



"PLAN AHEAD"

Most of the things necessary for winter car care require the attention of the experts at the service station or garage. But there are things that you can do yourself that will make winter driving more bearable. And perhaps more economical.

One thing that every motorist should carry, winter or summer, is a couple of railroad - type flares. These can be purchased inexpensively at most hardware stores.

The emergency flasher system on a car is, of course, useful in a road-side breakdown. But a flare can improve the safety factor greatly.

A flare is visible at great distances and it spells trouble to anyone who sees it. Approaching motorists will see it sooner and are more likely to slow down than when flashers only are used.

A flare also provides some illumination. This is important when you're trying to change a tire.

People who don't know how to light flares should read the instructions when they buy them so they're prepared for an emergency.

A small bag of sand or fine gravel in the trunk of your car can be valuable in slippery weather. If you find yourself stuck on glare ice or packed snow that your tires can't get a grip on, a handful of sand under each rear wheel will often set you free.

Salt is both friend and enemy of the motorist in winter. Certainly it removes snow and ice from the roads. And certainly it spatters your car from one end to the other.

Great improvements have been made in rust - proofing car bodies in recent years. But moist salt is corrosive and should be removed from your car as soon as possible.

If regular car washes get too expensive, then try the 25 - cent do -

it - yourself kind. It may not leave your car looking as polished as the ones with the whirling brushes and the attendants who give it the finishing touches. But it will wash away the salt.

Pay particular attention to getting the salt off the grille, bumpers, wheels and from under the wheel wells. The latter is particularly important. Caked snow, laden with salt, may remain all winter unless you remove it.

In slushy driving, these blocks of snow that accumulate behind your wheels can grow until they weigh as much as 300 pounds. This doesn't improve your gas mileage. And they can grow so large that they may interfere with steering.

Visibility is always a problem in winter driving. Not only does nature conspire against the motorist with fog, snow and darkness, but motorists themselves create their own difficulties. They let their wiper blades get old and streaky. They let their windshield washers go dry or freeze. They fail to clean the inside of their windows.

The wiper blades are a matter for the service station. The inside of the windows require a little elbow grease, plus a commercial window cleaner or plain water spiked with vinegar. The window washers can be filled with non - freezing liquid by a service station. Or you can make your own windshield fluid quite cheaply. Here's how:

Buy a pint bottle of the cheapest rubbing alcohol you can find. It should cost 15 to 20 cents. Empty the bottle into another container. Fill the bottle with water and add it to the alcohol. To the mixture, add an ounce of liquid dishwashing detergent. Stir it all up and pour it in the tank that feeds your windshield squirters.



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