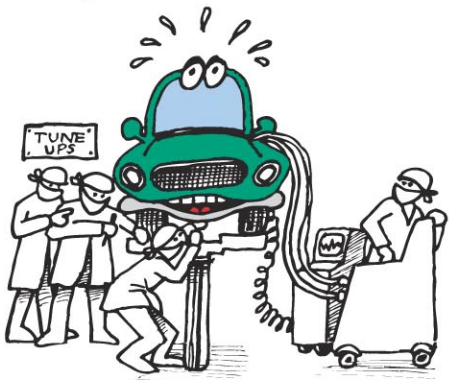


## WEATHERWISE... BE PREPARED



Have a reputable auto mechanic do a tune-up and inspection on your car **before** winter starts.



- ✓ **Brakes** - must be faultless and equalized so there is no pulling to one side which may cause skidding.
- ✓ **Tires** - if your vehicle is not equipped with all-season radials, snow tires should be installed.\* Tire pressure should be checked. (\*In Quebec snow tires are mandatory beginning Dec. 15, 2008).
- ✓ **Exhaust System** - check the muffler and tail pipe system for carbon monoxide leaks to prevent gas poisoning. Leaks are especially dangerous during cold weather driving when the windows are closed.
- ✓ **Windshield Wipers** - should be checked for cracks and proper tension.
- ✓ **Battery** - battery power declines in cold weather. Have it checked and replaced if necessary.
- ✓ **Heaters and Defrosters** - should be checked to make sure they are operational.
- ✓ **Fuel system** - keep your gas tank full. A full tank minimizes condensation which may cause gasoline freezing. Add gasoline anti-freeze occasionally.

## DON'T BE A PEEP HOLE DRIVER



Clean snow off all windows. Remove loose snow from the hood and roof to prevent it from blowing up on the windshield or piling up on

the back window as you drive. Ensure windows are defogged before starting out.

## EASY DOES IT



When starting on icy or hardpacked snow surfaces, the application of too much power will spin wheels. If you can't get moving, first turn the wheels from side to side a few times to push the snow out of the way, then steer straight ahead and ease forward gently. Spinning wheels only get you in deeper.



## IF YOU GET STUCK



Clear away snow from around the tires. Spread a little sand, rock salt or ashes under the tires. Gently rock the car back and forth, shifting quickly from forward to reverse, gradually increasing the distance travelled with each rock. (Check owners manual before "rocking" the vehicle).

## THE GREATER THE DISTANCE



A greater following distance is needed to bring a vehicle to a halt in wet, icy or snowy conditions. Leave plenty of room between you and other drivers and reduce speed to decrease stopping distance. Winter driving requires a gentle touch on the brakes as well as the accelerator. Vehicles equipped with ABS allows you to maintain rolling friction whenever possible. This allows you to brake and steer, a significant benefit for collision avoidance.

## SEE AND BE SEEN

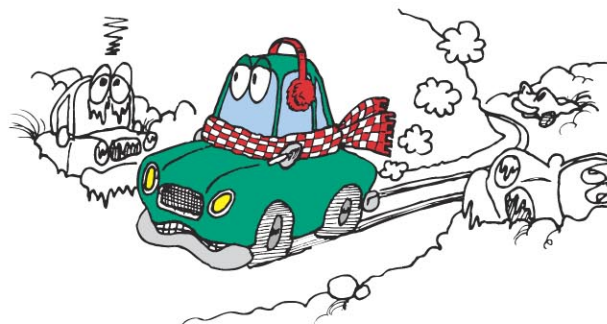


Changing weather conditions often affect visibility and perception. Keep your windows clear and free from snow and dirt. Road spray may reduce your headlight and tail light efficiency so clean them often. In fog or a snowfall use low beams to reduce the glare and reflection. Do not take chances in poor weather conditions: plan to stay put or look for somewhere to pull off the road completely until the weather improves.

## BACK IN CONTROL



Avoid sudden acceleration, abrupt lane changes, sharp turns or abrupt braking which can put you into a spin. If your vehicle starts to slide, take your foot off the accelerator and declutch (manual shift) or shift to neutral (automatic shift). **Do not brake.** Follow your natural impulse and steer to keep the car going in its original direction. **Don't oversteer.**



## IT COULD HAPPEN



If your car breaks down or you become stuck in a blizzard or very cold weather:

- check to make sure the tail pipe is clear to prevent carbon monoxide (CO) build-up
- stay in the car
- wrap yourself in blankets and light a candle to provide warmth
- open the car window a crack to allow fresh air in and to avoid CO poisoning

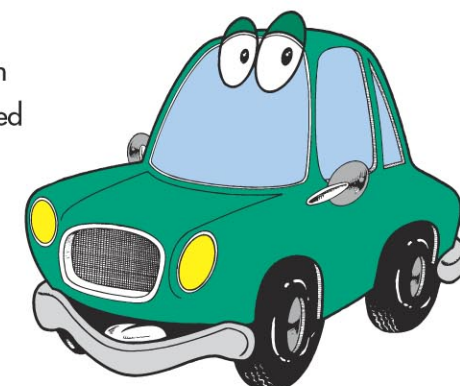
- run the motor no more than ten minutes each hour to conserve gasoline and prevent excessive CO build up.

## BASIC EQUIPMENT



The following items should be carried for winter operation:

- windshield scraper
- snow brush
- lightweight shovel
- cell phone
- tire wedges (to prevent rolling)
- a bag of sand or other traction aid
- small tool kit
- tow rope chain
- properly inflated spare tire
- wheel wrench
- wheel jack
- first aid kit
- flashlight and batteries
- flares
- battery jumper cables
- gasoline anti-freeze
- candle and a small tin
- matches



Place an extra set of car keys outside the passenger and trunk compartments as keys can be easily lost in deep snow.

In addition to the basic equipment listed, for out of town trips take along a fire extinguisher, blankets or sleeping bags, lined winter boots and hat, twelve wide candles, a supply of rags, and Emergency ration kit with a supply of non-perishable food, warm clothing and small heating cans (Sterno).