

Ontario Winter Car Maintenance Checklist

Tires & Wheels

- Install winter tires (below 7°C)
 - Check tire tread depth (min. 3.5 mm recommended)
 - Check tire pressure weekly (cold air lowers PSI)
 - Rotate tires if needed
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Fluids

- Check antifreeze level (protects to -40°C)
 - Top up winter-grade windshield washer fluid
 - Change to winter-grade engine oil (check owner's manual)
 - Check brake fluid and power steering fluid
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Battery

- Test battery condition and charge
 - Clean terminals and tighten cables
 - Replace battery if over 4–5 years old
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Heating & Visibility

- Test heater and defroster
- Replace wiper blades (use winter type)
- Check all lights (headlights, brake, signal, reverse)
- Keep extra windshield washer fluid in trunk

Emergency Kit

- Blanket or extra clothing
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Jumper cables
- Flashlight + extra batteries
- Small shovel and traction aid (kitty litter or sand)
- First aid kit
- Snacks and water
- Phone charger / power bank

Body & Mechanical

- Check brakes and suspension
- Lubricate locks and door seals (graphite/silicone spray)
- Keep gas tank at least half full
- Wash and wax car regularly to remove salt
- Check exhaust for leaks (important for idling in snow)

Before Driving

- Clear snow and ice from all windows, mirrors, roof, and lights
- Warm up engine only 1–2 minutes (idling longer wastes fuel)
- Plan extra travel time and check road conditions (e.g., Ontario 511)