Winter Car Emergency Kit

Built for real winters. Keep this kit in the car from October to April. Most of it fits in one plastic tote.

Stay warm + safe

- Wool blanket or sleeping bag
- Extra hat, gloves, socks, and boots if you commute in shoes
- Hand warmers (a box of 10 is cheap)
- Water and high-calorie snacks
- Phone charging cable + a charged battery pack
- Flashlight or headlamp + spare batteries
- Reflective triangles or road flares

Get moving again

- Compact snow shovel
- Ice scraper + snow brush
- Bag of kitty litter or sand for traction
- Jumper cables - or better, a lithium jump pack
- Tow strap (rated, with loops - not hooks)
- Tire chains or cables if your area requires them

Before the cold hits

- Battery tested (cold cuts cranking power - a weak battery dies first)
- Coolant/antifreeze strength checked with a tester
- Winter wiper blades + -20°F washer fluid
- Tires: tread depth and pressure (pressure drops about 1 psi per 10°F)
- Keep the tank at least half full

If you get stuck: stay with the car, run the engine about 10 minutes an hour for heat, and keep the tailpipe clear of snow - exhaust gas can build up inside the car.

More free tools on the DETAILGUY317 Garage site.