

Winter Driving Survival Checklist



Are you and your vehicle prepared for the change in weather? Get ready to shift into winter.

Know before you go.

Driving in winter conditions can be risky. Before heading out in unfavourable conditions ask yourself if the trip can be delayed. If you must go:

- Visit **DriveBC.ca** for current road and weather conditions.
- Visit **ShiftIntoWinter.ca** for tips on ways to prepare yourself and your vehicle, and how to drive safely on winter roads.
- Ensure someone knows your trip route and expected arrival time. Plan specific times or locations to check in.

Use winter tires.

- Use four matched winter tires with the mountain snowflake symbol and a minimum tread depth of 3.5mm. They provide better stopping power and traction in cold weather and snow. Tires marked with an M+S are also legally acceptable but do not provide the same degree of performance as a mountain snowflake tire in severe winter conditions. Check for wear before mounting.
- Check tire pressure every few weeks.



Make sure your vehicle is properly equipped in case you become stranded.

Be sure to safely stow the following items:

- Windshield scraper and snow brush
- Extra windshield washer fluid

- Flares and matches or lighter
- Tire chains and gloves
- First aid kit
- Shovel and traction mat, sand or kitty litter
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery jumper cables
- Spare tire, wheel wrench and jack
- Extra clothing and footwear
- Fully-charged cell phone and charger

If you are travelling outside of urban areas, ensure your emergency kit also contains:

- Blanket or sleeping bag
- Candles
- High energy food
- Empty can for melting snow
- Tow rope

If you get stuck in a storm, don't panic.

Avoid overexertion and exposure. Stay in your vehicle, and open your window slightly to make sure you have a supply of fresh air. Use a survival candle for heat (with appropriate care).

Use caution when running the engine with the window closed given potential exposure to exhaust fumes (exhaust systems can be blocked or damaged after a crash or loss-of-control situation). Set out a warning light or flares.

