

Protect Your Car From The Common Cold

(NAPSA)—Safety should be the first thing on drivers' minds during cold weather. Snow, cold and freezing rain can make driving a challenge.

Follow these tips from AutoZone so that you and your car will be safe and prepared.

- Winter places a huge strain on your battery.

At freezing temperatures your battery power drops to about half of maximum, and at -20°F your battery power drops to 18 percent. Keeping your battery in top condition is critical.

- Check your starting and charging system to make sure it is ready for the colder temperatures. This system includes the starter, alternator and battery and is one of the most common problem areas for drivers in winter. Most AutoZone stores can test your entire system, including the battery, for free.

- Keep a tire gauge in your glove compartment and check tire pressure regularly to make sure they are properly inflated. Tire pressure decreases in colder weather so you may need to put air in your tires more often.

- Check belts and hoses because winter temperatures often increase wear and tear.

- Replace windshield wiper blades for maximum visibility during snow, rain and wind. Refill wiper fluid, too.



- Keep your gas tank at least half full throughout the winter for safety and to prevent condensation from forming in the tank.

- Check the fluid levels in your cooling system and protect your engine with fresh antifreeze.

Three out of every four cars on the road have inadequate antifreeze protection making cooling system problems the number one cause of engine-related roadside breakdowns.

- Be prepared in case you do have car trouble. Purchase a prepackaged emergency kit or be sure to keep a scraper, deicer, blanket, flashlight, flare or reflectors, wiper fluid, jumper cables, water, food, batteries and cell phone in a plastic container in your car.

For more car care and repair tips visit www.autozone.com.

AutoZone Winter Checklist

- Have your charging and starting system checked, especially your battery.
- Keep a tire gauge in your car to check tire pressure regularly.
- Check belts and hoses.
- Replace windshield wiper blades and refill wiper fluid.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Check fluid levels in your cooling system.
- Replace any worn parts on your braking system.
- Pack an emergency kit with essentials for surviving cold temperatures.

