

Diesel Winter Car Care Tips

Be prepared for winter driving conditions when the mercury drops and you reluctantly have to leave your cozy fireplace. Check out these diesel winter car care tips to keep your vehicle in top condition and you and your passengers safe.

Diesel winter car care tips:

- 1. Keep your tank full
- 2. Add fuel anti-gel additive
- 3. Have diesel fuel filter checked
- 4. Inspect glow plugs
- 5. Maintain car battery
- 6. Check engine coolant
- 7. Check the block heater
- 8. Inspect tires and brakes
- 9. Test defroster and heater
- 10. Protect windshield wipers
- 11. Pack a safety kit



1 Keep your tank full

Keeping a full tank prevents condensation from forming in the tank, reducing the risk of water freezing in the fuel system. And, of course, there's the added benefit of having a full tank in case of emergencies.

2 Add fuel anti-gel additive

Prevent your diesel fuel gelling in extreme temperatures by adding an anti-gel additive to your tank. Avoid wax or clogged fuel lines to keep your engine from running smoothly.

3 Have your diesel fuel filters checked

Clogged or dirty fuel filters cause flow issues, made even worse by the possibility of gelling. Replace fuel filters before winter starts as a precaution.

4 Inspect glow plugs

In freezing conditions, worn or malfunctioning glow plugs may struggle to properly heat your engine. Having your glow plugs inspected can save you from cold starts, rough idling, or engine damage.

5 Maintain car battery

Cold temperatures add stress on your car's battery. As a result, a weak battery can become a dead battery in a hurry. Have your battery tested before winter starts; if it is below 12 volts, consider replacing it.

6 Check engine coolant

Engine coolant, also called antifreeze, does just what the name suggests. It keeps the engine from freezing when temperatures drop. Make sure your car isn't low on coolant before it gets cold.

7 Check the block heater

A block heater is essential for winter diesel truck operation. Many trucks come with one, but if yours doesn't, installing one can make cold-weather starts much easier. It warms the engine block, helping prevent hard starts in freezing temperatures. To check if it's working, use a multimeter set to ohms. A reading between 9 and 25 means it's functioning properly.

8 Inspect tires and brakes

Make sure your tire tread and air pressure are adequate before hitting the road this winter, and it's never a bad idea to check your brakes. If snow and ice are common where you live, consider snow tires. Likewise, a set of snow chains in your trunk may be a good idea, too.

9 Test defroster and heater

These two components are critical to ensuring your comfort and safety during winter driving. Test both as fall draws to a close and have repairs made before it becomes an emergency.

10 Protect windshield wipers

When parking outdoors and expecting sleet, snow, or ice, leave wipers in a raised position to prevent freezing to the windshield. Also, invest in a good windshield scraper instead of using the wipers to clear snow and ice from your windshield.

11 Pack a safety kit

Hope for the best, prepare for the worst. It may sound unnecessary to urban drivers, but even drivers in major cities have been stranded on roadways during winter storms. Here are a few items we recommend for your vehicle safety kit:

- Blanket
- First-aid kit with flares
- Multi-tool that includes a knife
- Flashlight and spare batteries
- Small shovel
- Sand or cat litter for traction when stuck
- Jumper cables

This list is meant to be a helpful guideline.

Print this list and talk with your local BG shop to make sure you are prepared for winter driving hazards. Your service advisor can help with vehicle-specific recommendations.