

Car Care Corner

Prepare For Rough Weather Driving

(NAPSA)—Winter driving can be dangerous and stressful, especially in snow and ice. Advanced preparations can provide greater peace of mind and help make trips safer, whether it's to the grocery store or a faraway ski resort.

Get the Car Ready for the Cold

Whether you take your car in for a routine checkup at a service center like Jiffy Lube® or do it yourself, these are some essential preparations for winter driving:

Check the battery's age to make sure the car will start on frigid mornings. On average, a car battery will last about four or five years. If yours is more than two years old, test it to see if it will withstand the cold.

According to the American Automobile Association, a battery loses 35 percent of its power at 32 F and 60 percent of its power at 0 degrees F. To minimize the strain on your battery, start the car with the heater, lights and window defrosters turned off.

Tire blowouts can be particularly dangerous, so make sure they are properly inflated, have adequate tread depth and have been rotated according to manufacturer's recommendations.

Make sure you have enough fresh antifreeze and washer fluid. Check wiper blades to make sure they glide smoothly and do not leave streaks or blind spots.

Check engine oil, differential fluid and transmission fluid to see if they need changing according to manufacturer's recommendations.

Carry the Essentials

A properly packed emergency



kit is essential during the winter. Make sure to have a flashlight, extra batteries, water, flares, blankets, shovel, snow brush and ice scraper. Also, keep some kitty litter or sand in the trunk—spreading it under your tires will give you more traction if you get stuck. Bring wire and cloth if you need to patch a leaking hose to make it to the nearest service center.

Before Hitting the Slopes

Winding narrow roads and black ice (especially on bridges) make mountain driving dangerous. Take extra precautions before driving to your favorite ski resort.

Test your brakes on the mountain roads to get a feel for how they react. Reduce your speed, brake slowly, and leave plenty of space between you and other motorists.

Check the weather conditions before you leave and use sound judgment. If you get caught in a sudden blizzard, stay in your car. Do not idle your car for long stretches of time to keep warm.

For more information on car maintenance and safety, visit www.jiffylube.com.