

Driving Tips For Extreme Cold Weather

Extreme cold weather can present hazards for drivers. Before leaving, prepare yourself and your vehicle for cold weather or winter storms.

Stock Your Vehicle

- Rechargeable flashlight
- Cellphone and car charger
- Extra food and water
- Flares
- Tools (jack, lug wrench, shovel)
- Road maps
- Blanket/sleeping bag
- Extra warm clothes (boots, hat and gloves)
- First aid kit
- Pocket knife
- Matches or lighter
- Battery jumper cables
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Paper towels
- Extra washer fluid suitable for low temperatures
- Chains or traction tires
- Small snow shovel
- Kitty litter for tire traction

Traffic Delays

If you are stuck in a traffic jam or your car becomes disabled:

- Stay with the vehicle
- Run your engine and heater for short intervals
- Crack a window in the vehicle to avoid carbon monoxide build-up
- Listen to your radio for updated traffic and emergency information
- Drink fluids to avoid dehydration
- Make sure your vehicle can be seen by putting markers, like a white cloth, on the antenna or door handle. Use flares if you have them
- Make sure the exhaust pipe is clear of snow and debris

For additional winter driving safety guidance, visit [nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips](https://www.nhtsa.gov/winter-driving-tips).



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