

**Parts : Service : Recovery**

## Top ten tips for Winter Driving.

1. **Make sure your wiper blades (front and rear if fitted) are in good condition** – it helps to be able to see where you are going! The icy weather can damage wiper blades, so budget for some new ones each winter to make sure they are in tip top condition.
2. **Top up your windscreen washer bottle regularly** – you will need this when the slush and snow dirty up your windscreen
3. **Check your tyres** – make sure you have plenty of tread. The legal limit is 1.6mm across 75% of the width of the tyre (although tests have shown that with 3mm of tread depth you could reduce your stopping distance by up to 50% compared to a car with 1.6mm)
4. Whilst on the subject of tyres, **make sure your tyre pressures are correct.** (Come on, when was the last time you checked them?). Correct tyre pressures not only help the braking distance and stability of the car, they also help maximise the fuel economy of your car.
5. **Clean your lights** – being able to see as far ahead as possible certainly helps! Make sure all your lights work correctly and replace any blown bulbs quickly.
6. **Get your car mechanically checked over** – many garages offer free brake and tyre checks, and if your car is due for a service, then it may be money well spent. Breaking down in winter is not only annoying, it can be extremely dangerous. If you are not due a service, then get someone to check the battery, belts, hoses and coolant.
7. **Pack an emergency kit** – we all hope that we will not use it, but having basic things will help. Try putting these in your car for emergency use: Torch & batteries, Ice Scraper and de-icer, blanket, spare jacket and gloves, wet wipes (changing a wheel can be a dirty job in winter!), and make sure you have a mobile phone and charger with some credit on it.
8. **Drive safely** – allow extra time for braking and stopping, and be vigilant at junctions and roundabouts as although you may have foreseen the slippery road, someone else may have not!
9. **Fit some Rubber Mats** – with all the sludge and mud around during the winter, why not fit some rubber mats so you can keep your carpets neat and tidy?
10. **Remember what to do if you are unlucky enough to have an accident, the Highway codes states:** If you are involved in an accident which causes damage or injury to any other person, or other vehicle, or any animal (horse, cattle, ass, mule, sheep, pig, goat or dog) not in your vehicle, or to roadside property you MUST:
  1. Stop
  2. Give your own and the vehicle owner's name and address and the registration number of the vehicle to anyone having reasonable grounds for requiring them;
  3. If you do not give your name and address at the time of the accident, report the accident to the police as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any case within 24 hours.
  4. If another person is injured and you do not produce your insurance certificate at the time of the accident to the police or to anyone who with reasonable grounds has requested it, you MUST also:
  5. Report the accident to the police as soon as possible, and in any case within 24 hours;
  6. Produce your insurance certificate to the police either when reporting the accident or within seven days at any police station you select.

These tips have been produced by Fernside Garage Ltd, 01202 523030.

*Always a friendly and professional service.*

**Please drive safely and considerately this winter.**