CAA Insurance Travel Roadside Rewards

Driven by Good™



Winter Driving Safety

Snow, ice and frigid temperatures make for challenging driving conditions. Prepare yourself for the road ahead.

Be Ready

Sub-zero climates can be tough on vehicles.
Make sure yours is up to the challenge:

Battery. Even a fully charged battery can lose power when the temperature dips below 0°C. Have your car battery tested in the fall.

Brakes. Have your brakes checked or serviced to ensure even braking. If they squeal, feel different or grind, they may need repairs.

Tires. Install a set of four identical winter tires for greater control and stability. Be sure to check your tire pressure as it decreases in the cold.

Wipers. Maintaining good visibility is key during periods of heavy snowfall. If your windshield wipers are streaking or rusting, now's the time for a new set. And keep your winter-grade windshield washer fluid topped up.

Engine. Engine coolant plays a big part in keeping your vehicle running well in cold climates. A 50/50 mixture of anti-freeze and water is enough for most Canadian climates.

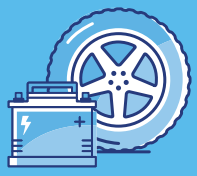
Lights. Check that your lights are working and are properly aligned. When driving at night or in low-visibility situations, such as when snowing is falling, ensure your vehicle's full lighting system is on.

Emergency kit. Pack an emergency kit consisting of an ice scraper, snow brush, shovel, booster cables, snacks, first aid kit, canned candle, matches, flashlight, extra batteries, phone charger, blankets and a tool kit. **And don't forget your CAA Membership card.**



Pre-winter Checklist

- ☑ Battery
- ☑ Brakes
- ☑ Tires
- ☑ Wipers
- ☑ Engine
- ☑ Lights
- ☑ Emergency kit



Before You Buckle Up

Make sure you're prepared for what could lie ahead. Keep these tips in mind:

Know the conditions. Tune into your local radio station, check online or use a navigation app for weather reports, traffic conditions and road closure notices along your route. If Environment Canada issues an extreme weather warning, it's best not to drive.

Brush it off. Make sure your vehicle is clear of snow and ice as they can blow off your vehicle at high speeds, potentially interfering with other drivers' visibility.

Leave early. Poor weather conditions require slower and more cautious driving. Leave yourself plenty of time before you head out.

Dress accordingly. Take extra clothing to stay warm in case of a breakdown. Don't forget to pack an emergency kit that includes a blanket.

Fuel up. Keep your fuel tank at least half full. In extremely cold temperatures, condensation can build up in a near-empty gas tank, causing the fuel line to freeze up.



Winter Driving Basics

While you should always be 100% focused on the road while driving, winter conditions require even more focus and attention. Keep these tips in mind:

Leave plenty of space between you and the vehicle ahead. Safe stopping distances increase on ice and snow.

Stay on main roads. Main roads and bus routes are usually the first to be cleared.

Always keep a phone charger in your car. You can't call for help without a charged phone.

Braking 101

Practice emergency braking to understand how your vehicle will react:



If you have an anti-lock braking system (ABS), put your foot on the brakes and apply firm and continuous pressure. Focus on where you want the car to go and steer in that direction. Do not pump the brakes. Do not remove your foot until your car comes to a stop. Expect to hear noise and vibration as part of the normal ABS operation.

If you don't have anti-lock brakes, press down on the brake to the point just before the brakes lock. Release pressure and press again, repeating until you come to a complete stop. This is also referred to as "threshold braking."



Common Winter Mishaps

Roadside emergencies are always stressful, but knowing how to handle one can really make a difference:

Heavy snowfall

- **Don't try to drive** through dangerous conditions.
- **Slow down or pull off the road** in a safe area and wait for the bad weather to subside.

Skidding

- **To reduce the likelihood of skidding**, accelerate gradually, slow down well in advance of turns and avoid sudden stops.
- **If you hit an icy patch** or find yourself in a skid, don't panic. To regain control, take your foot off the brake or accelerator, and look and steer in the direction you want your car to go.



Stuck in a Snowbank

- **Activate your four-way emergency lights** to notify passing motorists.
- **Call for help;** don't travel without a fully charged phone and portable charger.
- **Don't overexert yourself** in an effort to free your vehicle; going out into a storm puts you at tremendous risk.
- **When it's safe, check that your tailpipe** is not blocked by snow and return to your vehicle and wait for help. Keep your window open a crack to keep air fresh.

Breakdown

- **Activate your four-way emergency lights** and attempt to safely pull over to the side of the road.
- **Remain in your vehicle** with your seat belt on.
- **If you are uncertain about your safety** and think your vehicle may be struck from behind, call 911 immediately.
- **Contact your roadside assistance** provider and provide your location to the best of your ability. Note any landmarks or road signs around you.
- **If you must leave your vehicle,** stay away from oncoming traffic and exit through the side of the vehicle facing away from traffic.



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Emergency Contact Information

Police and Ambulance
911

CAA Roadside Assistance
Toll-free: 1-800-222-4357

Text
"RESCUE" to 222247

Download the CAA Mobile App™
and request roadside assistance
On your cell: *222
24 hours a day, 365 days a year

CAA Insurance Claims Assistance
1-877-222-1717

caasco.com/winterdriving

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