

6 Tips for Preventing Cold-Weather Car Troubles



When Mother Nature unleashes her wintery wrath, vehicles feel the effects. In fact, severe cold can spell big trouble for your car.

What can you do to prevent common cold-weather problems?

1.
Avoid the doom of a dead battery.

If your car won't start in extreme cold, the most likely cause is a dead battery. Batteries take a beating when the temperature plummets.

WHAT TO DO: Using jumper cables is a fast and simple fix. However, it's better to take steps to avoid a dead battery altogether. Keep your battery's connectors tightened, and make sure they're clean and corrosion-free. Also, consider buying a battery warmer. If your car battery is more than three years old, consider replacing it.

2.
Fuel up to avoid ice in your fuel line.

Around here, we don't get temperatures cold enough to totally freeze the gasoline in your car. But it does get chilly enough for water content in the fuel tank and gas lines to turn icy. This interferes with fuel pickup, thus causing problems like sputtering and/or stopping while the car is running or not being able to start the car.

WHAT TO DO: Keep your gas tank at least half-full at all times. The more gas in the tank, the less room there is for moisture to condense and freeze in your fuel line.

3.
Don't let deflated tires get you down.

As the temperature drops, the air in tires gets colder, contracts, and creates less pressure. The result? Underinflated tires. Underinflated tires cause uneven (and unsafe) wear on treads.

WHAT TO DO: Check your tires' air pressure weekly and add air if the pressure falls below what is recommended by the tire manufacturer. Also, consider switching to winter tires during the cold months of the year.

4.
Steer clear of thick oil issues.

Cold temperatures increase oil's viscosity (thickness), requiring your car's oil pump to work harder to circulate oil throughout the engine. This hurts fuel efficiency, and it makes it more difficult to start your car, which can cause engine damage.

WHAT TO DO: Check your owner's manual for guidelines on the ideal oil to use. Oils with a lower number before the W (stands for "winter") perform better in cold weather. For example, a 5W-30 oil will resist thickening better than a 15W-30 oil.

5.
Make sure your antifreeze is up to the challenge.

Antifreeze (coolant) won't perform well during cold weather if it's old or has an improper ratio of coolant to water.

WHAT TO DO: Choose an antifreeze that is made for colder climates. Ask us to check your coolant's freeze point to ensure it's winter-appropriate —and have us flush out and refill your antifreeze at least every two years. *See coupon included.*

6.
Wipe out windshield problems.

Winter weather can wreak windshield-related havoc. The rubber on wiper blades can become brittle and crack. Also, some washer fluids don't work as well as others in the cold. And, if your heating and defrost functions don't work properly, you could end up with a frozen windshield on the interior — a potentially dangerous situation!

WHAT TO DO:

1. Check wiper blades regularly and replace them if they're worn. (Ideally, replace the blades every six months.) *We offer free installation with purchase of wiper blades.*
2. Use a washer fluid made to resist freezing.
3. Call us if you suspect any problems with the defrosting and heating in your car.

Suggestions inspired by CarandDriver.com's recommendations in their January 2019 article, "How Severe Cold Affects Your Car (and What to Do About It)." <https://www.caranddriver.com/news/a14762411/how-severe-cold-affects-your-car-and-what-to-do-about-it/>

6 Months Interest-Free Financing. Go to roberts-automotive.com for details.



ROAD TRIP

Alaska Sightseeing



Totem poles at Potlatch Park

On the heels of our Yellowstone trip, we headed to Alaska on a cruise and land tour. **Travel With Allan** organized the trip and took care of all of the transfers. They are a great company, well organized and on time with everything. The cruise line was Holland America, which also did a wonderful job, but if you are traveling to Alaska with kids, it would be more appropriate to take a Disney cruise. I've heard people say that they would rather do the land part first and cruise back so they can relax. Forget that. Your spouse will have you doing a lot of excursions off the ship, so it really doesn't matter. We flew into Seattle to spend a few days with friends in Burlington before the cruise. The **Airporter Shuttle** was a really

convenient way to get from the airport to Burlington or any destination North for that matter. After going through customs, we boarded the ship in Vancouver, BC. Upon getting to Alaska you will go through customs again, so I would suggest a global entry pass or downloading the mobile passport app to your phone. Sailing up the inner passage was smooth, almost reminding me of a river cruise because of the proximity to land. Be sure to take a rain coat. **Ketchikan** gets 13 feet of rain per year. In other words it rains all of the time. A tour of **Potlatch Park** and Totem poles were the feature for this stop. The cost to produce a totem pole runs anywhere from \$2,000 to \$10,000 per linear foot for a 40 foot cedar tree! Don't miss



Juneau

this, but you'll need an umbrella and water proof shoes or boots.

Our next stop was Juneau, which can't be accessed by road, only by plane or boat. Juneau has 47 miles of roads, 7 one way and 40 the other.



Macaulay Salmon Hatchery

We toured **Macaulay Salmon Hatchery**, a must do, and viewed some opportunistic bald eagles, which can dive at 75 mph and spot a fish at one mile. They are so tenacious that they have been known to drown trying to bring a fish to the surface. We also learned that salmon have an onboard desalination plant, which makes sense since they are born in fresh water, spend adulthood at sea and return to fresh water to spawn. There are 28 hatcheries in Alaska with this one releasing over 1 million salmon per year.



