



## Before Starting Out

Before heading out on the road, plan ahead. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and AAA offer the following tips for individuals who are preparing to drive during inclement weather.



If you must go out during a winter storm, use public transportation.



Always wear your seatbelt and maintain alertness.



Install good winter tires.



Keep a windshield scraper and small broom in your car for ice and snow removal.



Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season.



Dress warmly. Wear layers of loose-fitting, layered, lightweight clothing.



As the temperature drops, so does your battery's starting power. Maximize the starting power by turning off all accessories – including the heater, radio and lights – before you attempt to start the car.



Because of the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning, do not let your car warm up in the garage.



Clear snow from headlights and taillights so you can see the road and others can see you. In addition, clear the snow off of the roof, hood and trunk to avoid having snow from these surfaces cover up the windows while you are driving.



If the locks are frozen, warm up the key by using a match or cigarette lighter. Once the key is inserted, this may create just enough warmth to melt the ice in the lock.



When the snow is cleared and the car is warm, pull away slowly. If you apply too much gas, the wheels will spin and you may get stuck.



If you must travel, let a family member know where you are going and when you expect to arrive.