

# Fall To Do's - Preparing Winter



The days are shorter and the nights are cooler, the main harvest has been preserved and stored. Yes fall is here and no matter where you live, before winter hits, there's things that need a doin'!

## Patio, Yard & Garden



- Clean and store patio furniture, umbrellas, children's summer toys. This should take about an hour. You can leave furniture outside with heavy-duty waterproof furniture covers. These will stand up to winter weather and keep everything protected. Most granite pieces can withstand the elements so you can leave those alone, but softer stones like cast stone, marble or manufactured stone should be either covered or moved.
- Clean and cover your grill or move it into your garage or shed.

- Sharpen and oil tools (at least once a year).



- Clean and store summer lawn and garden tools.



- Fix fences, posts and gates.

- Drain and store garden hoses. Install insulating covers on exterior spigots. In hard-freeze areas, have sprinkler systems blown free of water.

## Fall To Do's - Preparing Winter - Continued

- Clear or bleed your irrigation system. Drain any hoses by stretching them out on a downward slope while you stand at the top and slowly draw the hose towards you, winding for storage as you do.
- For automatic sprinklers or pipe irrigation systems, drain the pipes and pumps. Once complete shut off the water to your system.

- Winterize any pool or small pond.



- Leaf cleanup is a necessary but never-ending battle, if you leave them over the winter they can smother your lawn. Recycle them in your own compost pile or at a town recycling center. If you are using the leaves on your own compost pile, either grind them up or run them over with a lawn mower to speed decomposition. To move large piles of leaves, I recommend piling them onto a tarp and dragging them to their destination, be it compost pile or trash bag.



- After the leaves are gone, cut your lawn one last time before the winter, trimming it as short as possible to prevent matting, disease and rodent damage. Lightly spread compost over the lawn to get it off to a good start next spring. Spread corn gluten meal if you have problems with crab grass.



- In perennial beds, weed and give everything a good layer of mulch. After the ground has frozen, mulch around the crowns of your plants to reduce the

- After the last mow, run the lawn mower itself until it runs out of gas. Gas left to sit in the tank over the winter will gum up the carburetor so it won't run as well next spring. Also, change the oil, grease the engine and pull and inspect the spark plug. Before you replace it, place several drops of five-weight oil in the hole and pull the start cord several times to lubricate the engine so it won't rust. In the spring, you'll only have to add gas, sharpen the blades and start mowing again.
- Depending on where you live by early November give your lawn some fertilizer with a high phosphorus mixture to promote root growth over the winter, so the grass will green up sooner come spring. Fall is also a great time to fertilize trees and shrubs.
- Cut back perennials as they fade. While you are at it, scratch some super phosphate fertilizer into the soil around them.

chance of frost heaving.

- If you are planning on making new garden beds, or expanding current ones, do it now and save yourself some work during the hectic spring gardening season.
- If you feed birds during the winter, pull out the bird feeders and clean them in a mild bleach solution, then let dry. Purchase your seed now so you can start feeding and watching with the first snow.
- Bring in any pots that can't take a freeze -- terra cotta, ceramic, and many plastic pots.
- Lift tender bulbs. As you pull out your elephant ears, cannas, and caladiums, you could place tulips and daffodils in those same holes. Let the tender bulbs dry in a sunny, protected spot, then wrap in newspaper to store in your cellar or garage.
- Wash all pots with a solution of one-part chlorine bleach to nine-parts water, then rinse thoroughly with water before storing.
- Healthy plants should be removed from the garden after they are killed by frost. Plant material should be added to the compost pile.
- Leave ornamental grasses in the garden for winter interest.
- In vegetable garden beds, be sure to remove old plants, as well as any foliage that has fallen on the soil. Do a final weeding, and mulch the bed with straw, grass clippings, or chopped leaves. These mulches can be turned into the soil next spring to help fertilize next year's crops.
- Prune any trees or shrubs except for ornamental plants (Holly being the only exception).
- Mulch around roses, strawberries, tender perennials, tree bases and the like.
- Bring in any potted plants that can't take a freeze or winterize with a makeshift cold frame or hoop house. Use PVC or sturdy field fence to cover and then anchor clear plastic over the frame. Before bringing houseplants indoors, inspect the plant and soil for pests.
- Plant flowering bulbs now for spring.
- Divide over-crowded perennials and move shrubs.
- Clean up disease or insect ridden vegetables as soon as they quit producing. Pull out the plants, collect all plant debris and send everything to a municipal composting facility or burn. Removing infected plant material from the garden in fall decreases the chance of disease and insect problems next year.
- Continue to deep-water needled and broadleaf evergreens.
- Continue to harvest herbs, vegetables and fruits. Preserve whatever you can't eat by freezing, canning or drying. Donate any excess to food pantries.

