

WINTER EMERGENCY CAR KIT

Keep the following supplies in your **winter car kit**. Emergencies can happen to anyone. Prepare for the worst-case scenario, especially in wintertime!

Whether you run out of fuel, puncture a tire, or slip off a snowy road, a car emergency kit can help you get back on the road safely and quickly.

In addition to the items listed below, a cell phone is highly advised (who doesn't carry that today ☺). Make sure your cell phone is charged every time you get in the car and keep a cell phone charger in your car.

CAR EMERGENCY KIT LIST

Keep the below items in a bag in your trunk. Ideally, I'd suggest a clear, plastic container so it's easy to see and locate everything. You can buy a pre-packaged kit or create your own.

Minimum Supplies:

In an emergency situation, in addition to a full tank of gas and fresh antifreeze, National Safety Council recommends having these with you at all times:

- Blankets, mittens, socks and hats
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Flashlight, plus extra batteries (or a hand-crank flashlight)
- Jumper cables
- Battery Charger (Small compact pocket size units are available today)
- First-aid kit (band-aides, adhesive tape, antiseptic wipes, gauze pads, antiseptic cream, medical wrap).
- Bottled water
- Multi-tool (such as a Leatherman Tool or a Swiss Army Knife)
- Road flares or reflective warning triangles
- Windshield cleaner

Extra Supplies for Frigid Weather

For those in wintry snowy areas, add the below items to your emergency kit. (If it's balmy all winter where you live, be thankful that you don't need all of this stuff!)

- A bag of sand to help with traction (or bag of non-clumping cat litter)
- Collapsible or folding snow shovel
- Blanket
- Tire chains and tow strap
- Hand warmers
- Winter boots for longer trips
- Sleeping bag for longer trips

Other Essentials:

- Small fire extinguisher (5-lb., Class B and Class C type) in case of a car fire
- Tire gauge to check inflation pressure in all four tires and the spare tire
- Jack and lug wrench to change a tire
- Rags and hand cleaner (such as baby wipes)
- Duct tape
- Foam tire sealant for minor tire punctures
- Rain poncho
- Nonperishable high-energy foods such as unsalted and canned nuts, granola bars, raisins and dried fruit, peanut butter, hard candy.
- Battery– or hand-crank–powered radio
- Lighter and box of matches (in a waterproof container)
- Scissors and string or cord
- Spare change and cash
- Compass
- Paper maps

BE PREPARED FOR WINTER DRIVING

Before You Go

- If you must travel, make sure you share your travel plans and route with someone before you leave.
- If you become stranded in bad winter weather, DO NOT leave your car. Don't try to push your vehicle out of snow. Light flares in front and behind the car and make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked by snow, mud or any object.
- Besides checking the weather, it's important to have a mechanic check the condition of the following vehicle systems before heading out on the road.
- Make sure tires are properly inflated designed for winter travel.
- Keep your gas tank filled above halfway to avoid a gas line freeze-up.

Winter Driving Tips

1. Beware of black ice. Roads may look clear, but they may still be slippery.
2. Stuck without traction and lacking sand or cat litter? In a pinch, you can take the floor mats out of your car, place them next to the tires, and slowly inch the car onto and across the mats.
3. Make sure windows are defrosted and clear. And be sure to clear snow and ice from the top of the vehicle! Gently rub a small, moistened, cloth bag of iodized salt on the outside of your windshield to prevent the ice and snow from sticking.
4. To restore proper windshield wiper blade action, smooth the rubber blades with fine sandpaper to remove any grit and pits.
5. Fog-proof your mirrors and the inside of your windshields with shaving cream. Spray and wipe it off with paper towels.
6. Increase following distance to 8 to 10 seconds.

7. If possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather
8. Do not use cruise control in wintry conditions
9. Look and steer in the direction you want to go. Accelerate and decelerate slowly.
10. Know whether you have antilock brakes, which will “pump” the brakes for you in a skid
11. If possible, don’t stop when going uphill
12. Signal distress with a brightly colored cloth tied to the antenna or in a rolled up window