Klondike Gold Rush Graveyard

Next up was Skagway and a tour of the **Klondike Gold Rush Graveyard** situated on a rocky outcropping. Just as I was wondering how they dug graves in this place, my wife told me that they used dynamite and buried the bodies upright.

The **Glacier Bay tour** on the ship was amazing. Park Rangers were brought aboard to narrate and answer questions. We spotted a couple of brown bears, viewed glaciers and saw lots of wildlife including sea lions and otters.



Glacier Bay

Glacier Bay was created by, what else, a glacier, and is 1,000 feet deep in places.

It's hard to decide what was the favorite part of our trip, but Denali National Park is at the top of my list along with **the dog sled demonstration and tour**. In the Park, you could actually pet these animals, which love the attention. These dogs are amazing having the ability to cover 100 miles in one day. They are not that big, either, ranging from 40 to 70 pounds, which was surprising. Only busses are allowed into Denali with an organized tour. At one point we had 2 brown bears right outside the bus.



Dog sled demonstration and tour

There is too much to list in this newsletter, but for a more detailed account of the trip, catch **my blog** (<https://alaskapirjmr.blogspot.com/2019/12/alaska-sightseeing.html>)

- The word "PEZ" comes from the German word for peppermint – PfeffErminZ.
- Despite their names, Iceland isn't covered in ice and Greenland isn't very green.
- The hashtag symbol is technically called an octothorpe.
- In 2009, Scottish scientists searching for the Loch Ness Monster found 100,000 golf balls instead.
- A group of flamingos is called a "flamboyance".
- China owns nearly all of the pandas in the world, even the ones you see at zoos. They rent them out for about \$1 million a year.
- Bubble Wrap was originally intended to be used as 3D wallpaper.
- Stretching over 1,600 miles, the Great Barrier Reef is the world's biggest single structure made by living organisms.

<https://www.sporcle.com/blog/2018/11/101-more-interesting-trivia-facts/>

\$15.00 OFF*

Coolant Flush

Service includes: Flush system of used coolant. Install new coolant (Up to 10 quarts of coolant). Bring engine to operating temperature. Test for leaks. Test for proper operation of thermostat, cooling fans, A/C, and heater. (Price before discount - \$189.99)

* Coupon not valid with any other offers. One coupon per customer, per household.

Expires 3/31/20 | CODE CF15



3846 Columbia Ave., Mountville, PA
717-285-3738
Specializing in VW/Audi, BMW, Mercedes, Porsche

\$10.00 OFF*

State Inspection

Our technicians will thoroughly inspect your vehicle, making sure your car's parts and systems are in safe operating condition—including: brakes, tires, warning lights, windshield wipers and more.

* Coupon not valid with any other offers. One coupon per customer, per household.

Expires 3/31/20 | CODE SI10



3846 Columbia Ave., Mountville, PA
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Special \$49.95*

Be Aware and Be Prepared for the Upcoming Winter Getaways

Special \$49.95
Value \$69.95

Special Includes:

- Change oil and filter using filter and oil that match your personal driving situation**
- FREE 52-Point End-to-End Check Including:
 - Rotate, inspect & adjust tire pressures
 - Inspect all lights
 - Inspect wiper blades
 - Inspect brakes
 - Check fluids and top off as needed
 - Inspect steering and suspension components
 - Road test

**up to 5 quarts of regular motor oil. Synthetic extra.

* Offer not valid with any other offer, excludes tires & batteries. Please present coupon at the time of drop off.

Expires 3/31/20



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Total Time: Prep 30 min. Cook 2 hours

- 2lbs beef stew meat, cut into 1in. cubes
- ½ tsp salt, divided
- 6 Tbs all purpose flour, divided
- ½ tsp paprika
- 1 Tbs canola oil
- 3 Tbs tomato paste
- 1 tsp basil
- 1 tsp oregano
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups dry red wine
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1 tsp rosemary (dried)
- 2 bay leaves
- 3 cups cubed peeled potatoes
- 3 cups coarsely chopped onions (about 2 large)
- 2 cups sliced carrots
- 2 Tbs cold water
- 2 Tbs balsamic or red wine vinegar
- 1 cup fresh or frozen peas

1. In a large bowl, combine 4 Tbs flour, ¼ tsp salt and paprika. Add beef, a few pieces at a time, and toss to coat.

2. In a Dutch oven, brown beef in oil over medium heat. Stir in tomato paste, basil, oregano and garlic. Cook until fragrant and color starts to darken slightly. Add wine; cook

until mixture just comes to a boil. Simmer until reduced by half, about 5 minutes. Stir in broth, rosemary and bay leaves. Bring to a boil.

Reduce heat; cover and simmer until meat is almost tender, about 1-1/2 hrs.

3. Add potatoes, onions and carrots. Cover, simmer until meat and vegetables are tender, about 30 minutes longer.

4. Discard bay leaves. In a small bowl, combine remaining ¼ tsp salt and remaining 2 Tbs flour. Add cold water and vinegar; stir until smooth. Stir into stew. Bring to a boil; add frozen peas. Cook, stirring until thickened, about 2 minutes. If desired, top with fresh rosemary.

Adapted from Taste of Home Recipe



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- **6 Tips for Preventing Cold-Weather Car Troubles.** How to prevent common cold-weather problems.

- **Cold Weather Coupons** Use our coupons to help prepare your car for winter driving.

Special
\$49.95*
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