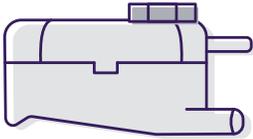


Seasonal car maintenance checklist: Winter

Cold temperatures, snow, ice, and road salt can make winter a tough time for your vehicle. These maintenance tips can help set you—and your car—up for a safer, less damaging season.

Winter coolant maintenance



- Monitor your coolant reservoir and top off if needed.
- Use an antifreeze tester to ensure your coolant ratio is at least 50:50 water to antifreeze. If you're in a climate that experiences extreme low temps, consider altering the ratio to 40:60 water to antifreeze.

Winter tire maintenance



- Take off your all-season tires and install winter/snow tires, studded tires, or chains as weather dictates. Just keep in mind that several states have laws in place regarding the use of studded tires and chains. Check with your state's Department of Transportation before investing in this seasonal equipment.
- Measure and adjust your tire pressure as temperatures change. You can find your vehicle's recommended tire pressure in your owner's manual.
- Check your snow tire tread depth. Replace your tires if they measure at or below 4/32".

Winter engine maintenance



- Consider switching to a synthetic oil in your car for the winter to help prevent freezing.
- Test your car battery. If it's slow to turn over in the extreme cold, [replace it](#) or invest in a car battery warmer.
- Examine belts and hoses. Cold can make them more likely to crack or blister.

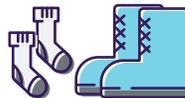
Winter car emergency kit



- Non-perishable snacks



- Winter hat and gloves



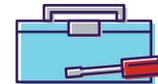
- Snow boots or warm socks



- Power bank



- [Jumper cables](#)



- Basic tool kit



- First aid kit



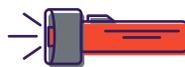
- Small shovel



- Water in freeze-safe containers



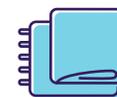
- Extra de-icing wiper fluid



- Flashlight



- Bag of sand for traction



- Blankets



- Ice scraper