

# Shift into Winter

## Prepare for Winter Driving

***Do you drive as part of your work?  
Are you responsible for vehicle maintenance?***

Winter driving places harsh demands on vehicles. Make sure your vehicle(s) are up to the challenge.

### Use winter tires

- Use four matched winter tires that carry the winter tire logo – even when driving a 4 X 4. They provide better traction in snow and in areas where the temperature will dip below 7 C. Check for wear before mounting.
- Check tire pressure every few weeks.



### Tune up for safe winter driving

A diagnostic check-up of each vehicle's engine (with an oil and filter change) can prevent problems down the road. Have the following inspected and repaired or replaced if necessary:

- Brakes and brake fluid
- All lights (interior and exterior) and fuses
- Wiper blades and washer fluid; defroster
- Cooling and heating systems; antifreeze
- Electrical system (e.g., battery, alternator belt)
- Exhaust system (e.g., muffler, exhaust pipes, clamps and hangers)
- Belts and hoses

### Make sure vehicles are properly equipped

- Windshield scraper and snow brush
- Extra windshield washer fluid
- Flares and matches or lighter
- Tire chains
- First aid kit
- Shovel and traction mat, sand or kitty litter
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery jumper cables
- Spare tire, wheel wrench and jack



### If vehicles go outside urban areas

Ensure emergency kits ALSO contain:

- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Candles
- High-energy food (e.g., energy bars)
- Empty can for melting snow
- Tow rope

### Before you go

Make sure you're ready to meet any of the challenges that may come your way.

- Check weather and road conditions.
- Let someone know your route and schedule.
- Clear snow from hood, roof, windows, lights.
- Clear all windows and mirrors of fog.
- Make sure your windshield wipers work and that the washer jets squirt properly.
- Take warm clothing, winter boots, a hat and gloves with you.
- Take a cellphone and charger, but remember that not all areas have reception.
- Keep your gas tank topped up.

**Make sure you Shift into Winter.**

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