

RTC SAFETY BULLETIN



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Winter Driving Tips

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 system, check fluid levels, add anti-freeze, and switch to winter-weight oil. Be sure to carry emergency tools in your trunk—sand or salt or kitty litter, shovel, snow scraper/brush, booster cables, blankets, and flashlight.

What To Do If You Skid: The primary problem faced by winter drivers is skidding on icy or slick roadways. If your car should skid, do not brake. Instead, take your foot off 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 from under the car clearing a pathway.

Some General Guidelines: Whenever driving conditions are less than ideal, it pays to be cautious. Drive slowly and never tailgate. Make sure that windshields (front and rear) are clear and those wipers and defrosters are in good working condition. Use low gears when traveling on slick surfaces (especially hills) to give added traction.

Happy Holidays