

Car Care Corner®

Safe Winter-Driving Tips

(NAPSA)—Keeping your car well maintained is one of the best ways to ensure safe winter travels. That's why experts suggest keeping a regular service schedule with qualified auto technicians at a dealership. They will inspect your car's battery and brakes, refill fluids and check to see that your car is operating smoothly.

Try these additional tips from the National Automobile Dealers Association:

- Pack a blanket, flashlight, jumper cables, warning flares and a shovel in your trunk. On long trips, it's a good idea to bring food, water and medication, as well.

- Review your owner's manual carefully so you're aware of any special handling characteristics and operation that could affect your car's performance in bad weather.

- If bad weather is forecast, allow yourself extra travel time. Familiarize yourself with directions before leaving home and let others know your travel plans.

- When winter weather hits, take your vehicle for a test drive. Practice driving in an empty parking lot to get used to the brakes, steering and handling.

- Know whether your vehicle is equipped with ABS brakes and learn to use your brakes properly in winter-driving conditions.

- Check your tires for tread and pressure. Also, tires should be rated as "all-season."

- Before setting out on your trip, make sure all snow and ice are cleared off your vehicle, particularly your windows, roof and front and backlights.

For more safe-driving tips, visit www.nada.org.