

Common sense items to keep in your car

For winter driving . . .

1. Make sure car is in good condition for winter driving before bad weather arrives. Keep gas tank filled above a quarter of a tank. If you regularly travel more than an hour or two from home, you may wish to fill when the tank is half full.
2. Hat, scarf, and warm gloves kept in the car. How many times do we run out the door in winter weather with no hat, thin driving gloves, and decorative scarf because it will “only be a minute” between car and destination? If you always wear dress shoes or heels to travel, consider also adding a sturdy pair of shoes/boots. If something happens and you are stuck in your car or need to be outside, you will need warmth. Chemical hand warmers can be helpful, also.
3. Windshield scraper – a small one that can be used inside as well as outside on smaller areas – like chipping ice off a side mirror.
4. Larger windshield scraper -- with a long enough handle to reach all of your windows. A brush is also convenient in brushing off snow from windows, hood, headlights, etc.
5. Tow strap and basic knowledge of how to use it.
6. Tire chains if these are used in your area
7. Jumper cables
8. Small folding shovel – easy to store in the trunk. If you don't own one and it is snowing heavily – put a regular shovel in your trunk before you leave.
9. Bag of cat litter (non clumping) or sand to sprinkle in front of tires to provide traction.
10. Roll of paper towels or clean shop towels
11. Know how to access your state's travel information by phone or online/smartphone and check information to stay on top of changing conditions.
12. A coffee can with a roll of toilet paper could make things more comfortable if stuck for an extended period.

