

DRIVEN

Drive Smart. Arrive Safely.



WINTER 2011/2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Keep Your Vehicle Running in Winter Weather	1
Safe Winter Driving Techniques	2
Preparing the Driver for Winter Driving	2
Tips for Holiday Driving	3
Eight Facts About Warming Up Your Car in Winter	3

Keep Your Vehicle Running in Winter Weather

Winter driving can be tough on your vehicle, so make sure you're ready for it. These guidelines can help you stay safe on the roads this winter.

Battery and Charging System – A certified technician should check your battery, charging system and belts. Your battery can die because your charging system isn't working properly. Remember that in winter, the engine is harder to start, because the oil isn't as "fluid" as it is in the summer. Also, batteries lose power as the temperature drops, so they will be less efficient.

Cooling System – Make certain the antifreeze will protect your car in winter temperatures. A function of antifreeze is to keep your cooling system from rusting. The rust inhibitors in antifreeze break down over time and need to be renewed. So, at a minimum, have a qualified technician change your engine's coolant, as recommended by your manufacturer. In addition, if your heater isn't working properly, you may need your coolant checked.

Windshield Wipers – Replace wiper blades every six months. Make sure your wiper blades clean the windshield to allow you to see clearly. Even when there's no active precipitation, water from melting snow and slush or truck tires can be thrown up onto your windshield. Also, consider special snow blades if the weather dictates. When using your wipers in the winter, remember to turn them off BEFORE shutting off the engine. Water frequently freezes overnight during the winter. And if your blades freeze to the windshield, when you start your car, the wiper motor can burn out trying to get them back to the "rest position."

Windshield Washer Fluid – On a snowy



day, you can go through half a gallon or more of windshield washer fluid trying to keep your windshield clean. So, it's a good idea to keep some extra fluid in your trunk in case you run out. And, if you live in an extremely cold climate, you may want to consider supplementing your fluid with a concentrate.

Gas tank – Keep your tank as close to full as possible. A full fuel tank decreases the chance of moisture forming in the gas lines and possibly freezing.

Rear-Window Defroster – In many states, the law requires that all of your windows be clear before you hit the road. So, make sure your defroster is working properly.

Oil – Change the oil in your vehicle as recommended by your manufacturer. For less wear and tear on the engine, drivers in cold climates, like sub-zero temperatures, check your owner's manual for recommended oil under these conditions.

Tires and Lighting – Tire tread and pressure should be checked monthly. If snow and ice are a problem in your area, consider special tires designed to grip slick roads. Lights should be inspected regularly. Check to see that bulbs are illuminated and headlights are properly aimed.



Contact Information:

ADMIRAL LEASING
110 West Road, Suite 217
Towson, MD 21204

Arnold Wollman, Vice President

Maryland Base / National Presence
Office: 888.919.6427 / 410.828.6200
www.admiralleasing.com

Safe Winter Driving Techniques

Getting underway

Try to avoid driving when visibility is poor, but if you must, keep your speed low and your headlights on low beam. If conditions worsen, pull off to a safe spot as soon as possible.

To see and be seen by others, clean all snow and ice from the entire vehicle. Snow left on any of these areas increases the possibility that visibility will be affected. Before departing, start your vehicle and turn the heater on for a minute or two before using the defroster. This will prevent moisture from fogging the windshield when warm air hits the cold glass.

Clear a path in front of the wheels for several feet. This can be accomplished by driving forward and backward in the parking space, or if the snow is too deep, some additional shoveling may be required.

With the front wheels pointed straight to minimize rolling resistance, shift to drive and with gentle pressure of the accelerator, try to ease out of the parking space without spinning the wheels. If you let the wheels spin, you will only dig deeper into the snow.

Following

Normal following distances for dry pavement (three to four seconds) should be increased to eight to 10 seconds when driving on icy, slippery surfaces. This increased margin of safety will provide the longer distance needed if you have to stop.

On a four-lane highway, stay in the lane that has been cleared most recently. Avoid changing lanes because of potential control loss when driving over built-up snow between lanes.

Remember: traction is greatest just before the wheels spin. Gentle pressure on the accelerator pedal when starting is the best method for retaining traction and avoiding skids — especially if your vehicle is not equipped with traction-assist technology. If your wheels start to spin, let up on the accelerator until traction returns. **Do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery (wet, ice or sand) surface.**

When approaching a hill, see how other vehicles are reacting and keep far enough behind the vehicle immediately ahead so that you will not have to slow down or stop. This will allow you to maneuver

around any stuck vehicles and to increase your speed (within reason) at or near the bottom of the hill to give you the extra momentum to carry you over the top. As you reach the crest of the hill, reduce your speed and proceed down the hill as slowly as possible. Minimize brake use on very slippery, icy hills; if further speed reduction is needed, gentle, slow brake application (squeeze braking) is recommended to avoid loss of control.

