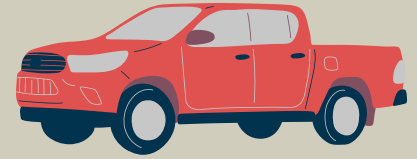


Vehicle Safety in Extreme Cold, Snowy and Icy Conditions

One of the best things you can do to stay safe in harsh prairie winters is to winterize your vehicle and driving habits. Doing so will drastically reduce the chances of you being stranded out in freezing weather without proper equipment.



See your mechanic.

Have a mechanic check your battery, antifreeze, wipers, windshield washer fluid, ignition system, thermostat, lights, flashing hazard lights, exhaust system, heater, brakes, defroster and oil.

Determine which tires you need.

In many cases, Canadian winters call for winter tires over all seasons. Be better equipped to handle slippery and freezing rain conditions, particularly in rural areas. Note: some jurisdictions require vehicles to be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs.

Check local weather and road conditions.

Before heading out on the road, look up conditions from a reliable source like [511 Alberta](#).

Drive safe.

Even with winter tires, make sure to slow down; speed limits are set for when road conditions are optimal, meaning clear and dry, with full visibility.

Keep the gas tank full.

Keeping your tank at least half full prevents icy condensation from forming inside. A full tank also reduces your risk of getting stranded.

What do I do if I'm stuck in a vehicle during a severe storm?

Stay calm and inside the vehicle. Run the engine every once in a while to keep warm. Ensure the exhaust pipe is not blocked and allow fresh air into the vehicle frequently by cracking a window.

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR VEHICLE'S EMERGENCY KIT:

- ✓ ROCK SALT, SAND OR CAT LITTER
- ✓ SHOVEL AND ICE SCRAPER
- ✓ BLANKETS
- ✓ NON-PERISHABLE FOOD
- ✓ CAN OPENER AND UTENSILS
- ✓ WATER
- ✓ MITTENS, TOQUES, SOCKS, JACKETS, BOOTS
- ✓ FLASHLIGHT AND BATTERIES
- ✓ JUMPER CABLE OR BATTERY PACK
- ✓ PHONE CHARGER