## Fall To Do's - Preparing Winter - Continued



- Plant seed of cool season vegetables, like leaf lettuce, swiss chard, spinach, radish, Chinese mustards and mustard greens, for harvesting later this fall. Choose cultivars with less than 50 days from planting to harvest. You can extend the growing season further by using floating row cover for freeze protection of leafy vegetables and cole crops. Garlic and shallots should be planted in autumn about 6 to 8 weeks before the ground freezes. Cloves and bulbs develop roots and shoots below the soil surface in fall. In spring, growth begins as soon as the ground defrosts.

- Test you garden soil if it hasn't been done in the past five years. Contact your local state extension service, most will analyze your soil test and get the results back to you in about two weeks and should give you the soil type, pH, phosphorus, and potassium and fertilizer recommendations.



- Add leaves, compost and other additives, recommended by your soil test results, to your garden. Fall tilling or digging gets your garden ready for an earlier spring start; and may expose harmful insects to cold temperatures which kill them.
- Write down gardening successes, problems and ideas. Make a note of disease and insect problems. Did new varieties live up to their hype? Record outstanding, as well as, poor performers.

- Store pesticides in a safe, dry place away from children and pets in a location where they won't freeze.

## The House Itself



- Touch up paint on trim, railings and decks. Use a wire brush to remove flaking paint; prime bare wood first.
- Inspect crawlspace and attic wiring and plumbing. Be sure plumbing is insulated to prevent freezing.

## Fall To Do's - Preparing Winter - Continued

- Wash exterior windows.



- Check the roof for loose shingles and the like.

- Have chimneys and flues inspected and cleaned if necessary.



- Check gutters and downspouts. Clear of debris if necessary. In cold-weather areas, consider installing heating cable to prevent ice dams.



- Check caulk around windows and doors. Follow manufacturer's recommendations to re-caulk if needed.

- Have wood burning stoves inspected and cleaned if necessary.



- Inspect the furnace; check/change air filters, etc.



- Drain sediment from hot water heaters.

- Buy a winter's supply of furnace filters. Change filters monthly for maximum energy savings and indoor comfort. When the right filter is on hand, it's an easy job!

## Fall To Do's - Preparing Winter - Continued

- Inspect external doors and garage doors. Do they close tightly? Install weather-stripping, door thresholds if needed.

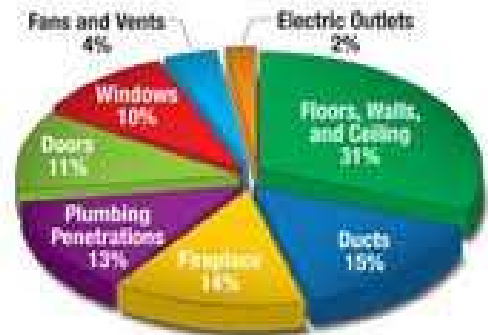


- Lock in your heating oil and or propane prices now. Most companies offer a lock-in price where the cost of fuel cannot increase higher than a certain point when you re-fuel during the winter. In some places this can save you \$1000.00 or more for the season.



- Collect and cut firewood or Order your firewood now (if you haven't already) before the prices go up.

