

WINTER DRIVING PREPARATION CHECK LIST



1. Check All Fluids, Lights & Functions on a Regular Basis

- Get regular maintenance to ensure all fluids are topped off and all lights are in working order
- Install snow tires for the winter months and inflate tires per manufacturer's specifications
- Fill washer fluid with freezing-temps specified fluid
- Install new wiper blades prior to winter weather
- Have your battery tested (often a free service at auto parts stores)
- Repair any exhaust leaks prior to winter weather

2. Pack Emergency Supplies Prior to Winter Weather

- Blanket plus an extra jacket, hat, and gloves
- Jumper cables
- Tow strap, ratchet straps or a tow chain
- First aid kit
- Flares and lighter/matches
- Basic tool kit
- Flashlight
- Compass
- Sand/Gravel
- Shovel
- Cell phone with car charger
- Non-perishable snacks like protein bars and bottled water
- Always let someone know where you are headed and your route

3. Check Weather Forecasts before Departing

- Visit www.511wi.gov or download "511 Wisconsin" app

4. Prepare Vehicle before Departing

- Warm up vehicle for several minutes
- Make sure front and rear defrost is working
- Clear the ENTIRE vehicle of snow and ice
- Remove ice buildup from under wiper blades

5. Maintain Control while Driving

- Allow extra time and reduce speed
- Don't use your phone while driving
- Don't use cruise control in wet, snowy or icy conditions
- Don't use e-brake unless necessary
- Be aware of changing road conditions
- Be aware of a way out/alt path to avoid other motorists
- Increase follow distance by 3x
- Don't pass snow plows
- Use the available road surface to maximize grip
- If visibility is low, use low beams and fog lights
- Avoid sudden/abrupt stops and steering
- If driving conditions are unsafe, pull off the road into a parking lot to wait for conditions to improve