



Boy Scouts



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PREPARE YOUR CAR FOR WINTER WEATHER!

In the winter months, we all need to take additional steps to protect ourselves from the cold – warmer clothes, a heavy coat, a hat, mittens, a scarf and boots with good traction for the snow. It's also a good idea to protect your car during cold months by winterizing your vehicle before the beginning of the season. This is essential, as cold temperatures make it difficult for engines to work properly, snow limits tire traction and salt causes rust and gravel pits on the exterior paint.

Car Winterizing Recommendations:

Consider these car winterizing suggestions before the temperature drops:

- Place snow tires on your vehicle
 - Braking, accelerating and handling are tough to do with worn or high performance tires on slippery roads. Snowtires will increase traction and reduce your chances of slipping on slick surfaces.
- Check your tire pressure
 - Properly inflated tires ensure the best possible connection between your vehicle and the road, especially in slick conditions.
 - Cold temperatures cause tire air pressure to drop since gases contract when they're cold.
- Check your four-wheel drive system for malfunctions
 - Check that your system engages and disengages properly and does not make any unusual noises when you start it. Also, check the gear oil levels and transmission before temperatures get too cold.



Safety First:

The winter may be hard on you: Dry skin, brittle hair and an increased risk of colds and the flu. It is also hard on your vehicle. Take the necessary steps to protect your car against the cold to ensure that it will last the entire season long!

- Change the oil in your engine and check the viscosity grade
 - Viscosity of oil - how thick it is - will change depending on its temperature. The colder oil is, the thicker it will become. Consequently, thick oil does not circulate through an engine as easily as thinner oil during start-up. To reduce the risk of problems with your engine oil, place thinner oil in your engine before the cold weather season.
- Have belts and hoses inspected
- Inspect wipers and refill wiper fluid
- Check your car battery
 - Extreme temperatures can cause your vehicle's battery to operate at less than 50 percent. If your battery is over three years old, have it tested.
- Check the antifreeze mixture
 - The ideal mixture of antifreeze and water in your radiator is 50:50. If this ratio is off, your vehicle will not perform as well.
- Place a roadside emergency supply kit in your car

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Frozen pipes not only disrupt daily life, they can also be expensive to repair. Water expands as it freezes, and when combined with extreme pressure, can cause pipes to burst. Generally, pipes that are exposed to outdoor temperatures freeze more readily, such as hose bibs, swimming pool lines and water sprinkler lines. Pipes that run along exterior walls in the building with minimal insulation also tend to freeze more easily. Read on for some hints to help keep your pipes from freezing.

Before the Temperature Drops:

You can take precautions to prevent frozen pipes before the temperature drops outside and during frigid months of the year. Use the following recommendations:

- Insulate pipes in unheated interior areas, such as crawl spaces and attics.
- Wrap pipes in heat tape or thermostatically-controlled heat cables.
- Open cabinet doors to expose pipes to warm air.
- Seal any leaks with caulk or insulation.
- Disconnect outdoor items such as hoses and faucets.
 - Shut off these items completely using an indoor valve and allow the excess water to drain out.
 - Do not use antifreeze on these items, as it is environmentally harmful.
- Trickle a little water out of your faucets periodically to keep water moving within the pipes.
- Do not set your thermostat lower than 55° F. Have someone periodically check vacant buildings.

We're here to help make sure you're covered for all of life's mishaps. To learn about the ways we can help you protect your home, contact us today.



Safety First:

If you turn on a faucet and no water or only a trickle comes out, your pipes may be frozen. Turn off the main water valve and keep the faucet on. Apply heat to the pipe by using an electric heating pad, hair dryer or portable space heater, or by wrapping the pipe in towels soaked in hot water. You should apply heat until you regain water pressure. If this does not solve the problem, contact a licensed plumber to inspect your pipes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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