

# Car Care Corner

## Is Your Car Ready For Winter Weather?

(NAPSA)—Doing proper preventive maintenance can help make winter driving safer and easier. To preserve your car and prepare for the worst weather has to offer, experts suggest you find ways to cope with cold weather emergencies, make sure your car is road-ready and find ways to help prevent cold-weather damage.

### Don't Get Caught

Since winter storms can arrive suddenly, keep an ice scraper and snow brush in the garage and another in the car. Window and lock de-icer can help you get into your car when you're frozen out. Be prepared with an emergency kit that includes jumper cables, a flashlight, first-aid kit, blankets, snacks, candles, matches and bottled water. You should also have a fully-charged cellular phone in case you need to call for help.

### Prepare Your Car

Visibility is important in a snowstorm. Replace windshield wiper blades if they don't completely clear the windshield in three swipes. Top off washer fluid frequently, drive with your defroster running and test engine coolant or antifreeze to ensure freeze protection. To prevent a gas line freeze, use a winter fuel system cleaner and add fuel de-icer every time you fill up your tank.

Tire traction is imperative during the winter months. Winter tires are a good investment because bald tires can lead to trouble on slick roads. Deep tread



**Slush and salt can be inevitable during winter driving, but you can keep your car's interior looking good longer with a simple upholstery protector.**

grooves offer better traction in the snow. You can check the depth by inserting a penny face up in the tread; if you can still see the top of Lincoln's head, it is time for a new tire.

### Help Minimize The Damage

Protect your upholstery and carpets from slush and salt, which can penetrate them and make them look dingy. A good choice is Scotchgard OXY Auto Carpet & Upholstery Spot Cleaner with Stain Protector, designed to remove stains in automobile interiors.

This two-in-one spot cleaner dissolves stains from below the surface, so they cannot creep back up over time. Plus, it deposits Scotchgard Protector anti-soiling agents onto the upholstery and carpet to help protect future stains and neutralize odors. The product is available nationwide at Pep Boys. For more information,