

Is your motor ready for the cold?

Let's stay safe on the road this winter

Winter-proof checklist

Let's get you geared up for those colder, darker days.

- ✓ **Get your vehicle serviced**
If a service is due soon, get it sorted before winter arrives.

- ✓ **Check your tyres tread depth and air pressure**



The minimum legal tread depth is 1.6mm but 3mm to 4mm is recommended for icy or very wet conditions. You can find your recommended tyre's pressure inside the driver's door or in your car's manual.

Note: if you live in an area prone to snow, consider changing to winter tyres or using snow chains.

- ✓ **Make sure your lights are working properly**
Inspect all your lights and indicators and replace any bulbs and fuses if required.

- ✓ **Check your wiper blades' condition**

If they're not cleaning your windscreen as they should or if they're cut or split, it's time to replace them.



- ✓ **Top up your engine coolant**

You should check these levels regularly, but only when the engine's cool.

- ✓ **Use an anti-freeze screen wash**

This helps keep the windscreen clean and ice-free.



Drive safely on winter roads

- Allow extra time for winter journeys and make sure you have enough fuel as bad weather can lead to congestions and unexpected delays.
- Take time to de-ice your vehicle and make sure all windows are clear. And remember – don't pour boiling water on the windscreen as the change in temperature can cause it to crack. Use a de-icer and a scraper instead.
- Drive and manoeuvre slowly, especially in snow or icy conditions, and apply your brakes gently; if you feel your wheels spinning, steer gently into the skid.
- Keep your distance from other vehicles.
- If driving uphill, avoid stopping half way up or changing gear - try to keep a constant speed; if you're driving downhill, use a low gear.
- Don't forget to turn your lights on when visibility is poor, and remember to use fog lights.
- Wear comfortable clothes and dry shoes so your feet don't slip on the pedals.
- Carry a winter survival emergency kit with items such as a shovel, ice scraper, bag of salt, jumper cables, blankets, gloves, snow boots, working torch, batteries and a phone with a charger. For longer journeys, throw in some food, water and medicine too.

Top tip

If you're driving in a flooded area, check the water depth - you shouldn't attempt to drive through moving water that's more than four inches deep (six inches for standing water).

If your car's flooded, let all mechanical and electricals dry completely before trying to start it.

Motorcycles

Maintenance checklist

- Take care of your battery – if you're not using your motorbike over winter, remove the battery and store it in a warm place; if you're planning to ride your bike, get your battery connected to a 'trickle charger' to keep it fully charged.
- Check all fluids regularly – water, coolant, engine oil, brake and hydraulic fluids.
- Cover your motorcycle so liquids won't freeze as easily.
- Change your motorbike's oil, especially if you're not going to use it during winter.
- Make sure your tyres and brakes are in tip-top condition.
- If you're storing your motorbike over winter, keep it clean and dry and, if possible, on a bike stand indoors. Use this time to lubricate the chain and clean the exhaust.

Safety tips for winter riding

- Make sure you're kitted out with the most suitable clothing – it needs to be warm, waterproof and breathable; you could even spray your gear with water repellent. High visibility clothing is also a good idea.
- Make regular stops, especially on a long ride in the cold – have a hot drink and use hand dryers in public toilets to warm up your hands.
- Stay hydrated – we tend not to drink as much when it's cold and that can lead to fatigue.
- Ride carefully and always keep a safe distance from other vehicles.

