

# Keeping your motor safe this winter



**Prevention is better than cure, that's why we've put together some great top tips to warmly wrap up your motor this season.**

Although we may find ourselves out on the road less this winter season, keep our tips top of mind to make sure your vehicle stays safe.

- Check that all exterior lights are working properly
- Make sure your windscreen wiper blades are in good condition
- Check oil, coolant and washer fluid levels
- Check the condition of your tyres and make sure they're at the correct pressure and depth (1.6mm is the legal minimum but 4mm is the recommended depth)
- Make sure you have enough screen wash and the concentration is right for cold conditions

## Steer yourself away from risks

If you do have to venture into the frosty weather, be prepared by reading our handy tips below.

### Snow and Ice

- **Steer gently into a skid** if it happens. Don't apply your brakes sharply and keep control of the vehicle by keeping both hands on the steering wheel



#### • Make sure your tyres have adequate tread

- poor tyres won't grip. It's a good idea to change your tyres in winter to ones with a deeper tread



- After snowfall, more time should be spent in the morning to **clear your vehicle** windows, mirrors and roof
- A **screen wash** should protect down to temperatures of -35 preventing water from freezing
- **Never use hot or boiling water to defrost the outside of your vehicle.** This can crack the glass. A de-icer, and a scraper is always recommended
- Leave up to **ten times the recommended gap** between you and the vehicle in front during icy conditions
- When driving, consider using a **higher gear** or any winter driving assisted controls that your vehicle may have
- During periods of snow and ice, vehicle control should be used **slowly and smoothly**

## Fog

- Visibility during fog is reduced significantly, so you should **reduce your speed to avoid accidents**
- **Always switch on fog lights**
- Before setting off you should make sure that **all exterior lights are in good working order**, especially fog lights
- Lighting and heating use a lot more fuel than normal, so **make sure you have enough fuel in the tank**
- **Headlights must be used** when visibility is less than 100 metres

## Driving in the dark

- Road casualty statistics show that **40% of collisions occur in the hours of darkness**
- Check that your **front and rear lights** are working
- **Never drive** if you're **too tired**
- **Travel slower at night** – it's important that you have enough time to see the unknown and react accordingly
- Watch out for **vulnerable road users**, such as **pedestrians and cyclists** who may not be wearing appropriate reflective gear
- Make sure your **windows are clean** because dirty glass increases glare from other vehicles and is also more likely to steam up

## What should I have in the car?

Feel prepared **before you set off**, here's what we think you could need:

- Hand sanitiser
- Disposable masks
- Disposable gloves
- Ice scraper
- Torch and spare batteries
- Warm clothes and blankets
- Winter boots
- First aid kit
- Jump leads
- Shovel and reflective warning sign
- Road maps (in the event of no GPS signal)
- Sunglasses
- Mobile phone charging bank (that's fully charged)



## What to do if your vehicle breaks down

- Make sure you have **breakdown cover** and keep the number of your provider **stored in your mobile phone**. Call them as soon as you can
- Make sure you have a **reflective jacket, torch and warm waterproof clothes in the vehicle**
- Always **exit the vehicle** through the **doors on the left hand side** and if there's a safety barrier stand behind it – it's important to **stay well away from moving traffic**
- Don't try to make repairs yourself, **wait for a rescue vehicle**



## Top tip

Check the **RAC Traffic Information** and **Highway Agency Traffic Information** for regular updates.

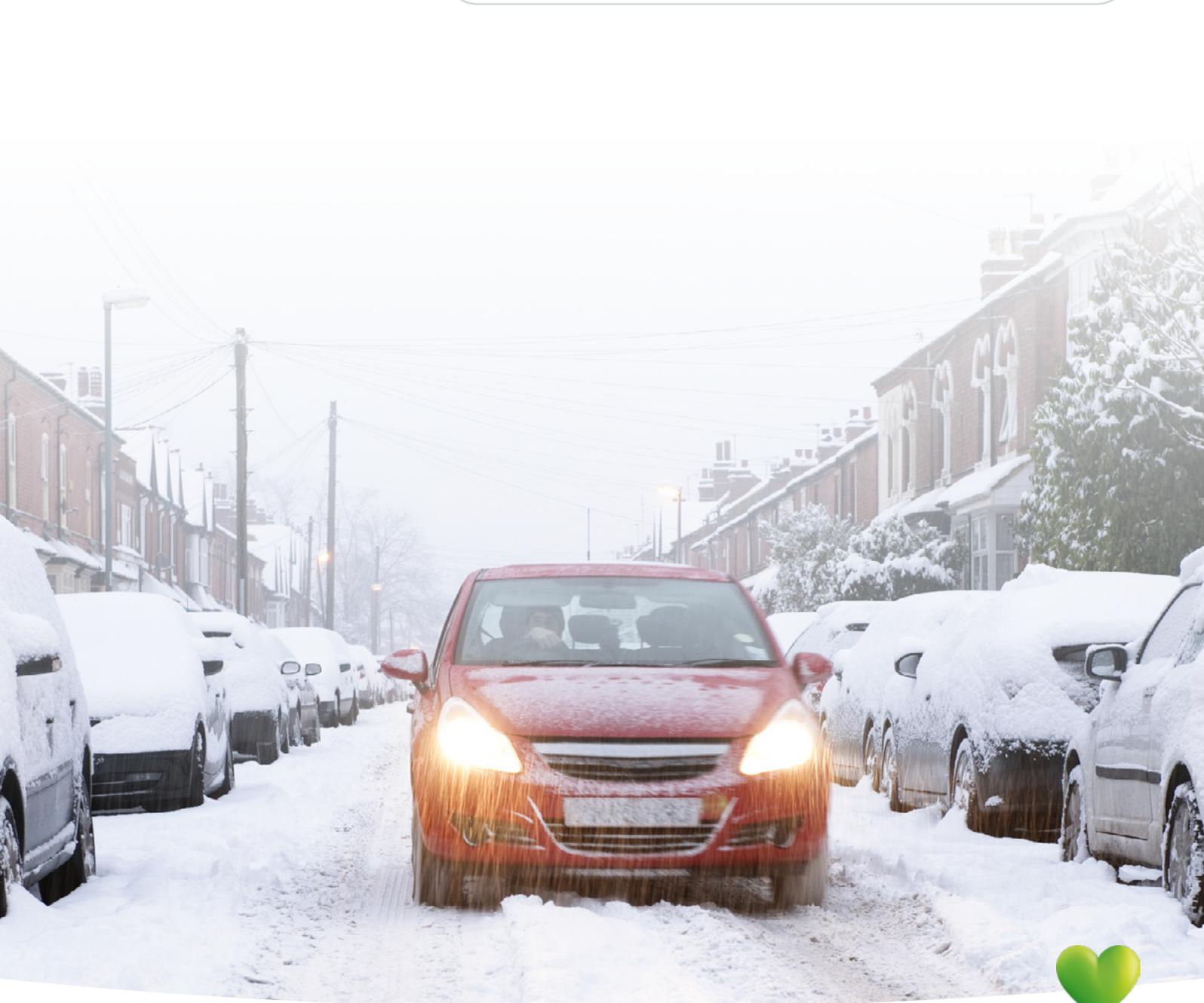
## More useful information

### Winter driving advice

[www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/winter-driving/](http://www.rac.co.uk/drive/advice/winter-driving/)

<https://www.lv.com/car-insurance/car-care-in-winter>

<https://www.lv.com/breakdown-cover/articles/three-ways-to-avoid-a-winter-breakdown>



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