

# GET YOUR VEHICLE READY:

Checks Needed to Brave Winter Weather

Motorists should regularly check to ensure that:

- ◆ Fluid levels are full.
- ◆ Your wipers don't streak - you may want to consider installing winter wiper blades.
- ◆ Your heater and defroster are working properly.
- ◆ Your vehicle's radio is working properly so you can receive weather and traffic reports.
- ◆ All lights are working.
- ◆ Tires are properly inflated and have sufficient tread depth.
- ◆ If you live in an area prone to heavy snow, you may want to use dedicated snow tires on your vehicle or carry a set of tire chains. At a minimum, your all-weather tires should be mud and snow rated.
- ◆ Before the winter driving season, motorists should have a mechanic check the brakes, battery, hoses and belts.
- ◆ In the case of a problem, contact a mechanic immediately.



# 511PA – TRAVEL INFO TO GO



PennDOT reminds motorists that 511PA provides free, 24-hour traveler information services. Check conditions on more than 40,000 roadway miles, including color-coded winter conditions on 2,900 miles, by visiting [www.511PA.com](http://www.511PA.com). 511PA provides traffic delay warnings, weather forecasts, traffic speed information and access to more than 1,000 traffic cameras.

Motorist can also view a color-coded map of when each of the nearly 40,000 miles of state-maintained roadway was last plowed by visiting the plow trucks section. PennDOT's Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) technology, uses units in each of the more than 2,600 department-owned and rented plow trucks to send a cellular signal showing truck locations.

511PA is available through a smartphone application for iPhone and Android devices, by calling 5-1-1, or by following regional Twitter alerts accessible on the 511PA website.

The following traffic information is available for most of the 511PA network:

- Traffic delay warnings
- Winter road conditions
- Crashes
- Construction activities
- Weather forecasts
- Snow plow locations

Additionally, 511PA provides regional tourism information, links to transit agencies, PennDOT Park and Ride facilities, and major airports. PennDOT encourages motorists not to call 511PA while driving. Pull safely off the road or even better, call or log on before you leave.



## Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Winter Driving Guide

Preparation is the key to successfully navigating winter roads. Winter weather can bring unexpected conditions, so make sure that both you and your vehicle are ready for ice and snow.





## EMERGENCY TRAVEL KIT Don't Leave Home Without It!

- ◆ Flashlight and Batteries
- ◆ Battery-Operated Radio
- ◆ Jumper Cables
- ◆ Cell Phone and Charger
- ◆ Snow Shovel
- ◆ Matches and Candles
- ◆ First Aid Supplies
- ◆ Extra Warm Clothing and Gloves
- ◆ Blanket
- ◆ Ice Scraper
- ◆ Sand
- ◆ Bottled Water
- ◆ Non-Perishable Food
- ◆ Anything else you may need to accommodate family traveling with you (special medication, baby supplies, pet food, etc.)



## If You Must Travel, PennDOT Offers These Winter Driving Tips:

- ◆ Carry a winter emergency travel kit.
- ◆ Listen to weather and travel advisories, and if you don't have to travel in bad weather, don't.
- ◆ Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- ◆ Slow down and increase following distance.
- ◆ Avoid sudden stops and starts.
- ◆ Beware of roads that may look wet, but are actually frozen, often referred to as "black ice."
- ◆ Use extra caution on bridges and ramps where ice can often form without warning.
- ◆ Carry a cell phone.
- ◆ Do not use cruise control while driving on snow-covered roads.
- ◆ State law requires you to turn on your headlights when your wipers are on.
- ◆ Use your low beams in bad weather, especially in cases of heavy or blowing snow.
- ◆ Remove ice and snow from windows, mirrors and all vehicle lights as often as needed.
- ◆ Remove snow and ice from the hood and roof of your vehicle. State law states that if snow or ice from your vehicle strikes a vehicle or person and causes death or injury, you can be ticketed.
- ◆ Do not park or abandon your vehicle on snow emergency routes.



- ◆ Do not pass or get between trucks plowing in a plow line (several trucks plowing side by side).
- ◆ Make sure someone else knows where you are going and when you expect to arrive. In case you run into an emergency and need help, someone will know where to look for you.
- ◆ If you do become stranded, it's better to stay with your vehicle until help arrives. Run the engine every hour or so, but make sure the tailpipe is clear and keep the downwind window cracked open.
- ◆ Do not drink and drive and always wear your seat belt.

