

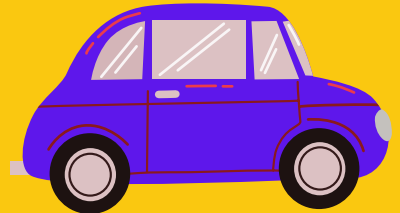


PREPARING FOR WINTER WEATHER IN DRIVERS EDUCATION COURSES

Winter weather can be daunting for drivers. Snow, ice and slushy roads make it difficult to navigate the road and account for close to half a million car crashes in the U.S. As such, it is crucial to include safety strategies for severe winter weather in driver education classes and materials.

These strategies should include ways to winterize your vehicle, drive safely during winter conditions, and prevent skidding.

HOW TO WINTERIZE YOUR VEHICLE



- Check your tire pressure often
 - Air pressure in tires decrease in the winter, which can make it harder to steer your wheels. Add air as needed.
- Check your tire tread
 - Low tread depth can be harmful at any time, but risks worsen in the winter. If your tread depth is low, replace your tires.
- Change your oil
 - Thinner oils work better in colder conditions and can also help you start your car more easily. Change your oil to match your car's recommended winter oil viscosity.
- Use antifreeze
 - This helps keep your cooling system from freezing.
- Check your wiper blades
- Test your defroster to ensure that it works
- Test your car battery & use a battery warmer in freezing weather conditions
- Prepare a winter emergency kit with a blanket, flashlight, ice scraper and cell phone charger in the event that your car breaks down
- Always keep your gas tank at least halfway full



HOW TO DRIVE SAFELY

Snow, ice and slush make it easy to lose control of your vehicle and also increase the time it takes for your vehicle to stop when you break. Additionally, breaking too hard can cause you to skid. For these reasons, it is important to be extra cautious when driving.

- Clean your windows off before driving
- Drive slowly
- Break gently and begin breaking ahead of time
- When you have to make a turn, do so gently
- Increase the following distance between your car and the car in front of you
- Be aware of black ice and slippery spots in the road -- these spots may look like a shady area or a water puddle, but they can cause you to skid and lose control of your vehicle
- Test your vehicle's ability to steer and brake by starting off slowly when you drive and breaking 3x sooner than normal
- **For tips on what to do if you skid, check out this link:**
<https://www.autosimple.com/blog/winter-driving-tips-handle-skids/#:~:text=Accelerate%20%26%20decelerate%20slowly%20%E2%80%94%20As%20a,Slow%20down!>