

CAPITAL INSURANCE AGENCY OF WISCONSIN

COLD WEATHER TIPS

Here are some valuable tips to help you to prepare for winter driving:

1. Keep your vehicles in good working order by having them serviced regularly.
2. Store jumper cables, snow brush, scraper, gloves, hat, blanket, flashlight and water in your vehicle in case you get stuck.
3. Carry a first-aid kit and refresh any supplies that may need to be replaced.
4. Keep gas tanks full to prevent ice in the tank or fuel lines.
5. Replace worn tires and check tire air pressure.

If you find you must drive in winter conditions, please remember the following:

1. Do not rush. Driving slowly will help prevent accidents.
2. Never warm-up a vehicle in a closed area.
3. Clear windshield and windows completely before driving.
4. Be sure the tailpipe is clear before you sit in a running vehicle.
5. Do not follow snowplows too closely. Stay back at least 5 car lengths.

Here are some valuable tips to help you to prepare your home for winter weather:

1. Listen to local and national weather to stay informed of hazardous weather conditions.
2. Spread sand, rock salt, or non-clumping kitty litter on walkways and steps to reduce slippery surfaces.
3. Leave faucets running, even at a trickle, to help prevent pipes from freezing.
4. Make sure all fuel-burning equipment is properly vented outside and the vents are kept clear of obstructions.
5. Consider your physical condition before tackling strenuous tasks in cold temperatures.
6. Protect yourself from frostbite and hypothermia by wearing warm, loose-fitting, lightweight clothing in several layers. Stay indoors, if possible.
7. Bring your animals indoors or check on them to make sure that their access to food and water is not blocked by snow drifts, ice, or other obstacles.
8. Never use a generator, grill, camp stove, or other portable gasoline, propane, natural gas, or charcoal-burning devices inside a home, garage, basement, crawlspace, or any partially enclosed area. When operating such equipment outside, make sure it is not located near any doors, windows, or vents that could allow carbon monoxide to enter the house.
9. The primary hazards to avoid when using alternate sources for electricity, heating, or cooking are carbon monoxide poisoning, electric shock, and fire.
10. Install carbon monoxide detectors in central locations on every level of your home to provide early warning of accumulating carbon monoxide. Change the batteries in all carbon monoxide detectors before winter arrives.