- Find air leaks. Air leaks lurking inside your home can send up to 10 percent of your home's heat out the window during the winter. What to do: A professional energy audit (about \$300 to \$800) is best; some utilities help pay for it. On a windy day you can do your own check. Close windows and doors, and shut off the furnace. Turn on bathroom and other fans that blow air outside. Then pass a lit incense stick over door and window frames and other leak sites. Smoke that's blown into or out of the room signals a leak. What you save: Plugging leaks can slice your heating bill by 10 percent, or about \$66 per year, based on the \$660 average annual cost of heat per household nationwide. Those yearly savings could help pay for a new range, refrigerator or dishwasher after 10 years. And that's if you're using natural gas. Got oil or electricity? Annual savings could exceed \$200.



### How Does the Air Escape?

Air infiltrates into and out of your home through every hole and crack. About one-third of this air infiltrates through openings in your ceilings, walls, and floors.



- If needed, install storm windows. Note: You can make your own frames that fit on the inside of your window out of wood and sheet plastic. These can then be easily removed and stored during warm months.

- Shut down and winterize cooling units.



## The Garage



Fall is the traditional time of year for cleaning the garage and or garden shed. Did you know the second Sunday in September is the "National Clean Out Your Garage Day"? If done properly this should take about 3 hours.

- Get rid of anything you haven't used in two years, is broken, or otherwise considered junk.
- Use your driveway to look through everything you've piled into the garage. Then, group by use such as tools, garbage, and equipment.



- Buy hooks to get as much as you can off the floor.

Hint: Use blue painter's tape to map out where you are going to hang hoses, ladders, or sports equipment.

## Fall To Do's - Preparing Winter - Continued

This way, you'll be able to place your hooks easily.

- Peg boards, wall shelves, rolling carts and wall hooks should be used whenever possible.

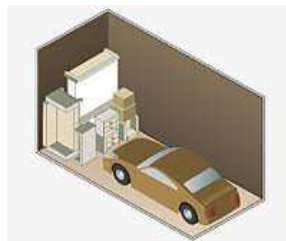


- Check shovels and make sure they are handy, blades sharp and secure. Replace any that are damaged NOW before the first snow.

- If you have a snowblower, make sure it is tuned, fueled and ready to go.



- Stock up on rock salt and or sand if you tend to use it. It will be cheaper in the fall rather than waiting for that first snow.



Storage is key. "Make sure the garage is organized, clean, and can fit cars too," recommends Lou Manfredini, Ace Hardware's home expert.

## Preparedness





- Replace smoke and carbon monoxide detector batteries.

- Check fire extinguishers to be sure they are still charged and in appropriate locations around the "homestead".

**P.A.S.S.**

- P**ull pin.
- A**im at base of fire.
- S**queeze handle.
- S**weep side to side.

CLASSES OF FIRES	TYPES OF FIRES	PICTURE SYMBOL
<b>A</b>	Wood, paper, cloth, trash & other ordinary materials.	
<b>B</b>	Gasoline, oil, paint and other flammable liquids.	
<b>C</b>	May be used on fires involving live electrical equipment without danger to the operator.	
<b>D</b>	Combustible metals and combustible metal alloys.	
<b>K</b>	Cooking media (Vegetable or Animal Oils and Fats)	



- Have a household fire drill.

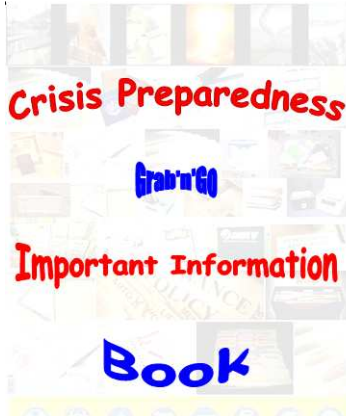
- If you live in "big snow" country, be sure you have a 5 day *minimum* of water and food, plus alternative lighting, heating and cooking means.



