

BIS

Seasonal Safety Tips

Winter Edition



Brrr! It's beginning to get snowy and cold! You know that winter is here! Winter can be a dangerous time out on the roads, so be prepared by following these tips!

Driving safely in the winter weather can be quite hard some days! Snow, ice, and freezing temperatures make driving near impossible! Here's some advice that might help you out! Before winter arrives, have your car tuned up, check the level of antifreeze, make sure the battery is good, and check your tire tread or put on snow tires.

- ❄️ Keep emergency gear in your car for everyday trips:
 - ❄️ cell phone
 - ❄️ flashlight
 - ❄️ sand or kitty litter (for traction)
 - ❄️ ice scraper, snow brush, and small shovel
 - ❄️ blankets
 - ❄️ warning devices (e.g., flares, reflectors)
- ❄️ For long car trips, keep food, water, extra blankets, and required medication on hand.
- ❄️ Try to avoid driving in snow or ice storms. If you must travel in bad weather, drive slowly. Let someone know what route you're taking and when you plan to arrive so they can alert authorities if you don't get there.
- ❄️ Don't sit in a parked car with the engine running unless a window is open. Do not let your car run while parked in a garage.

Here are a few tips to make sure that your house is ready for winter!

- ❄️ Have your heating system checked by a professional annually. This will ensure that your system is working safely and efficiently which, in turn, will save you money. If you heat by wood, clean your fireplace or stove. Have your chimney flue checked for any build up of creosote and then cleaned to lessen the risk of fire.
- ❄️ Make sure your home is properly insulated. If necessary, insulate walls and attic. This will help you to conserve energy and reduce your homes power demands for heat.
- ❄️ Caulk and weather-strip doors and windowsills to keep cold air out.
- ❄️ Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside. This will provide an extra layer of insulation, keeping more cold air out.
- ❄️ Replace batteries of smoke, heat and carbon monoxide detectors. If you did not do it when you set the clocks back, do it now.

