

# **Follow These Tips About Winter Driving Risks And**



# **Prepare an Emergency Kit For Your Car**

**This Information is taken from the Government of Canada Web Site and Prepared For You By Thomas Edison Electric**

Slippery or snow-covered roads, reduced visibility and bitter cold: these are all conditions that can make driving difficult and even dangerous during cold weather months. Winter also brings an increase risk of getting stuck in your car, so dress warmly before heading out.

Follow these tips to learn about winter driving risks and prepare an emergency kit for your car.

### Exercise Extra Caution When Driving In These Winter Road Conditions:

- **Blizzards:** The most dangerous of winter storms, combining falling, blowing and drifting snow, winds of at least 40km/h, visibility less than one kilometer and temperature below –10 degrees C. They can last from a few hours to a few days.
- **Heavy Snowfall:** Refers to snowfalls of at least 10 centimeters in 12 hours, or at least 15 centimeters in 24 hours; accumulation may be lower in temperate climates.
- **Freezing Rain or Drizzle:** This can lead to ice storms, with ice covered roads, trees, power lines etc.
- **Cold Snap:** Refers to temperatures that fall rapidly over a short period of time, causing very icy conditions.
- **Winds:** They create the conditions associated with blizzards, and cause blowing and drifting snow, reducing visibility and causing wind chill.
- **Black Ice:** Refers to a thin layer of ice on the road that can be difficult to see or can make the road look black and shiny. The road freezes more quickly in shaded areas, on bridges and on overpasses when it is cold. These areas remain frozen long after the sun has risen.
- **Slush:** Wet snow can make for slushy roads. Heavy slush can build up in the wheel wells of your vehicle and can affect your ability to steer. Large trucks and buses can blow slush and snow onto your windshield, leading to a sudden loss of vision.

### Follow These Tips If You Are Stuck In The Snow:

- Try to stay calm and don't go out in the cold. Stay in your car: you will avoid getting lost and your car is a safe shelter.
- Don't tire yourself out. Shovelling in the intense cold can be deadly.
- Let in fresh air by opening a window on the side sheltered from the wind.
- Keep the engine off as much as possible. Be aware of carbon monoxide poisoning and make sure the exhaust pipe is not obstructed by snow.
- If possible, use a candle placed inside a deep can instead of the car heater to warm up.
- Turn on warning lights or set up road flares to make your car visible.
- Turn on the ceiling light; leaving your headlights or hazard lights on for too long will drain the battery.
- Move your hands, feet and arms to maintain circulation. Stay awake.
- Keep an eye out for other cars and emergency responders. Try to keep clothing dry since wet clothing can lead to a dangerous loss of body heat.

**PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT:  
A BASIC CAR KIT SHOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING**

- Food that won't spoil, such as energy bars, peanut butter etc.
- Water– plastic bottles that won't break if the water freezes (replace them every six months)
- Blanket
- Extra clothing and shoes and boots
- First aid kit with seatbelt cutter
- Small shovel, scraper and snowbrush
- Candle in a deep can and matches
- Wind-up flashlight or flashlight with plenty of extra batteries
- Whistle-in case you need to attract attention
- Road maps
- Copy of emergency plan

**ITEMS TO KEEP IN YOUR TRUNK:**

- Sand, salt or cat litter (non-clumping)
- Antifreeze and windshield washer fluid
- Tow rope
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher
- Warning lights or road flares

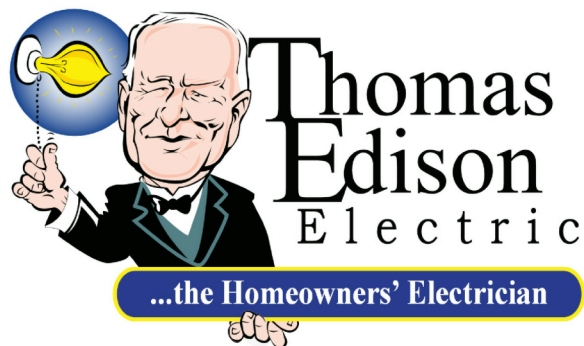
**PRINT THE EMERGENCY CAR KIT LIST. CROSS ITEMS OFF THE LIST  
AS YOU PUT THEM IN YOUR CAR**



*We hope you found this information useful.*

*If you have an electrical emergency or if you are considering installing a Heat Pump or An Automatic Standby Power Generator, please contact us for your FREE In-Home Evaluation*

*The Team At Thomas Edison Electric*



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