



Most of the time, you just hop into your car and go — you're wearing flip flops, flannel pj pants and an Old Navy tank top. Your car is on "E" but you know you've got at least another round trip between work and home before you actually have to fill up. You took everything out of the trunk because it was taking up room from your golf clubs, basketball gear, mascot costume, or whatever.

Well, this isn't any time — this is winter. And it's a game changer! What do you have in your car that would help you if you got stranded in the snow? An empty soda can? A phone charger so old it worked on your RaZr?

You and especially your vehicle need to be prepared for winter — not just for long trips but even for just driving around town.

Your vehicle itself can help or hinder your ability to most effectively drive in winter conditions. Are your tires balding? Are they under- or over-inflated? Is your washer fluid tank empty? Do your wiper blades *clear* your windshield or just *smear* your windshield? Taking the time (and yes, the money) to make sure all components of your vehicle are in good working condition will help improve your winter driving experience.

Prepare Your Car for Winter!

Check your vehicle's . . .

- **Battery** — recharge or replace if it's old.
- **Windshield wiper blades**—replace ones that cause streaks or smears!
- **Tires** — the key word is "traction." If your tires look more suited for the track at Talladega than I-15 in a slush storm, it's time for some new ones.
- **Heating/Cooling System** — antifreeze can be the difference between a good start to the day or no start to the day.
- **Emergency Kit** — if you took it out of your car in the spring to make room for your golf clubs, put it back in! And you might want to think about replacing the Tiger Milk bars that have been in there for two years — even if you're stranded and starving, how are you going to feel about ingesting something with an expiration date of 2003?
- **Other Equipment** — if they're not in your emergency kit, you should also carry the following items with you in case things don't go according to plan:

Tire chains
Snow shovel
Extra winter clothing
First aid kit

Basic tools
Battery-operated radio
Traction mats or small bag of sand
Flares