

Prepare Your Vehicle for Winter

You may know how to drive for winter conditions – braking in snow, handling a skid, and more. But what if your vehicle does not respond? A winter-ready vehicle is just as important as good driving skills and it allows you to better handle winter conditions.

Here's what to do:

Install 4 matched winter tires with the winter tire logo

- Winter tires provide better traction in cold weather (7 degrees Celsius or less). When the temperature dips below 7 degrees, the rubber in all-season tires begins to harden. This means less elasticity and traction on the road.
- Check your tire pressure once a month, or more, depending on temperature changes (tire pressure drops in colder conditions).



- Tires marked with an M+S are also legally acceptable but do not provide the same degree of performance as a tire marked with a 3-peak mountain snowflake symbol in severe winter conditions.
- Winter tires, to qualify as legal, must have a tread at least 3.5 mm deep.

Give your vehicle a check-up

- Before each trip, do a 'circle check' (walk around your vehicle to inspect its overall condition).
- Review your vehicle's maintenance record. Take it in for repair if needed and report any concerns to the company.
- Make sure the battery, brakes, lights, fuses, cooling/heating systems, exhaust/electrical systems, belts, and hoses are in good shape.
- Keep the gas tank full to avoid condensation in the tank which can cause fuel lines to freeze.

Equip your vehicle with a winter survival kit

Recommended items are an approved high-visibility vest, non-perishable food, blankets, first aid supplies, windshield scraper, snow brush, spare tire, wheel wrench and jack, shovel and traction mat, sand or kitty litter, fuel line antifreeze, flares and matches or lighter, tire chains and gloves, flashlight and extra batteries, battery jumper cables, sandbags for extra weight, extra clothing and footwear.

Know before you go.

Before heading out:

- Visit [DriveBC.ca](https://www.drivebc.ca) for current road conditions.
- Visit [RoadSafetyAtWork.ca/Winter](https://www.roadSafetyAtWork.ca/Winter) for tips on ways to prepare yourself, your vehicle, and how to drive safely on winter roads.

