



THE WORLD-
Spectator

Winter Car Care

Ice and Snow - Take it Slow!





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Did you know?

If your car gets stuck on a sheet of ice, kitty litter can come to your rescue! Thanks to its moisture-absorbing properties, litter creates enough traction on the slippery surface for your tires to grip and go.

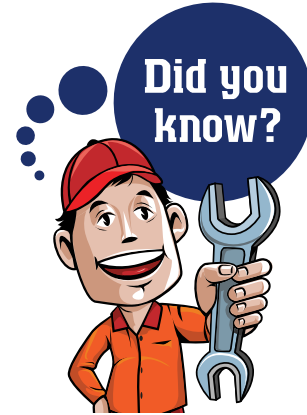
Because cool air is dryer than warm air, turning on your car's air conditioning is a good way to quickly defrost or defog your windows in any season. In fact, most recent cars automatically trigger the A/C when the airflow is directed toward the windshield.

At just 50 km/h, the impact of a crash is comparable to falling from a four-storey building. It also multiplies the weight of everything in the vehicle by at least 20, meaning that a 70-kilogram passenger becomes a 1,400-kilogram projectile. Always fasten your seat belt: it cuts your risk of severe injury and death in half.

If your car starts to skid or hydroplane, slowly steer in the same direction as the skid, but don't look toward it: keep your focus on where you want to be on the road.

Time of day is one of the main risk factors for falling asleep at the wheel. Indeed, nodding off—or coming close to—while driving is more common between midnight and 6 a.m. and between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., as our metabolism tends to slow down during these periods.

Never use your car's cruise control on a road that's slippery, whether due to snow, ice or water. Should your back tires start to skid, the system might try to compensate by accelerating, putting you at risk of losing control of the vehicle.



Winter driving: Five tire safety considerations

Good tires that are adapted to winter conditions as well as your vehicle are essential to stay safe on the road throughout the cold season. Here are five points to consider when it comes time to tire up your car for the winter:

1. Even if there's no snow in the forecast, it's a good idea to install winter tires on your car once temperatures reach around 7 °C. Anything colder than that will have a hardening effect on the rubber of summer tires, thus reducing their traction. Winter tires, on the other hand, are designed to main-

tain optimal flexibility — even on days where the thermometer plummets to -40 °C.

2. Your tires should have a tread depth of at least 4.8mm. If they don't, or if they're almost worn to the limit, replace them without delay.

3. It's essential that all four tires on your car be identical and of the correct size. They should also ideally show roughly the same level of wear. If they don't, install the least-worn tires in the back to maximize your vehicle's stability.

4. There's more than one type of winter tire: some are designed for snowy conditions, while others perform better on ice. Make sure that you choose your tires according to the road conditions you're most likely to encounter.

5. Tire pressure greatly influences your car's abilities when it comes to braking distance and manoeuvrability, among others. Regularly ensure that your tires are inflated according to the manufacturer's recommendations. No more, no less!



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Need help choosing winter tires? Trust the pros

Do you need to buy new winter tires? To ensure they fit your car properly, you'll need to make an informed choice. And who better to guide you than your local automotive professionals?

Here's why.

Selecting the right winter tires for your vehicle can be challenging, especially if you lack automotive expertise. For example, many vehicle owners tend to make blind decisions when choosing winter tires, such as opting for the model that's on sale. Making the wrong choice can lead to increased safety risks on the highway.

Winter tires are designed for use during the cold season, but some are specially designed for

driving in specific winter road conditions. For example, snow tires are more suited to snow-covered surfaces, and ice tires are designed to handle icy roads.

What's more, some models have features that allow for easier handling around corners. If you regularly drive on winding roads, this factor could sway your decision towards a particular product.

It's also essential to know the tire size recommended by your vehicle's manufacturer.

A professional can easily get this information and recommend tire models that are an ideal fit for your car.

Get expert advice! Visit a tire retailer for the best and most personalized advice

on your options. A tire expert will inquire about your budget, typical mileage and the types of roads you frequently drive on to help you select a set of tires most

suitable for your specific needs. This ensures you invest in high-quality tires that enhance your driving experience and safety.



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What car accessories should you buy before the cold season?

If you want to be safe on the roads this winter, it's important to have a few accessories. Here are some of the most useful.

Snow brush - Choose a sturdy snow brush, ideally a telescopic model fitted with an ice scraper. An increasing number of manufacturers are offering models with an anti-scratch ice scraper made of EVA foam or silicone rather than a brush. Small stones and other debris can get stuck in the brush and damage your car's windows and paintwork.

Windshield wipers - During a snow-storm or when the roads are covered in slush, it's important to keep your windshield clear. For optimal visibility, equip your vehicle with high-quality windshield wipers. Look for sturdy models with an extra rubber coating and an internal frame.

Rubber floor mats - Protect the inside of your vehicle and the bottoms of your pants from slush with hard-wearing winter floor mats with deep grooves. These versatile accessories also protect certain electronic components located under the front seats.

Shovel - If your vehicle or that of another driver gets stuck in the snow this winter, you'll be glad you planned ahead. Clearing snow with your hands or feet is far from efficient and can lead to injury. Get yourself a lightweight shovel with an extendable handle.

Finally, don't forget to pack an **EMERGENCY KIT** to ensure you're prepared for the unexpected. This should include items like warm clothing and blankets, bottled water/protein bars, a flashlight, traction aids, road lights or reflectors and first aid supplies.

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