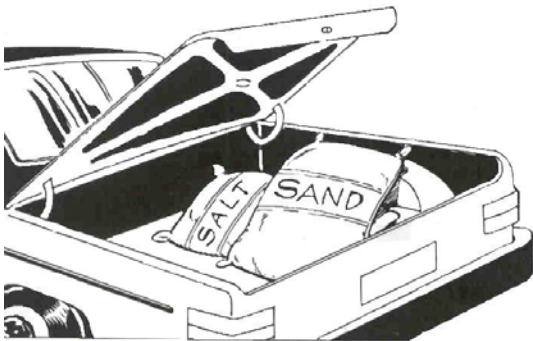


# WINTER DRIVING TIPS



Be sure to carry emergency tools in your truck—sand, salt, shovel, chains, snow-scraper/brush, booster cables, blankets and flashlight.

There is nothing more beautiful than a fresh blanket of new-fallen snow. Unless of course you're driving in it. Winter snow and ice pose special problems for even the most experienced driver. Take a few moments to learn these basic rules of winter driving safety. When you're prepared for winter driving emergencies, you'll be able to say "let it snow, let it snow, let it snow"—and mean it!

## Winterize Your Car

When the weather turns frosty, prepare your car for the season—get a complete tune-up. Ask your mechanic to test brakes, battery and exhaust systems, check fluid levels, add anti-freeze and switch to winter-weight oil. Install snow tires on drive wheels and be sure to carry emergency tools in your truck—sand, salt, shovel, chains, snow-scraper/brush, booster cables, blankets and flashlight.

## What to Do If You Skid

The primary problem faced by winter drivers is skidding on slick or icy roadways. If your car should skid, *do not brake*. Instead, take your foot off of the accelerator and turn your car in the direction that you want the front wheels to go. (Use gentle, steady motions when turning the steering wheel. Turning too much or too fast can worsen the situation). If for any reason you are unable to gain control of your car, try steering into a snow bank to stop your vehicle.

## What To Do If You're Stuck

An equally common problem is getting stuck in the snow—your wheels spin but your car goes nowhere. This is when emergency equipment is most important. Don't continue to spin your wheels, you'll only wind up in a deeper rut. Instead, pour sand, salt or gravel around the drive wheels to give them something to grab onto and improve traction. You can also shovel snow away from the wheels and out from under the car to clear a pathway.

## Some General Guidelines

Whenever driving conditions are less than ideal, it pays to be cautious. Drive slowly, test your brakes frequently and never tailgate. Make sure that windshields (front and rear) are clean and that wipers and defrosters are in good working condition. Use low gears when traveling on slick surfaces (especially hills) to give added traction. Listen to weather forecasts and if weather and visibility are hazardous, stay home!



**If your car skids, do not brake. Take your foot off the accelerator and turn your car in the direction that you want the front wheels to go.**