Steering

Snowy or icy surfaces make steering difficult and require smooth, careful, precise movements of the steering wheel. Skidding in which the front or rear moves laterally is caused by hard acceleration or braking, speeds too fast for conditions, and quick jerky movements of the steering wheel.

You may need to take evasive action to avoid a collision. Steering is preferred to braking at speeds above 25 mph because less distance is required to steer around an object than to brake to a stop. In slick conditions, sudden braking can lead to loss of control.

Braking

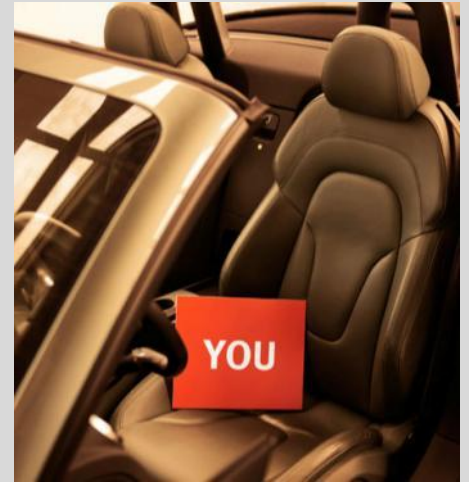
Stopping on slippery surfaces requires longer visibility, following and stopping distances. Drivers proficient at driving and braking on slippery surfaces have developed these techniques by practicing in secluded areas. These drivers also are knowledgeable of the additional dangers associated with and created by low temperatures. The stopping distance required on ice at 0°F is twice the amount required at 32°F.

Shaded spots, bridges, overpasses and intersections are areas where ice is likely to form first or be the most slippery. To compensate for the longer stopping distances required when driving on slippery surfaces, focus your attention as far ahead as possible (at least 20 to 30 seconds) and allow for the greatest margin of safety to the front. When road conditions change, so do the braking requirements.

If you have an antilock braking system (ABS), do not remove your foot from the brake. When you put on the brakes hard enough to make the wheels lock momentarily, you will typically feel the brake pedal vibrate and pulse back against your foot. This is normal. Do not pump the pedal or remove your foot from the brake. The system is working as it was designed to work.

Source: www.aaaexchange.com

Preparing the Driver for Winter Driving



To minimize the dangers associated with winter driving, the vehicle and the driver must be prepared. For the driver, this means driving at a speed that matches the visibility, traffic and road conditions.

Select clothing that provides warmth, comfort and freedom of movement. Heavy garments and gloves offer warmth when outside, but after the vehicle's interior has warmed up, they should be removed. Stop the vehicle in a safe spot to remove any outdoor clothing rather than compounding a risky situation by struggling out of a heavy coat while driving.

A zip-fastened, lined jacket and a pair of thin leather gloves are ideal for winter motoring. They give appropriate warmth, comfort and freedom of movement both inside and outside the vehicle with minimal adjustment.

Correct seat position and use of safety equipment (safety belts, plus sunglasses to combat glare) will aid you in seeing and performing those gentle, smooth, precise movements necessary for safe winter driving.

Adjust your seat so that you sit no closer than 10 inches to the steering wheel and can see the road ahead. Shorter drivers may need a seat cushion or pedal extensions to be able to maintain this distance. Check mirrors and environmental controls before you start. Adjust your safety belt so that it is positioned low across the hips and the shoulder harness is positioned across the center of the chest. Also, it is the responsibility of the driver to ensure that all passengers are properly seated and belted in the vehicle.

Source: www.aaaexchange.com

Tips for Holiday Driving

Follow these tips for holiday driving to help reduce the risk and make your travels safer. Buckling up, staying calm, using a designated driver, staying alert and slowing down can all help ensure that your holiday will be memorable for all the right reasons.

Buckle Up. Besides being the law in almost every state (except New Hampshire), using your safety belt reduces your risk of serious injury or death in an accident. That goes for rear seat occupants just as much as the front seats. Airbags do a lot of good, but they are supplemental restraints. They are no substitute for a properly fastened seat belt. Buckle up, and if you're driving, make sure your passengers are strapped in before heading out.

Keep Your Cool. Congested roads and tight schedules can lead to frustration for drivers. Frustration can lead to poor decisions and risky behavior behind the wheel. Road rage is a tragic possibility if you don't keep your cool. Some of the things you can do to reduce your stress while driving include giving yourself plenty of time to spare, keeping your passengers occupied to reduce distractions, expecting the unexpected from other drivers, and taking the time to learn your route ahead of time.

