



Your Auto

Colder weather creates its own requirements for car maintenance. These basic maintenance tips increase safety and decrease chances of a breakdown on a cold, winter road:

- ❑ **Charge it:** Charge or replace battery as necessary.
- ❑ **Coolant:** Replace and replenish antifreeze in the cooling systems. As a general rule, this should be done every two years.
- ❑ **Make sure heaters, wipers, and defrosters work effectively.** Consider using winter wiper blades and cold weather washer fluid.
- ❑ **Kick the tires:** Do you have enough tread? Are they properly inflated? Consider winter tires that provide more grip on icy roads.
- ❑ **Changing the oil:** Changing the oil in accordance with your car's maintenance schedule is one of the simplest ways to maintain and prolong the life of your vehicle.
- ❑ **Getting in tune:** If your car is due for a tune up, get it done! Simple fixes like pings, hard starts, and sluggish performance can often become magnified problems during the winter months.
- ❑ Get your brakes checked.

Your Home

It's cold outside so you're most likely keeping it warm inside! Here are a few things to add to your seasonal home checklist:

Heat

- ❑ **Open vents** near the floor and close those near the ceiling for better air circulation.
- ❑ Test your furnace and replace the filters.
- ❑ **Check the furnace, part II:** Let a professional give your heating system a checkup.
- ❑ **Use solid fuel safely:** Make sure stoves are UL approved and fireplaces are cleaned and maintained.

Attic Ventilation

- ❑ **Ensure attic insulation** doesn't cover ventilation vents in the eaves (also called soffits or overhangs). This helps prevent winter ice dams.
- ❑ **Make sure vents, eaves, and troughs** are free of plants and debris.

Snow Preparation

- ❑ **Shovel-ready:** Make sure you have a working snow blower, shovels, and sidewalk salt on hand.

Keep it Clean

- ❑ **Vacuum** under and behind freezer and fridge. This can greatly improve efficiency of unit.
- ❑ **Chimney cleaned and checked:** Increases ventilation and reduces fire hazard.
- ❑ **Trim low-hanging branches.** Collected snow and ice could break branches and do damage to your roof, home, or pedestrians.

Windows & Doors

- ❑ **Storm windows:** If you have older, removable wooden storm windows, make arrangements to have them re-installed.
- ❑ **Replace or repair** any broken window locks or latches.
- ❑ **Caulk** around frames.
- ❑ **Repair** any cracked or broken window panes.

Exterior

- ❑ **Keep gutters clean** at all times.
- ❑ **Roof:** If there are any signs of a leak or damaged shingles or flashing, have the roof checked. Make sure all culverts and exterior drains are free of debris.
- ❑ **Drain and coil** all those garden hoses.