



Winter Vehicle Maintenance Checklist

Prepare Your Car for a Northeast Ohio Winter

All of our Rad Air Complete Car Care and Tire Centers are ready to help you prepare your car for winter here in Northeast Ohio. This list will help you check off every essential vehicle maintenance item before the snow starts to fall in Cleveland!

Car Wash and Wax

Your car's best defense against winter grime and road salt is a fresh coat of wax. Make sure to thoroughly wash your car first to be sure any lingering grime from last winter is completely removed.

Oil Change

The oil in your vehicle should be changed regularly—and especially before winter. A full synthetic oil or synthetic blend oil can be easier on your car's engine when starting in cold temperatures.

Battery Test and Charge

Make sure your battery and charging system is professionally inspected between seasons. You do not want to be on the road in the winter without a fully charged battery in working condition.

Cooling System Inspection

Check your cooling system to inspect for any cracks in the hoses and belts or leaks. Also make sure your coolant level in the vehicle's overflow tank is sufficient. Using a 50/50 solution of water and coolant will maintain antifreeze capabilities.

Wiper Fluid Upgrade

Before you drive in the snow and ice, make sure you've switched to a winter variety of windshield wiper fluid. Winter blend washer fluid will not freeze on your windshield and can help loosen ice and snow to improve visibility.

New Windshield Wipers

Windshield wipers are not intended just for rain! They are essential during a snowstorm. Rad Air offers new windshield wiper blade installation as an add-on to your winter vehicle maintenance service for just \$19.99 (more for beam styles).

Tire Pressure and Tread Inspection

While you may not need to [shop for new snow tires](#) this year, your tire pressure, tread depth, and overall condition should still be checked and carefully monitored. You can check your tire pressure at any gas station and use the popular "[penny test](#)" to check tread depth.

Brake Test

We recommend having your brakes thoroughly inspected before the start of winter. You will be relying on your car's brakes to work properly in inclement weather. Take advantage of Rad Air's specialized [brake repair services](#) to make sure that any issues or repairs are detected early and addressed before they put you at risk on the road.

Light Replacement

When driving after dark or in whiteout snow conditions, your vehicle's lights are critical to your safety as well as the safety of others on the road. Make sure all headlights, taillights, brake lights, and every other light on your vehicle are working properly, and replace bulbs as needed.

Emergency Road Kit

Do not forget to prepare your [emergency road kit](#) for the winter season. Think about what items would be most critical to you and your family if you were stuck in the snow waiting on assistance. Items may include emergency radio, LED flashlight or headlamps, road flares, a basic tool kit, first aid supplies, heavy blankets and coats, extra winter gloves and hats, bottled water, and sustainable food items.

If you need assistance with your car maintenance, contact your local Rad Air and schedule your pre-winter vehicle inspection.

Our trained automotive technicians will make sure your vehicle is ready to handle the elements this winter and keep you safe on the roads.