- Inspect and organize your pantry and or root cellar. See that items are grouped by type: meats, veggies, fruits, nuts, grains, etc. Make sure the oldest items are the easiest to reach. (If this is maintained year round this should take about an hour, if not, well it may take you a few hours to do.)

## Fall To Do's - Preparing Winter - Continued

- Make sure all your flashlights and emergency radios have fresh batteries and are in working order.



- Grab-n-Go Binder has all current information

- Inspect all go-bags and be sure you have a space blanket and other cold weather necessities in them.



## Inside The House



- Focus on public rooms: living room, family room, entryway, guest bath.

## Fall To Do's - Preparing Winter - Continued



- Clean from top to bottom. Vacuum drapes and window treatments. Clean window sills and window wells. Vacuum baseboards and corners.
- Wash interior windows.
- Turn mattresses front-to-back and end-to-end to equalize wear.
- Prepare the kitchen for holiday cooking. Clean and organized kitchen cabinets, paying particular attention to baking supplies, pans and equipment.
- Clear kitchen counters of all appliances not used within the last week. Clear counters look cleaner - and provide more room for holiday cooking.
- Wash light-diffusing bowls from light fixtures.
- Check and empty the central vacuum's collection area.
- Inspect washer hoses for bulges, cracks or splits. Replace them every other year.
- Check dryer exhaust tube and vent for built-up lint, debris or birds' nests! Make sure the exterior vent door closes tightly when not in use.
- Vacuum upholstered furniture, or have professionally cleaned if needed. Move furniture and vacuum beneath and behind it.
- Launder or clean all bedding: mattress pads, pillows, duvets, blankets, comforters. Tuck the family into a warm and cozy winter bed.
- Schedule professional carpet cleaning early this month! Warm October afternoons speed carpet drying. Carpet cleaning firms get busy by the end of October, so schedule now for best service.
- Pull refrigerator away from the wall, and vacuum the condenser coils. For bottom-mounted coils, use a long, narrow brush to clean coils of dust and debris.
- Inspect each appliance. Does it need supplies? Stock up on softener salt now, and avoid staggering over icy sidewalks with heavy bags.
- Clean electronic air cleaner elements monthly for most efficient operation. Wash them in an empty dishwasher (consult manual for specific product recommendations).
- Clean or replace humidifier elements before the heating season begins.



- Set aside about 2 hours to clean and organize your home office so it is ready to go once the holiday rush starts.

- Make sure all your holiday decorations, both inside and outside, are in one place and all is in working order. It's check this now or while you are attempting to decorate.



**If you live on a farm or ranch:**

- Conduct an all-farm/ranch inspection in the late summer which includes machinery and equipment, buildings, walkways, gates, wiring, and pesticides (see links below). Clean, service, and repair items where needed.



- Install carbon monoxide alarms in shops and other buildings where non-electric heaters are used.
- Analyze hydraulic fluid and antifreeze and replace as recommended.

- Inform workers they must never use pressure washers indoors.
- Clean and drain pesticide application equipment. Use lightweight oil to prepare for storage (see link below).



- Plow blades are clean, sharp and at the ready.

- Stock tanks have be winterized and or an ice breaking schedule set-up.

- Fall stock inoculations are scheduled and or complete.

## Fall To Do's - Preparing Winter - Continued

- Fields and pastures have been winterized with cover crops, etc.
- Severe winter weather supplies have been checked, rotated and restocked in appropriate locations.

- Winter stock feed has been ordered and the storage facility is clean and ready.



- Severe winter weather “drift fences” and or “blizzard cables” are ready to install/being installed.
- Take an inventory of your pesticides. Read the label. Note any expiration dates and storage temperatures. Make sure dry pesticides are stored above liquid pesticides.
- Determine if unused pesticides can be stored or need to be disposed of (contact the State Dept of Environmental Quality for info on disposal options).

