

## **PREPARING YOUR CAR FOR WINTER DRIVING**

Parts of Texas experience considerable snow and ice during a typical year, although all of Texas (including the Houston area as recently as December 4, 2009) can experience snow! Preparing your car for winter driving is important to protect your safety and to help avoid accidents.

1. Before winter gets here, have your brakes and coolant checked, and make sure your tires, windshield wipers, defroster, heater, and exhaust system are OK. It's especially important to check tires for wear and air pressure.
2. Have a good snow-and-ice scraper and extra windshield washing fluid in the car.
3. Drivers who may face serious winter driving should have the right-size chains in their trunk, along with sand and a shovel.
4. Other items of value in an emergency include flashlight, gloves, blanket, and flares.
5. In remote areas, keep a sleeping bag, an old pair of boots, and warm clothes, including hat, gloves, and an old winter coat, in the car.
6. It's always good to practice handling a car in snow. The most often chosen off-road location is a local parking lot after hours when no other vehicles are around. Practice starting, stopping, turning, and getting out of skids.
7. Program the number of the American Automobile Association into their cell phones, if you are a member, or the number of a road service company.
8. Have updated road maps of the areas you will be driving through.

Getting stuck is always a pain; in winter, it also is dangerous.

---

Source: compiled in part from [www.onthesnow.com](http://www.onthesnow.com)