspect-

ed by a specialist is a great way to make sure its vital components — like the brakes, sparkplugs, suspension and transmission — are in good working order. A

professional will also be able to spot any minor problems and fix them before they require major and costly repairs.

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- Add winter washer fluid
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How to store your summer tires

You are probably very proud of having bought some of the best winter tires on the market for your car or light truck. You know the value of being more careful than sorry, and that is a good way of looking at winter driving. But there is one slight problem: what will you do with the summer tires you have just taken off?

If you are lucky, the tire dealer who has sold you your winter tires will offer a storage service for the summer tire at a reasonable price. You can trust him or her, as most dealers have proper storage space kept at the proper temperature for tires. They also have a good system of

keeping track of the tires so that there is very little chance of someone else driving away with them next spring.

On the other hand, if you plan to store your own tires in your garage or in your backyard shed, there are a few

little things you should know. First of all, your summer tires should be stacked horizontally, one overlapping the other. They should not be stored standing on their treadware. That goes for inflated tires mounted on rims too!

Next, make sure your summer tires are not in a highly heated place or in direct contact with sun rays. Both will harm the rubber. And don't let water reach them, as it might turn into ice and damage the tires. It is not a bad idea to keep them in the bags provided by the tire dealer. Follow these guidelines and your tires ought to still be in good shape next spring!



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Winter Car Care 2019

PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE TODAY!



Are your windshield wipers winter-ready?

You already know how important it is to have the right winter tires installed on your vehicle when the cold weather sets in. But what about your wiper blades? Visibility being of the utmost importance while driving, these vital components are not to be neglected come wintertime.

First off, it's important to know that you should replace your wiper blades every year, and that you shouldn't be using the same blades for all seasons. Thanks to their flexible rubber sleeve, wiper blades made expressly for winter conditions prevent snow and ice from accumulating on your windshield. However, if you leave them on during the summer, sunlight and heat will cause the rubber to deteriorate. Wait until autumn before you install winter wipers. Keeping your summer wipers in

your trunk during the winter is also a good idea — you never know when they might come in handy.

You'll also need to take good care of your wiper blades during the winter. This means defrosting your windshield to free the wipers if they get stuck and removing any ice and snow before you start them — your wipers aren't meant to replace your snowbrush. Be careful not to damage the rubber blade when you clean your windshield, and be on the lookout for any signs of wear and tear.

If your wipers start showing cracks, making noise or leaving streaks behind, replace them as soon as possible.

Worn-out wipers are less effective, can compromise your visibility and can scratch and damage your windshield. Don't forget to measure the length of your wipers before purchasing new ones, and be sure to buy some cold weather washer fluid to help maintain great visibility all winter long.



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