For inspection checklists, see: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/pdf/A3619.pdf> and <http://www.farmsafety.ca/ohsa-tools/ASAP.pdf>

For information on proper storage of farm equipment, see: <http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/factsheet/FM-25.pdf>

For information on carbon monoxide poisoning, see: [http://www.cbs.state.or.us/ohsa/pdf/hazards/2993\\_11-2005.pdf](http://www.cbs.state.or.us/ohsa/pdf/hazards/2993_11-2005.pdf)

For information on cleaning and storing pesticide application equipment, see: <http://www.ianrpubs.unl.edu/epublic/live/g1770/build/g1770.pdf>

For information on correct and safe storing of pesticides, see: <http://entweb.clemson.edu/pesticid/saftyed/storage.htm>

## For Your Vehicle

On top of the checks you need to perform to ensure safe winter driving, now's a good time to do some annual maintenance. These aren't necessarily specific to winter driving, but it's a good point on the calendar to get around to doing this stuff.

### Annual Maintenance Procedures

- Clean your battery posts. Starting problems are a bummer any time of year. Regularly treating your battery to a cleaning can keep electrical gremlins at bay.
- Inspect your spark plug wires. Cracked up plug wires affect performance, gas mileage and general reliability. Be sure yours are in top shape.
- Inspect your brakes. Brakes are not a good area to cut corners. Be sure your brakes have enough meat left to get you through the season.

- Check Your Engine Oil. This should go without saying and should be done at least monthly. But in case you're an amnesiac ... you should also do an oil change!

.Ok those were the basic "dah" items. Now for a more detailed winter prep checklist:

### Winter Auto Maintenance Checklist

When I had a vehicle, I had tune-ups, safety checks and tire rotations in late spring and fall, since these seasons came just before the two harshest seasons for my vehicle.



- **Check-up/Inspection:** Do a routine check-up/inspection of the car before winter arrives by a trusted mechanic.

People need to inspect such things like the air filter, battery, battery cables, battery terminals, brakes, windshield wipers, lights, turn signals, belts, hoses, heating and cooling system, exhaust system and all fluid levels in winter season.

Wet weather can dampen an enthusiastic response from your car's engine, especially if it is an older car without electronic ignition. Worn points in the distributor, an old condenser, or a cracked distributor cap, combined with moisture, can make a car hard to start. And on cars of any age, frayed spark plug wires or dirty spark plugs will also cause starting problems.

- **Charging/Warming Devices:** If you will regularly face cold weather, consider installing charging and or warming devices for your car.

A "block heater" is also very useful to keep the engine warm and ready to start. Use a timer to save electricity - if you start the block heater 2 hours before you need to start the car, it will cost you less to use it.

- **Anti-Freeze, Radiator & Cooling System:** Make sure Anti-Freeze levels are topped-off and is of "winter-weight".

Make sure that water pumps and thermostats work, check radiators and hoses for cracks and leaks, replace the radiator cap, and test heaters and defrosters for proper operation.

Flush the system and fill with the anti-freeze (coolant)/water mixture recommended by your

- **Air Filter:** Clean the Engine Air Filter: In cold weather a dirty or clogged air filter will do more to affect performance and fuel economy than in the summer months. Cold air is denser than warm air and is more dependent on a clean filter to flow efficiently into the carburetor or fuel injection system for complete combustion.



**Warning: Anti-freeze tastes sweet to pets and it will**

owner's manual (a 50/50 solution is a good rule of thumb).

Another good rule of thumb is to replace your antifreeze every two years.

When it is time to replace your antifreeze, look for a product that prevents cold weather freeze-ups at temperatures well below -30 degrees Fahrenheit, like Zerex® 5/100 Antifreeze Coolant, or, if you're currently using an orange coolant (recommended for most newer model GM vehicles) use Zerex® Extreme™ Life 5/150 Antifreeze Coolant.

Remember that antifreeze needs to be diluted with water in a 50-50 mixture, or you could opt for a pre-mixed solution, like Zerex® Ready to Use Antifreeze Coolant.

For large diesel trucks and buses there are insulating covers to restrict airflow to the radiator that can be placed over the front of the engine compartment, holding more heat inside to aid in warming up the engine.



