

Well-Stocked Winter Driving Kit

- √ Snow shovel
- √ Ice scrapper
- √ Snow brush
- √ Extra washer fluid
- √ Battery booster cables
- √ Kitty litter or sand
- √ Emergency lighting or flares
- √ Distress or warning device
- √ Flashlight with fresh batteries
- √ Extra clothing, hat and gloves
- √ Blankets
- √ First aid kit
- √ Snack foods
- √ Emergency candle / matches
- √ Cell phone

Dear Driver,

Why is driving during the winter different from any other time of the year? Your car is different. It doesn't start the same, doesn't steer the same and sure doesn't stop the same. The roads are different. They become treacherous when covered with snow or ice, or a combination of the two, and might be closed. Visibility is different. Windshields become ice-covered or foggy, the glare from snow can be blinding and there are fewer hours of daylight driving time. Drivers are different. When there's a change in the weather, they become tense and anxious, worrying about road conditions and hurrying in anticipation of a possible delay and they don't pay attention to the drivers around them.

Driving during inclement winter weather conditions can be demanding. How you handle your vehicle in those conditions could be the difference between a safe trip and serious trouble. Any small problems you had in good weather will be bigger problems in bad weather

Please follow the tips contained in this brochure and drive safely.

Somerset County Prosecutor's Office

40 North Bridge Street
P.O. Box 3000 • Somerville, NJ 08876-1262
908-231-7100

www.scpo.net

TIPS HOTLINE 1-888-577-TIPS (8477)

Winter Driving Tips



Somerset County
Prosecutor's Office

WINTER DRIVING TIPS



Prepare Your Car

Antifreeze – clean, fresh antifreeze in a radiator protects from freeze-up and contains rust inhibitors. **Battery** – the battery that started your car easily in the summer may not have enough oomph to do it in winter.

Windshield – replace worn wiper blades. Winter wiper blades prevent ice from forming on them. Keep windshield washer reservoir full with windshield washer fluid-not water.

Gasoline – keep your gas tank close to full. During winter while on the road, your engine is your only source of heat. The added weight may also help with traction.

Defrosters – be sure both front and rear defrosters are working properly. “Fog-outs” while driving are dangerous.

Tune-ups – bad hoses, belts, water pumps, and spark plugs can leave you stranded in the winter. Better to fix them at your convenience than after you’ve been sitting in a stalled car for hours in the cold.

Tires – make sure all your tires have adequate tread. All-weather radial tires are usually adequate for most winter driving.

Before You Drive...

Warm your engine – allow sufficient time for your car’s engine to warm to prevent condensation from forming when you get in. Warm bodies in a cold passenger compartment can rapidly cause a thin film of moisture to form on the inside of the windows creating a dangerous situation.

Remove ice and snow – clear off the entire car, not just a peephole in the windshield. Make sure every glass surface is clear and transparent. Your side-view mirrors, headlights and tail lights must also be cleared. Don’t leave snow piled on the roof because it will either slide off and cover your windshield as you’re slowing down or fly off onto someone else’s car.

Leave early – it will take longer to reach your destination during inclement weather conditions. Leave earlier for work or appointments to allow for the inevitable delays due to slower traffic speeds, collisions or disabled vehicles.



As You Drive...

Following distance – increase the distance between your car and traffic in front of you. The distance needed to stop a car traveling 30 mph once the brakes are applied is approximately:

38 feet -dry roads

66 feet -snow covered roads

100 feet - icy roads

Do everything slowly – reduce your speed on wet and snow covered roads. Accelerate, turn and brake slowly and gently. Anticipate turns and stops. Rapid or sudden movements lead to skids and loss of control. **Intersections** – slow down before reaching an intersection. Scan left and right for other approaching cars or people that might have difficulty stopping.

Hills and curves – reduce your speed before entering curves or going down hills. Smooth steering and gentle braking will help to avoid skids. If your wheels lose grip, gradually release pressure from whichever pedal you’re using and steer in the direction of the skid.

Turn on your lights – whenever daytime visibility is less than ideal. That allows you to see and to be seen by others. Remember this rule of thumb - Wipers on - Lights on. Besides - It’s the Law!