



Is Your Car Ready for Winter

The song “Baby, its Cold Outside” may date back to 1949 but Canadian winters have been cold a lot longer than that. And if you ask any technician, they’ll tell you winter is the time of year when the most breakdowns and service calls occur.

The best way to avoid making that desperate plea to your repair facility is by doing a little preventive maintenance in advance. Have your vehicle checked over for winter and you’ll avoid singing those winter break-down blues.

At your next engine oil changed have all fluids (transmission, power steering, differential, brake) checked for proper levels and condition. All fluids deteriorate with time and lose their lubrication properties. Check your owner’s manual for recommended service intervals.

Have your coolant checked for condition and freeze point. Coolants deteriorate over time and become acidic, if it is over two years old it probably should be replaced and your system flushed.

Have your air filter replaced. (Did you know that the average car consumes 14,000 litres of air for every litre of fuel it burns)? Also have your fuel filter changed.

Have your electrical system checked. Check the alternator output and starter draw that they are still up to specifications. Inspect the battery terminals for corrosion, clean as required. Have the battery load tested for it’s capability to crank over the engine. A weak battery may still start your car now but fail on a cold winter morning.

Have all your belts checked for cracks and hoses checked for soft areas. If a problem exists it is cheaper to replace the part now than it is to wait for it to fail at an inappropriate time.

Have the condition of your spark plugs, ignition wires along with other associated maintenance parts inspected and serviced or replaced as necessary. This is also a good time to clean and service the fuel injection system. Dirty fuel injectors inhibit cold starting and reduce fuel economy.

Have your brakes and steering components inspected to make sure they are in good condition for optimal control under slippery conditions.

We recommend changing your wiper blades. Ground in road grime and dirt deposits on your blades can damage windshield glass. Rubber blades get brittle and will not wipe the windshield clean. Top up your washer reservoir with washer anti-freeze never add water as this will freeze in your system.

Check your headlights, signal lights, brake lights, park lights, license plate lights and hazard lights for proper operation so you can see and be seen.



Check tire tread depths and pressures on all tires and make sure that the spare tire is inflated properly. Worn tires do not give good traction on icy, snowy road surfaces. Also make sure that the tire changing equipment is in good repair.

Lubricate all door and trunk locks with lock lubricant to eliminate freezing.

We recommend keeping your fuel tank at least half full to reduce the chances of condensation forming in the tank and causing fuel system freezing problems.

Keep a bag of kitty litter in the trunk to use for traction on ice or in snow and carry emergency items in case of an accident or getting stranded in bad weather.