

WINTER CAR KIT CHECKLIST

The cold-weather additions only. The year-round car kit is a separate list, and it should already be in the vehicle.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

state-of-emergency.com

WHAT WINTER ADDS TO THE YEAR-ROUND KIT

TRACTION AND DIGGING OUT

- ☐ Folding shovel — to dig the wheels out, and to clear the exhaust pipe
- ☐ Grit, sand or cat litter, for traction under a spinning wheel
- ☐ Traction boards or chains, where they are legal to use
- ☐ Ice scraper and snow brush, including the roof
- ☐ Windscreen washer fluid rated for cold

WARMTH WITHOUT THE ENGINE

- ☐ Wool or synthetic blankets, one per seat
- ☐ Hat, gloves, spare socks, and warm boots you could walk in
- ☐ Chemical hand warmers — warmth with no flame and no fuel
- ☐ Extra water and calorie-dense food, kept where water will not freeze solid
- ☐ Bright cloth or a marker flag, to be seen from the road

Not on this list: a candle heater. Open flame in a sealed cabin consumes oxygen and produces carbon monoxide, for very little heat. Blankets and hand warmers do the job.

IF YOU GET STRANDED IN SNOW

the engine still works

IN THIS ORDER

- ☐ Stay with the vehicle. It is shelter, and far easier to find than a person walking
- ☐ Make yourself visible: hazard lights, bright cloth, interior light while the engine runs
- ☐ Clear the exhaust pipe before you run the engine, and again at every restart

THEN

- ☐ Run the engine intermittently — roughly ten minutes an hour
- ☐ Crack a downwind window slightly while the engine runs
- ☐ Flex hands, arms and legs periodically, without sweating

BEFORE THE FIRST FREEZE

the vehicle, not the kit

CHECK

- ☐ Tyre tread and pressure — cold air drops pressure
- ☐ The battery. Cold finds one that was already marginal in October

TOP UP

- ☐ Cold-rated washer fluid, and the antifreeze
- ☐ Wiper blades, if they are smearing. Keep the tank above half all winter

SPECIFIC TO THIS VEHICLE

what the generic list cannot know

ADD YOUR OWN

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VEHICLE

CHECKED ON

NEXT CHECK DUE

Carbon monoxide: never run the engine with the exhaust buried, never run it continuously while anyone sleeps, and never burn fuel of any kind inside the cabin. Confusion, unusual sleepiness, headache or nausea while the engine runs: get everyone into fresh air and call emergency services.