- **Check your Battery:** If battery struggles in warm weather – replace it before weather turns cold – batteries lose power in colder temperatures. In winter temperatures it can take up to five times more battery power to start a car than when the thermometer reads a mild 65 or 75 degrees.

Make sure your battery is fully charged. You can do this by taking your car for a long run to allow the alternator to re-charge the battery to maximum. Note that running your car on short journeys with such items as your de-mister switched on, blowers and lights, will cause your battery to drop in charge. So a good run during the day time helps re-store power in your battery.

A warm battery has more power - buy a 'battery blanket' to keep it warm.

If your battery is more than three years old, the typical lifespan of most batteries, you are probably living on borrowed time.

It's a good idea to replace an older battery *before* it gives you cold weather trouble, but just in case, if your battery is old or questionable, remove it and

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take it into a warm house or garage at night when the temperature is expected to drop very low. Be careful where you leave it, batteries are filled with acid that can corrode surfaces. Battery contents are flammable; keep them away from flames and heat sources.

If you don't want to mess with removing a battery, or you're not sure your battery is that bad, back your vehicle into its parking space or the garage so it can be reached with jumper cables if the car decides not to start.

- **Battery Case & Cables:** Inspect for loose fits or damage; Make sure terminals are clean and tightened — you may even want to clean around terminals with an old toothbrush and a homemade mixture of baking soda and water.

- **Fuel System:** Check fuel lines for dirt and grime. Prevent any future blockages by having the lines "blown out".

Check your fuel filter. Have it replaced if it looks dirty or gunky.

*Fuel Line Antifreeze* does exist and just like adding anti-freeze to your car's water system, adding a product like HEET, which is specially fuel line antifreeze, helps thaw out a frozen fuel line. Such a product and similar ones are available at gas stations or auto parts stores. This product contains isopropyl alcohol or methanol. This absorbs the water in the fuel lines and stops it from freezing in low or extreme temperatures. Once this is in your fuel tank allow the car sit for an hour or so before trying to start it.

"Gas Line Antifreeze", which is known by several terms (like "Dry Gas"). This is a chemical (essentially Methyl Hydrate) that is added to your gas tank to inhibit your gas line freezing. If your gas line freezes, your car will not be able to start until it thaws.

- Add Dry Gas to your petrol or gas fill-up before filling the tank (if possible) to ensure it mixes completely in the tank.
- This product will also help conserve gas.
- A Diesel engine will start better in the cold if





you use "fuel conditioner", which prevents the fuel from "gelling".



- **Fuel:** Always keep the gas tank as full as possible to minimize condensation, prevent fuel contamination and prevent any water in the fuel from freezing. Modern engines with fuel injection are especially fussy about getting their fill of clean gas. The fuel's alcohol attracts moisture, which can freeze.

- **Oil:** Make sure oil and oil filter has been changed within a reasonable time frame prior to winter weather.

Use thinner oil in your engine during the coldest months of the year to prevent it from thickening so much that it can't lubricate sufficiently. This can slow the engine's movements to the point that it won't start.

Check your owner's manual and use the lowest recommended grade for the best all-weather protection, fuel efficiency, and energy conservation. For most passenger cars the proper grade is 5W-30 and for the newest model Ford vehicles, 5W-20.

You also might want to consider adding a synthetic blend motor oil to your vehicle this winter. Synthetic oils make starting a cold engine easy. They resist build up of cold temperature sludge, helping your engine run better and longer, even in the most arctic-like weather.



- **Tires:** Check and Rotate tires. Inspect the tread and inflation pressure. Don't forget your spare.

A good rule of thumb is to check tire inflation at least one time in a month. Make certain your tires are properly inflated. A 10 degree drop in air temp means a 1 psi drop in tire air pressure.

Remember to be sure that your spare tire is also properly inflated. Make sure your tires are properly rotated and aligned, and also check tire tread - tires should not be worn down to less than 2/32 of an inch for normal tires and 5/32 of an inch



## Fall To Do's - Preparing Winter - Continued

for snow tires.



