

Winter Checklist



Your Auto

Outdoor temperatures and weather changes often lead to difficult commutes and a bigger need to be cautious when outdoors. While it's important to use caution with regards to the added snow, ice, and cold that December brings, it's also important to use attentiveness with your vehicle and its general maintenance needs. Here are a few items to add to the checklist of seasonal checkups for your car:

- Have the battery and charging system checked for optimum performance.
- Clean out and replace antifreeze in the cooling systems. As a general rule of thumb, this should be done every two years.
- Make sure heaters, wipers, and defrosters work effectively. You might consider winter wiper blades and use cold weather washer fluid.
- Check the tire tread and tire pressure. Special tires that are designed to grip icy roads are often recommended.
- Be diligent about changing the oil when it gets to the level necessary for it to be done.
- 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. Have your exhaust system checked for carbon monoxide leaks.



Your Home

It's cold outside so you're most likely keeping it warm and toasty 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.
- Consider having a professional give your heating system a checkup.
- Using solid fuel? Make sure stoves are UL approved and fireplaces are cleaned and maintained.

Attic ventilation

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

Cleaning

- Vacuum under and behind the freezer and fridge. This can greatly improve efficiency of the unit.
- Have the chimney cleaned and checked by a chimney sweep.
- Trim any low hanging branches that could break with heavy snow and ice.

Windows & Doors

- If you have the 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.
- 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 your garden hoses.

Snow Preparation

- Make sure you have a working snow blower, shovels, and sidewalk salt on hand.

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