

Winter Car Care



BATTERY TIPS

- **AS THE TEMPERATURE** drops, so does the cranking power of your battery. At 32 degrees, your battery has 15% less starting power than it does at 80 degrees; at 0 degrees, it has 35% less power; at -20 degrees, it has less than half the cranking power while the engine needs 3-1/2 times the power to start.
- **FAULTY BATTERIES** cause more car starting problems than any other factor. Turn off all unnecessary lights and accessories if vehicle-starts are sluggish.
- **DIM HEADLAMPS** or sluggish engine starts may be signs a new battery is needed. When buying a battery, rely on advice given by auto parts and/or service personnel, who will cross-reference your vehicle to the industry standard for the proper replacement battery.
- **TODAY'S MAINTENANCE-FREE** batteries don't require regular fluid checks, but it is wise to inspect the battery case and cables for loose fits and/or damage.
- **CORROSION**, in the form of white or yellowish powder, also can affect battery performance. Clean the connections with a stiff brush, using a solution of baking soda and water.

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S U R V I V A L G E A R

AAA recommends you carry these items in your car during the winter months.

- **Ice Scraper & Brush**
- **Coffee Can Furnace**
- **Boots, Gloves, Hat**
- **Tools & Flashlight**
- **Tire traction material such as sand or cat litter**
- **Food & Blanket**
- **Jumper Cables**
- **First Aid Kit**
- **Cell Phone**
- **Flares or Reflective Triangle**
- **Shovel**

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C H E C K L I S T

- **BATTERY:** Make sure terminals are tight and clean. If lights seem dim or vehicle starts are sluggish, have the electrical system, including battery, checked by a technician.
- **RADIATOR:** Check coolant strength with a hydrometer. Recommended protection level is -36 degrees. Never check hot.
- **BELTS/HOSES:** Check belts for cracks or fraying. Check hoses for leaks, bulges or cracks. Make sure clamps are secure.
- **WINDSHIELD WASHER/WIPERS:** Make sure reservoir is filled with washer solvent. Replace wiper blades if needed.
- **FLUIDS:** Check oil, brake, transmission, radiator coolant and power steering fluid levels. Follow owner's manual directions.
- **AIR FILTER:** Hold air filter up to a light. If you can't see through it, replace it.
- **TIRES:** Inspect wear. Check pressure with a gauge when tires are cold. Refer to owner's manual for recommended air pressure and tread depth specifications.
- **LIGHTS AND SIGNALS:** Activate to make sure all work.

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DRIVING TIPS

- **CLEAR SNOW AND ICE FROM CAR.** To improve visibility, remove all snow and ice from your hood, roof, trunk, turn signals, tail lights, headlights.
- **GO SLOW IN THE SNOW.** Posted speed limits are set for ideal road and weather conditions. Slow down when visibility and road conditions are impaired.
- **BRAKING TECHNIQUES.** Use “squeeze” or “threshold” braking when driving a car without anti-lock brakes. Apply the brakes to a point just short of lock-up, then ease off the brake pedal slightly. For vehicles with anti-lock brakes, continuous, firm braking is necessary.
- **ANTICIPATE DANGER.** Be ready for ice on bridges, hidden lane markings, stalled cars and poor visibility. Adjust your speed, increase following distance between vehicles.
- **PUT THE LID ON SKIDS.** Ease off the accelerator and don't lock up the brakes. Carefully steer in the direction you want your vehicle to go and straighten the wheel as soon as the car begins to go in the desired direction.