

How To Avoid Winter Car Troubles

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As soon as winter sets in, we pull out our sweaters, mufflers, gloves, boots and all other warm clothing we can get our hands on. If we do not keep ourselves warm, all our work comes to a standstill. Similarly, the cold and biting weather derails your four-wheeler demanding more visits to the repair shop and more expenses against your monthly budget.

This winter season you can trump the climate by staying one step ahead. We have solutions for trivial as well as serious car troubles, right from a dead battery to frozen wipers.

The Battery

The battery is the power unit of your vehicle and dead batteries are the most common cause of a winter car breakdown. This happens because the cold climate takes a severe toll on it and the battery has to work double duty to generate the same amount of power. Besides, it is also running the heater and headlights for a longer period.

Before the onset of winter have the car battery inspected by a professional. Even maintenance-free batteries need to be checked whether they are loaded or not. Fix a clamp or connection that has come loose with use and check the connections for corrosion. If the battery is very old, more than 5 years, get it replaced. If you do not use the vehicle much, you should at least start it every day to keep the battery charged and to prolong its life.

Vehicle Fluids

Condensation inside the gas tank increases the risk of frozen fuel lines especially when the fuel level is low. As such, the fuel does not reach the engine and you experience trouble firing it up. You can add a fuel additive to keep it from getting frozen. If you haven't changed the anti-freeze, flush the cooling system and replace it. You must also replace the engine oil as it can cause trouble when the temperatures drop. Additionally, check the air and fuel transmission filters.

Broken and Frozen Wipers

The windshield wipers have an important role to play in winter because the snow and frost collecting on the windshield affect visibility. They get frozen and often get cracked. Change the windshield fluid to one meant for the winter climate; one that can withstand low temperatures as low as -30 degrees. You cannot use one meant for summer because it will freeze. You can also wipe each blade with rubbing alcohol to keep them lubricated.

Change of Tires

In the days leading up to winter, you should also inspect the tire tread and tire pressure. Bald tires and those with less pressure do not offer the required traction to drive on icy and snow roads. Replace worn out tires before the start of the season. If snow is a major problem in your part of the country, you should change over to special snow tires.

To add, you should check the braking system. Make sure that the headlights are in top condition and working.

So, the bottom line is regular maintenance and upkeep. In addition to keeping your vehicle functioning at its optimum, it will ensure that you and your family stay safe on road.

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