

Uncle Homer's winterizing checklist:

- Antifreeze/Coolant:** Running pure antifreeze in your car is not recommended. The ideal mix is 50:50 antifreeze with DISTILLED water to minimize mineral deposits.
- Battery:** Clean the terminals, wipe any grease or film off of the top of the battery as it can conduct current and cause a slow power drain. If you have replaced the battery cable ends with replacement ends, it's time to replace the entire cable. Be sure the fluid level is topped off, and then go by your local auto parts store to have them test how well the battery performs under a load. Replace at least every 5 years.
- Wiper blades:** Once a year ... whether you want to or not.
- Tire pressure:** Carry a tire gauge in your glove compartment and check them at least every other month. (They lose approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ pound each month under normal use.
- Rotate your tires:** Lug nuts can seize on the wheel studs if you leave them on too long. This can be brutal in the middle of the winter. By having your tires rotated just before winter, you reduce the likelihood of them seizing on the wheels studs.
- Spare tire check:** Don't just check for proper inflation, A spare tire doesn't do you any good if you can't get it out from under the car! Make sure the mechanism works freely!
- Brake system check:** Have an ASE Certified Mechanic inspect your brake system once a year.
- ABS check:** In an open, secure parking lot, "exercise" your Anti-Lock Brake Systems brakes making sure they are in good working order. If done properly, you should feel a pulsation in the brake pedal and hear a vibration from under the hood of the car when applied properly.
- 4-wheel drive system check:** Often unused during summer months, be sure you operate this system periodically as well.
- Belts/hoses:** Considering the cost of hoses, replacing them every 4 years is not cost-prohibitive. This ensures they remain fresh and malleable.
- Emergency kit in trunk:** Blanket, extra clothes, food, water, hard candies, anti-freeze, jumper cables, flares, gloves, ice scraper, flashlight, first-aid kit, kitty litter or play sand.
- Winterize your teen driver:** Car crashes are the number one killer of teens, and slippery roads only complicate matters. Help your new driver become familiar with how their car will respond when faced with Emergency Driving Conditions. Get them trained on how to get the most out of the braking system and maximize on the maneuverability of the vehicle ... and all WITHOUT losing control of the vehicle so they may be able to save their own lives someday.



These tips brought to you courtesy of:



NAPA's Premier Service Center
1280 Powder Springs Rd Marietta GA 770-248-2520

Accident Avoidance Workshops

Available at: **ATLANTA MOTOR SPEEDWAY**  **Bristol Motor Speedway**