

Protection and Service

Erie Insurance Group...Protecting You From Loss

Safety Tips For Winter Driving

For several months every year, winter weather is every commuter's leading adversary—slippery roads, salt trucks, whiteouts and dead batteries. No matter the severity of your winter, safety is always the first priority. Erie Insurance offers the following tips to help you deal with winter's challenges:

Tires first

- Use properly inflated all-season or winter tread tires. Don't forget a spare.
- Take your car to your local tire shop or auto parts store to check the tread.

Under the hood

- Have a mechanic check your battery, cables, hoses, belts, brakes, windshield wipers, defroster, heater, exhaust system and fluid levels.
- Add special solvent to your windshield washer fluid to prevent icing.
- Always maintain at least a half tank of gas.

On the road again

- Beware of ice. Bridges and overpasses freeze with the slightest amount of moisture.
- Moving along in icy conditions is tricky. Stopping and starting is the key:
 - ✓ **Stopping**—Drivers without an Antilock Brake System (ABS) should gently pump the brake. Drivers with ABS should use continuous pressure.

Consult your owner's manual recommendations specific to your vehicle.

- ✓ **Starting**—Gently press the gas to accelerate from a stop.
- For hills, gather momentum slowly and do not stop on the hill.



Load it up and bring it along

- An ice scraper or commercial de-icer and a snowbrush
- Water, food, warm blankets and some extra clothing in case of a long delay
- A 25-pound bag of sand, salt or kitty litter can be used to add traction
- A shovel to free your car in case it gets "snowed-in"
- A first aid kit with bandages, gauze, hydrogen peroxide and medical tape

If you get stranded

- If you are ever stranded with help hours away, follow these guidelines:
 - ✓ Do not leave your car.
 - ✓ Wool items, newspapers or paper bags help protect from frostbite.
 - ✓ Slightly open one window so heavy snow or ice cannot seal the car shut.
 - ✓ Run engine and heater for 10 minutes every hour. Be sure the exhaust system and underside of your car is clear of snow and blockage.



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