

Care for Your Car

It's tough enough for us to stay warm these days. Think how your car feels. Sitting in a cold garage or out on the driveway. Maybe covered with snow or ice.

So, how do you keep it running no matter what the weather dishes out? Here are a few tips:

Deep freeze. Check your car's antifreeze level and add more if needed.

Stay clear. Make sure your wipers are in good working order, and replace the wiper fluid with a winter mixture. If you're getting water streaks or the blades' rubber is cracked or stiff, replace them. It's also a good idea to use a brush and scraper to remove ice and snow instead of the wipers, which can overload the motor.

Windshield wary. Don't pour water on your windshield to remove ice or snow. It can cause your windshield to shatter.

Be visible. Check your headlights, tail lights and turn signals, replacing foggy or damaged lens covers to improve visibility. And for maximum effectiveness, keep snow off the lights.

Grease your locks. To prevent door and trunk locks from freezing, use a silicone spray or lubricant meant for door locks. If a lock is already frozen, use a lock antifreeze. Don't try hot water—the lock will just refreeze.

Keep up the pressure. Make sure your tires have good tread and enough air pressure. Replace worn tires and fill tires with pressure according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Don't run on empty. Keep your gas tank at least half full to prevent the fuel line from freezing.

Take care. Regularly check the heater, defroster, brakes, brake fluid, ignition, emergency flashers, exhaust and battery. Note that cold temperature reduces the battery's power. Also, ensure you're using the right oil for winter; engine oil can thicken in the cold, making it harder for the car to start.

Be prepared. Load your car with a snow brush and ice scraper, shovel, tow chains or rope, sand or cat litter to help with tire traction before taking to the road.

Another suggestion is to add Kemper Prime Auto Enhanced¹ to your Kemper Prime AutoSM policy, which provides many extra coverages. For example, if you skid on the ice and cause an accident, you will appreciate having accident forgiveness coverage.² Call your agent today for more information.

¹Not available in North Carolina

²Not available in some states

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Ohio.gov, AAA

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