An easy way to check is to take a Lincoln-head penny and insert it head first into the most worn part of your tire tread. If you can see Abe's head, he may be telling you to get a new set of tires. If so, consider buying a set of all-season tires with a traction rating of A (the highest rating) versus B or C, to better grip the road in snowy conditions.

All-Season Radials – good for some conditions, but have limitations.

Winter tires are a softer compound, wider & deeper tread grooves - should not be driven year round due to rapid tire wear.

Never mix radial tires with other types.

**Note:** If you utilize studded tires remember that studs, chains and spikes *still will NOT* get a vehicle to “stop on a dime” like it does on dry ideal roads.

- **Windshield Wiper and Washers:** Check your wipers for proper functioning. Wiper blades that streak the windshield should be replaced. Worn out wiper blades could also scratch your windshield.

The washer reservoir bottle should be filled with an anti-freeze washer solvent and check the reservoir on a regular basis, keep it full.

Try this home-made washer solution.

Combine two quarts of rubbing alcohol, one cup water, and one teaspoon dish detergent. With the alcohol, the mixture should be safe to a freezing point of thirty degrees below zero (Fahrenheit).

- **Doors and Windows:** Inspect the door window rubber gasket at its base. Make sure it is not rotted away or maladjusted so water cannot get down into the door and freeze the lock linkage and window regulators.

**Emergency & Vehicle Go-bag:** People can be prepared for winter season by storing emergency materials in their vehicle. Every vehicle should have one of each.

## Fall To Do's - Preparing Winter - Continued



Major Components of The Vehicle Emergency Kit



**Vehicle Emergency Bag:** This contains the potential items you may need to assist with the vehicles functions.



The following should always be in your vehicle:

- AAA Membership Card
- Cellular phone (charged) with a car charger
- Booster/Jumper cables (good ones) and know how to use them.
- Automotive Fire Extinguisher - B Class (dry chemical is best according to NFPA) for Flammable Liquids & Gases (gasoline, oils, paint lacquer and tar) and know how to use it:

According the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), U.S. public fire departments in 2004 responded to an estimated 266,500 highway-type vehicle fires. These fires claimed 520 lives and caused \$969 million in direct property damage. NFPA estimates that one (17%) of every six reported fires involves a highway-type vehicle and 13% of all civilian fire deaths. On average, more than 30 highway vehicle fires were reported per hour. More than two-thirds of highway vehicle fires resulted from mechanical or electrical failures or malfunctions.



- Warning devices: reflective triangles or battery-powered flashers
- Cloth or roll of paper towels
- Work gloves
- Flashlight with batteries
- Windshield washer fluid
- First aid kit
- Duct Tape
- Fix-a-Flat
- Extra Fuses
- Tire gage
- Oil a quart or two
- Universal Fan Belt
- Basic Automotive Tool kit
- Window Tapper (specifically for breaking vehicle windows)



**For Winter add:**



- Tire chains (practice installing before you get into the snow)
- Small Snow Shovel
- Quality ice scraper/snow brush (plastic, not metal) to clear off ALL windows - front, back, side, and side mirrors.
- Small bag of abrasive materials for traction (sand, salt, or kitty litter)
- Traction mats (floor mats will work)



**Vehicle Go-bag:** This should provide at least 3 days worth of necessity to life items for the *maximum* number of people and pets the vehicle can safely hold.



- Extra Clothing (including hat, gloves, socks)
- Blanket(s)
- Water: You can insulate the water with the blanket to prevent freezing.
- Food/Granola /Energy bars or candy bars
- Candles and Matches
- Emergency NOAA Radio with batteries
- Multi-function (Leatherman type) Tool or Swiss Army Knife
- Any other items specific to your location, should you get stranded and not covered by the vehicle emergency or individual go-bags.



That's it folks. Performing these Fall Chores will help to make the coming winter season and holidays more pleasant and enjoyable. Winter is just around the corner, so now is the time to have at it.

**TNT**

