



LeasePlan

10 Step Winter Driving Safety Checklist

LeasePlan Canada

125 Commerce Valley Dr W. Suite 801
Markham, ON L3T 7W4
1-855-588-3677

www.leaseplan.com/en-ca

Your Winter Driving Safety Checklist At A Glance



Check
vehicle
tires



Put
together
in-vehicle
emergency
kits



Get
batteries
tested



Check
your
fleet's
cooling
systems



Keep fuel
tanks at
least 50%
full



Plan routes
with the
telematics
and GPS
systems



Remove
snow and
ice from
vehicles



Keep
windows
clear of
fog



Use
winterize
d wiper
fluid



Get
your
vehicles
washed
often



1

Check vehicle tires



Make sure your vehicle has the right tires for winter conditions. Fleets that operate in heavy snow and ice should have winter tires stamped with the three-peak mountain snowflake symbol. This indicates the tire is suitable for severe conditions. For fleets that operate in milder conditions, all-weather tires are an excellent option. All-weathers stay pliable to -25 degrees. They're suitable for slush, light snow, rain, and cold, dry pavement.

(Note: Some jurisdictions mandate the type of tires that need to be mounted on the vehicles, so make sure you comply with the law in your area.)

As a driver, check your vehicle's tire pressure regularly. Did you know that, for every 10 degrees of temperature drop, tire pressure will drop by one-to-two pounds?

Tire pressure must stay within 30-35 PSI to maintain traction and safe handling. (Check each vehicle's owner's manual specific requirements.)

2

Put together in-vehicle emergency kits



Ensure you have essential emergency items in the trunk, so you are prepared for any circumstance.

Each kit should include:

- Blanket
- Proper attire
- Boots
- Jacket
- Hat and gloves
- Shovel
- Flashlight
- Snacks
- Water
- Bag of sand or cat litter (which can provide added traction if a driver get stuck in the snow)
- Candle and matches

3

Get batteries tested

Freezing temperatures slow the chemical reactions that occur in a vehicle's battery. As a result, battery power drops significantly in the winter.

To ensure you have enough "juice" while you're out on your routes, get your batteries tested. Replace any old or weak batteries or make system repairs where needed.

4

Check your fleet's cooling systems



It may sound strange to check your vehicles' cooling systems in cold weather. But these systems keep engines operating within the correct temperature range—year-round.

Having the wrong coolant, which could freeze, causes significant maintenance issues, so make sure the one you choose is temperature-appropriate.

Coolant also helps keep the passenger compartment's heater operating properly—essential for the winter months. You can get a mechanic to check your systems for you, or work with a fleet management company to take care of all maintenance for your fleet.

Fleets on the maintenance program here at LeasePlan Canada benefit from scheduled maintenance year-round. So they don't have to worry about a system breaking down in the middle of winter.

5

Keep fuel tanks at least 50% full



The last thing you want is to get stranded in dangerous conditions. So always keep your fuel level above half-a-tank.

If you find yourself stranded, do not to leave the car unless nearby shelter is available. Here at LeasePlan Canada, our fuel card programs come with 24/7 roadside assistance. Perfect for keeping drivers safe in all road conditions.

6

Plan routes with the telematics and GPS systems

Unpredictable road situations become more common in winter. Accidents, road closures, and bumper-to-bumper traffic can all contribute to late or missed appointments.

If your vehicle has a GPS system, which maps the exact location of each fleet vehicle, monitors traffic patterns, and identifies the most optimal routes for drivers, you can avoid congested or dangerous routes by utilizing the system.

7

Remove snow and ice from vehicles



Ensure each vehicle has a foam brush or non-abrasive snow broom that you can use to brush snow away. Allow time to remove snow and ice from the vehicles, and here's a simple list of steps you can follow:

- Remove all snow from the tailpipe to prevent blockage
- Turn on the front and rear defrosters
- Start by clearing snow from the top of the vehicle and work your way down, doing the windshield last
- Ensure headlights and taillights are clean and working
- Clear and dry wiper blades and ensure the wiper nozzles are clear
- Remove frost and ice, avoiding using hot water or a screwdriver

8

Keep windows clear of fog



Foggy windows cause major visibility problems in cold or wet weather. Running the heat and the air conditioner at the same time with fresh (not recirculated) air will defog windows fast. But this can be uncomfortable for drivers in the middle of winter.

Another solution is to start your vehicle 10-15 minutes in advance of driving. During that time, you can run the heat defroster on full blast, which will work to defog windows. Another option is an anti-fog spray. This will help prevent the windows from fogging up in the first place.

9

Use winterized wiper fluid

We recommend stocking up on windshield wiper fluid that has an antifreeze component. Not only will you be able to clean dirt and smears, but this will also ensure the vehicle's sprayer doesn't freeze up, crack, or apply a layer of fluid that turns to ice on the windshield.

10

Get your vehicles washed often

Road salt, snow, and moisture can cause rust on a car, which ages the vehicle's body prematurely. Ensure vehicles get to the car wash regularly, so they stay looking great for longer.



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