Use a Designated Driver. Drinking and driving is never a good mixture. In family feast situations, even the teetotalers among us sometimes overindulge. Have a plan for who is drinking and who isn't if you need to drive elsewhere after your festivities. That plan should include having the number of the local taxi service on hand should the designated driver forget their responsibilities and dip into the punch bowl once too often.

Stay Alert. Although turkey generally gets the wrap for causing drowsiness, the tryptophan isn't solely to blame. In fact turkey has just as much of the sedative as other meats and cheeses. The carbohydrates and alcohol we're consuming are probably more to blame for the sleepiness most revelers experience, along with simply overindulging. A drowsy driver is a dangerous driver though, with accident rates as high as drunk drivers. So try not to overeat, don't try to do too much in one day, and pull over for a nap if you catch yourself feeling the need to nod off.

Slow Down. The old phrase, "Speed kills" might be an oversimplification, but the truth is that increased speeds leave less time and distance to react to problems ahead. Speed is a contributing factor in many traffic fatalities simply because speeding drivers don't have as much room for error. Obey all posted speed limits and be mindful that excess traffic might mean you need to travel well below posted limits in congested areas. Don't make the mistake of thinking you can speed around delays to make up time. Chances are you'll never save enough time to risk losing your life.

Source: AOL Autos

Eight Facts About Warming Up Your Car in Winter

Old habits die hard. And one of the oldest is that "warming up" the car for a few minutes is necessary to avoid damage to your vehicle. But it is totally unnecessary, which is why many communities have enacted ordinances against idling.



Here are some quick facts and tips that should put this to rest:

1. **Driving warms the car faster than idling.** If your concern is not the health of the car, but simply your own creature comforts, Bob Aldrich of the California Energy Commission points out that "idling is not actually an effective way to warm up a car — it warms up faster if you just drive it."
2. **Ten seconds is all you need.** Environmental Defense Fund, which produced the Idling Gets You Nowhere campaign, advises motorists to turn off their ignition if they're sitting stopped for more than 10 seconds. "After about 10 seconds, you waste more money running the engine than restarting it, said Andy Darrell, deputy director of the EDF Energy Program. "Switch the car off at the curb, and you'll be leaving money in your wallet and protecting the air in your community."
3. **Idling hurts the car.** According to the Hinkle Charitable Foundation's Anti-Idling Primer, idling forces an engine "to operate in a very inefficient and gasoline-rich mode that, over time, can degrade the engine's performance and reduce mileage." The Campaign for an Idle-Free New York City points out that idling causes carbon residues to build up inside the engine, which reduces its efficiency.
4. **Idling costs money.** Over a year of five minutes of daily idling (which causes incomplete combustion of fuel), the "Anti-Idling Primer" estimates that the operator of a V8-engine car will waste 20 gallons of gasoline, which not only produces 440 pounds of carbon dioxide but costs at least \$60.
5. **Idling in the garage can kill you.** Idling a car in a garage, even with the door open, is dangerous and exposes the driver to carbon monoxide and other noxious gases. If the garage is attached, those fumes can also enter the house.
6. **Block heaters beat remote starters.** Lori Strothard of the Waterloo Citizens Vehicle Idling Reduction Task Force in Canada says, "Remote starters can too easily cause people to warm up their cars for 5 to 15 minutes, which is generally unnecessary." A block heater, which is designed to heat the engine and can cost under \$30, on a timer set to start one to two hours before driving, does the trick in very cold climates.
7. **Quick errands aren't quick enough.** Natural Resources Canada points out that leaving your car idling while you're running into a store on an errand or going back into the house to pick up a forgotten item is another way to waste gas and pollute both your town and the planet. "Leaving your engine running is hard on your pocketbook, produces greenhouse gas emissions, and is an invitation to car thieves," the agency says.
8. **Idling is bad for your health (and your neighbor's health).** According to Minneapolis' anti-idling ordinance, "Exhaust is hazardous to human health, especially children's; studies have linked air pollution to increased rates of cancer, heart and lung disease, asthma and allergies."

Isabelle Silverman, who runs EDF's anti-idling campaign, says that car idling "is the second-hand smoking of the outdoors. One of the problems is that cars idle close to the curb, where pedestrians are walking. And when you have a child in a stroller, they are particularly close to the tailpipe. Studies show that children's IQ levels are lower when they live near major roads with lots of traffic."

Source: www.YahooAutos.com