

Top Tips For Preparing Your Car For Winter



the fuelcard people

The dangers of winter driving



More Dark Journeys



Falling Temperatures

Colder temperatures mean your car has to work harder, and makes breakdowns more likely. They also make breakdowns more dangerous - the last thing you want is to be stranded with a broken down car in below freezing temperatures. If you broke down on a country lane in the middle of nowhere, you could be facing a wait of hours in the cold.

Your number one priority before winter sets in should be to make sure you have provisions in your vehicle to keep warm in the event of getting stuck in the cold temperatures.



Risk Of Snow And Ice

Winter brings cold temperatures, and the risk of ice and snow which cause a huge danger on the roads. Snow and ice reduce grip and make it difficult to drive safely.

Stopping distances are greatly increased and you have a greater risk of skidding and ending up in a slide or spin.

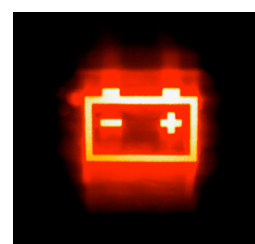
Vehicles can also easily get stuck in deep snow, which could leave you stranded out in the cold.

Our top winter maintenance tips



1 Get your vehicle's battery health checked

The cold, winter weather is hard on vehicle battery and charging systems. Have them checked by a mechanic who can tell you whether you need to replace your battery. On average, car batteries last about 5 years before they will need to be replaced. An old battery won't fully charge properly, and could cause issues with the electrical systems, and even leave you stranded if there isn't enough power to start the engine. The RAC attends more call-outs for batteries than any other problem!



2 Check your coolant level and ensure there is sufficient anti-freeze in it

Make sure your coolant level is between the min and max markers (check your vehicle's handbook for instructions). You also need to make sure there is sufficient anti-freeze in the coolant. If you've topped it up at all recently, make sure you haven't forgotten the anti-freeze. If in doubt, get a garage to check it. Anti-freeze is cheap but damage from a frozen engine can be very expensive to put right.



3 Check the condition and pressure of your tyres

Check the condition of your tyres and make sure the tread depth is still OK. Also check for damage such as splits or bulges and check the pressure. **Don't forget the spare tyre if you have one!**

Under inflated, bald, or damaged tyres will not give you optimum grip. And with the threat of snowy/icy roads, a lack of grip could easily lead to an accident. Don't run the risk - check them and replace if needed!



4

Get any engine issues checked now before it gets colder

If you have noticed any problems such as noises, hard starts, sluggish performance or rough idling, get them checked now before it gets colder.

Any small issues you have with your engine already can be exacerbated by colder temperatures. Take your car in for a service if it is due, or get the issues checked by a mechanic to see if there is an underlying problem that needs maintenance.



5

Make sure you have breakdown cover - just in case!

Breakdown cover should be seen as an essential part of motoring, just like insurance. Don't get left stranded in case something does go wrong with your car and you end up breaking down. Cover can cost as little as £15.00. Just make sure you go for a policy that covers everything you need - think about the coverage you need, and whether you need additions like home start or onward destination cover.



Is your Duty of Care policy up to scratch?



Fact - driving is dangerous

Driving is the single most dangerous activity that you can ask an employee to undertake for you. Making sure that you have the necessary policies in place to cover your company in the event of an accident is a must for any business that has drivers out on the road. **More importantly, it is vital to ensure your drivers are as safe as possible on the road.**

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From just £25 per driver per year - safer drivers, fewer accidents, great ROI. That's just £2.09 per driver per month - and our award winning supplier will take care of your duty of care compliance, saving you time, saving you money and more importantly ensuring that your drivers are safe on the road.

| Bronze | Silver | Gold |
|--|---|--|
| per driver per year | per driver per year | per driver per year |
| £25 | £30 | £60 |
| Duty of Care for Company Vehicle Drivers | Duty of Care for Grey Fleet/Owner Drivers | Duty of Care for Fleet + Lone/Remote Workers |
| All drivers use company vehicles | Some drivers use their own vehicle | Mixed fleet and lone/remote workers |



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Sources:

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