

Car Care Corner

Winter Car-Care Tips

(NAPSA)—A mechanical failure in the winter can be deadly, so preventive maintenance is a must. Here's advice on what to look for from the pros at the nonprofit National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). Any weekender can perform some of the tips; others require the skilled hands of an auto technician.



- Have engine performance problems (hard starts, rough idling, diminished power, etc.) corrected at a good repair shop. Cold weather makes existing problems worse. Replace dirty or worn filters—air, fuel, PCV, etc.

- Put a bottle of fuel deicer in your tank once a month to help prevent freezing in the fuel line. Replace worn wiper blades.

- The cooling system should be flushed and refilled as recommended. The tightness and condition of drive belts, clamps and hoses should be checked by a pro.

- Have older batteries checked for charge. The only accurate way to detect a weak battery is with professional equipment.

- Replace worn tires, which will be of little use in winter weather. Don't forget your spare, and be sure the jack is in good condition.

ASE was founded to improve the quality of automotive service and repair through the voluntary testing and certification of automotive technicians. ASE-certified technicians wear blue and white ASE shoulder insignia; their employers often display the blue and white ASE sign. Visit www.ase.com for more winter tips.