

WINTER DRIVING

Safety Bulletin

How to keep you and your vehicle safe during the winter months

As the days get colder, it is important to be prepared when planning journeys in the event that you could be stranded, delayed, broken down, or in worst cases, in an incident.



Why is it important to be prepared?

Like many of us, we tend to enjoy lying in a little bit longer in the mornings during darker winter months. However, if each of us spent just 10 minutes getting up earlier each day to prepare our vehicles for journeys, the roads would be much safer.

By following some of our key tips, you can be prepared for all eventualities when travelling in the winter months.



What should I check before setting off on journeys?

• Tyre Tread



Check the pressure of your tyre's, at least 3mm tread is recommended. Inspect the whole tyre including the inner and outer crown. Look for uneven wear, embedded objects, tear, cuts or bulges.

• Oil Levels



Make sure you are topped up with oil! To put more oil in your engine it must be off, cool, and on a level surface. Check with your dipstick to see the oil line in relation to min and max levels.

• Windscreen Wash



Top up your windscreen wash, and make sure it's of a good quality. Your windows need to be clear of debris for you to see clearly on the roads.

• Engine Coolant



Coolant isn't only for summer! Check that your coolant is topped up. Many garages offer free winter checks to do this for you.

• Electrics & Lights



Check that your lights are in working order. Use reflections to check your brake lights are working or ask someone to check for you.

• Snow & Ice



By law, you must be able to see out of every glass pane on your vehicle. Make sure you have de-iced and removed any snow, this includes the roof of your vehicle.





Check if your service is due!

It is especially important to check if your vehicle service is due or could do with a service, prior to going into the harsh winter months. Ensure your vehicle is in a road worthy condition!

- A service typically becomes due every 12,000 miles or every 12 months
- Check your vehicle's handbook for the manufacturer's recommended service schedule.
- Make sure to book in plenty of time as garages availability may vary.

Snow on your roof?

There is no law stating it is illegal to drive with snow on your roof, but if it falls off onto your windscreen while driving or flies into the path of another vehicle, then you could be penalised for 'driving without due consideration' or 'using a motor vehicle in a dangerous condition' offences.

- Even if you're only making a two-minute journey, thoroughly clean your vehicle of snow, ice or condensation
- Use a scraper and de-icer. It might cost a little money, but it works and will save you time.



Carry the right essentials, just in case!

- ✓ Ice scraper
- ✓ De-icer spray
- ✓ Warning triangle
- ✓ Jump leads
- ✓ Warm clothing
- ✓ Blanket, rug or sleeping bag
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Practical footwear like wellies
- ✓ High visibility clothing
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Torch and batteries (wind-up torch better)
- ✓ Mobile phone
- ✓ Charging cable and in-vehicle phone charger
- ✓ Shovel (for snowy conditions)
- ✓ Snacks & water (If you get stranded)

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