

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Winterize your car before winter arrives by checking the following:

Antifreeze - Keep engine coolant at proper levels as this protects against freezing and corrosion. Change the coolant as recommended by the car's manufacturer.

Brakes - Worn brakes require longer stopping distance and can pull the car to one side when stopping.

Emergency Supplies - At a minimum, your car should be equipped with a flashlight, blanket, sand or salt and a snow/ice scraper.

Exhaust System - Fumes from a leaky exhaust system can quickly become fatal. Remember, never run the motor in your garage.

Heater and Defroster - In proper working condition, these will keep passengers comfortable and the windshield free of ice and condensation.

Oil - Change your oil using a winter grade for easier starting.

Tires - Worn tires lose their grip on slippery roads. Make sure your tires are properly inflated and have sufficient tread. All weather tires or snow tires are recommended for most areas.

Wipers & windshield washer fluid - Ensure good visibility by replacing worn wiper blades or installing winter blades. Keep washer reservoir filled.

HOW TO STOP SKIDDING

Avoid riding your brake. Slamming on brakes during a skid locks the wheels, causes loss of traction and increases the skid.

Steer in the direction of the rear end of the car. As the car begins to straighten, straighten the front wheels too. When you are headed in the desired direction, either lightly pump your brakes or gently accelerate.

Avoid over steering. Turning the steering wheel too far whips the rear end into a skid in the opposite direction.

Keep car in gear. This helps reduce speed and produces maximum control.

Avoid lifting your foot from the accelerator suddenly.

BE A SAFE DRIVER!

- Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights—even the hood and roof—before driving.
- Pay attention. Don't try to out-drive the conditions. Remember the posted speed limits are for dry pavement.
- Leave plenty of room for stopping.
- Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows—stay back at least 200 feet and don't pass on the right.
- Know the current road conditions. Call 1-800-427-7623 for traveler information.
- Use brakes carefully. Brake early. Don't stomp on the brakes. It takes more time to stop in adverse conditions. Review your car manual for driving procedures for your automobile.
- Watch for slippery bridge decks, even when the rest of the pavements are in good condition. Bridge decks will ice up sooner than the adjacent pavement.
- Don't use cruise control in wintry conditions. Even roads that appear clear can have sudden slippery spots and the short touch of your brakes to deactivate the cruise control feature can cause you to lose control of your vehicle.
- Don't get overconfident in your 4x4 vehicle. Remember that your four-wheel drive vehicle may help you get going quicker than other vehicles but it won't help you stop any faster. Many 4x4 vehicles are heavier than passenger vehicles and actually may take longer to stop. Don't get overconfident with your 4x4 vehicle's traction. Your 4x4 can lose traction as quickly as a two-wheel drive vehicle.
- Don't pump anti-lock brakes. If you car is equipped with anti-lock brakes, do not pump the brakes while attempting to stop. The right way is to "brake and steer".
- Look farther ahead in traffic than you usually do. Actions by cars and trucks will alert you quicker to problems and give you that split-second extra time to react safely.

WINTERIZING YOUR HOME AND WINTER DRIVING TIPS



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WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

CONSERVE ENERGY

FOR THOSE PROPERTY OWNERS WHO PLAN TO USE THEIR HOMES WEEKENDS ONLY, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING ENERGY CONSERVING AND SAFETY SUGGESTIONS:

- Set thermostat at 50°.
- Close fireplace dampers.
- Unplug all appliances & P.C.'s. Winter storms frequently cause power fluctuations that can cause damage.
- Turn off all lights and close drapes.
- Turn water heater down; maintain water temperature above freezing.
- Turn refrigerator/freezer to low setting.
- Test and clean smoke detectors.

WINTERIZE PLUMBING

- Turn off circuit breaker to electric water heater. (For gas water heater, turn to pilot or off.)
- IMPORTANT**—Do not turn on water heater until completely filled!
- Shut off water coming into the house at stop or drain valve.
- Open all faucets to let water drain completely out. (including outside faucets).
- If you plan to be gone for the winter, you should also drain water heater.
- Flush all toilets and pour approx. 1 cup of antifreeze into each toilet bowl and 1/2 cup into each toilet tank, sink, shower and tub drain.

Pour a little antifreeze inside the washing area of your dishwasher. You should also remove the front panel and disconnect the water line where it enters the dishwasher. To start up water in house, reverse these steps .

IMPORTANT: DO NOT turn on circuit breaker for electric water heater until water has flowed continuously through farthest hot water faucet for at least one minute. Premature current surge will burn out elements instantly. In addition, you should also:

Cover windows near ground level on snow side sides of house, with shutters.

Close all foundation vents to weather in the Fall and open in late Spring.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

California Road info 800-427-7623
Sierra Pacific Power 800-782-2506
Nevada Road Info 877-687-6237
Placer Co. Road Dept 530-581-6222
P.U.D. 530-587-3896 (or for weekends/emergencies)

530-587-2102

California Highway Patrol 530-582-7570

These stations carry local emergency information:

FM 101.5 KTKE (Truckee)
AM 1490 KOWL
FM 93.9 KRLT
AM 780 KOH (Reno)
NOAA Weather Radio 162.55MHz

Web Sites:

www.magnifeye.com
www.weather.com
www.wunderground.com