



# Get ready for Winter

## 1. Service your vehicle

If your vehicle is due a service, get it done before the winter. Regular servicing and maintenance checks can prevent most problems from occurring. Some garages offer free 'winter car checks' so take advantage of them.

## 2. Check your battery

With the increased use of lights, heater and blower as well as the cold temperatures, the output of your battery will be reduced in winter.

## 3. Antifreeze Top up

Engine coolant should be a 50/50 mix of water and antifreeze and will need topping up over time otherwise it may freeze if it is diluted too much and your engine may over-heat.

## 4. Tyre Checks

Your vehicles' tyres are key to steering and braking, so make sure you check the pressure and tread once a month, especially during the winter, since a tire's pressure can drop as the air becomes colder. If you are uncertain about what level of PSI your tire should be, the proper inflation level can usually be found inside the driver's door jam. In winter a great tread depth will give you a better grip on the roads. Winter tyres are another option to consider.

#### 5. Clean and check your lights

Check that all lights, indicators and rear reflectors are clean and remember to check full beam headlights, fog lights and indicators.

#### 6. Wash your windscreen and wipers

Clean your windscreen with washer fluid with antifreeze. Check your wiper blades for nicks and tears. Check for any chips in the windscreen, as these can grow in the cold weather. Also touch up any chips in the body work as the salt deposits on the road will attack them.

#### 7. Going on a long journey?

Check the weather forecast, travel news and safest routes before embarking on a long journey in winter. Allow extra journey time to avoid having to rush and drive to the current conditions. Also, keep at least a quarter of a tank of fuel in case of unexpected delay and check your oil levels.

#### 8. Carry a winter car breakdown kit on board

- \* Shovel
- \* Torch
- \* Blanket
- \* Hi-vis vest
- \* Screenwash
- \* Food and drink supplies
- \* Scraper and de-icer
- \* A fully charged mobile phone

#### 9. Are you covered?

Check your insurance policy is comprehensive and make sure you have good breakdown cover. Remember to take the relevant phone numbers with you on all journeys.

#### 10. Other checks

If you have a bit of motor knowledge, check your brake pads, brake discs and brake fluid to ensure the brakes are fast and responsive. Ensure the fan belt and alternator drive belts are tight and not worn and that plugs and other leads are in good condition and secure. If you don't have the know how- ask your local garage to help with these checks.

**Stay safe in Winter!**

# arrowselfdrive

Get ready for winter 2.psd