

## Its winter in WV, is your vehicle ready for the cold?

### Before You Go



#### Get Your Car Serviced

Visit your mechanic for a tune-up and ask them to check for leaks, badly worn hoses, or other needed parts, repairs, and replacements.



#### Check for Recalls

NHTSA's Recalls Look-up Tool lets you enter a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) to quickly learn if your vehicle has a critical safety issue that has not been repaired, and how to get that repair done for FREE. Check [www.nhtsa.gov/recalls](http://www.nhtsa.gov/recalls).



#### Know Your Car

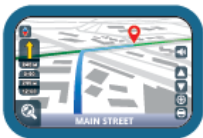
Read your vehicle's manual to familiarize yourself with the features on your vehicle—such as antilock brakes and electronic stability control—and how the features perform in wintry conditions. When renting a car, become familiar with the vehicle before driving it off the lot.



#### Stock Your Vehicle

Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving-related tasks or supplies you might need in an emergency, including the following:

- Snow shovel, broom, and ice scraper.
- Abrasive material such as sand or kitty litter, in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow.
- Jumper cables, flashlight, and warning devices such as flares and emergency markers.
- Blankets for protection from the cold.
- A cell phone with charger, water, food, and any necessary medicine (for longer trips or when driving in lightly populated areas).



#### Plan Your Travel and Route

Before heading out, make sure to check the weather, road conditions, and traffic. Don't rush through your trip and allow plenty of time to get to your destination safely. And always familiarize yourself with directions and maps before you go, even if you use a GPS system, and let others know your route and anticipated arrival time.

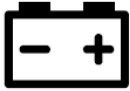


#### Download and Use LiveSafe

- Free mobile application for Apple and Android devices.
- Notify family and friends in real-time of your location and safety through a one-button monitoring service.
- Call University police or 911 in an emergency situation.
- Report an accident or someone else in trouble (photo, video and text options).

Download here: [WVU-Tech-LiveSafeApp](http://WVU-Tech-LiveSafeApp)

## Are You Ready?



### Battery

When the temperature drops, so does battery power. For gasoline and diesel engines, it takes more battery power to start your vehicle in cold weather. Have your mechanic check your battery, charging system, and belts, and make any necessary repairs or replacements.



### Lights

Check your headlights, brake lights, turn signals, emergency flashers and interior lights.



### Cooling System

Make sure you have enough coolant in your vehicle, and that the coolant meets the manufacturer's specifications. See your vehicle owner's manual for specific recommendations. You or a mechanic should check the cooling system for leaks, test the coolant, and drain or replace old coolant as needed.



### Windshield Washer Reservoir

You can go through a lot of windshield wiper fluid quickly in a single snowstorm, ensure your vehicle's reservoir is full of high-quality "winter" fluid with de-icer before winter weather hits.

### Windshield Wipers and Defrosters

Make sure defrosters and windshield wipers (both front and rear) work and replace any worn blades. You also consider installing heavy-duty winter wipers.



### Floor Mats

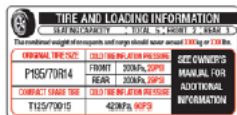
Improperly installed floor mats in your vehicle may interfere with the operation of the accelerator or brake pedal, increasing the risk of a crash. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for mat installation, use retention clips to secure the mat and prevent it from sliding forward, and always use mats that are the correct size and fit for your vehicle.



### Tires

As the outside temperature drops, so does tire inflation pressure. Make sure each tire is filled to the vehicle manufacturer's recommended inflation pressure, which is listed in your owner's manual and on a placard located on the driver's side door frame. The correct pressure is NOT the number listed on the tire. Be sure to check tires when they are cold, which means the car hasn't been driven for at least three hours. Read through for safe tire tips:

- Regardless of season, inspect your tires at least once a month and before long road trips. Don't forget to check your spare tire.
- If you plan to use snow tires, have them installed in the fall or as soon as possible so you are prepared when it snows.
- Look closely at your tread and replace tires that have uneven wear or insufficient tread. Tread should be at least 2/32 of an inch or greater on all tires.



## On the Road



### Stay Alert

Keep your gas tank close to full whenever possible, and on longer trips, plan enough time to stop to stretch, get something to eat, return calls or text messages, and change drivers or rest if you feel drowsy.



### Avoid Risky Driving Behaviors

You know the rules: Do not text or drive distracted; obey posted speed limits; and always drive sober. Both alcohol and drugs whether legal or illicit can cause impairment. It is illegal to drive impaired by any substance in all States – no exceptions. Alcohol and drugs can impair the skills critical for safe and responsible driving such as coordination, judgment, perception, and reaction time.



### Driving in Winter Conditions

Slow down. It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface.



### Navigating Around Snow Plows

Don't crowd a snow plow or travel beside it. Snow plows travel slowly, make wide turns, stop often, overlap lanes, and exit the road frequently. However, the road behind an active snow plow is safer to drive on. If you find yourself behind a snow plow, stay behind it or use caution when passing.



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### In an Emergency

#### What to Do in a Winter Emergency

If you are stopped or stalled in wintry weather, follow these safety rules:

- Stay with your car and don't overexert yourself.
- Put bright markers on the antenna or windows and keep the interior dome light turned on.
- To avoid asphyxiation from carbon monoxide poisoning, don't run your car for long periods of time with the windows up or in an enclosed space. If you must run your vehicle, clear the exhaust pipe of any snow and run it only sporadically — just long enough to stay warm.