



Prepare for Winter Driving & Decreased Visibility

Winterizing your truck is an essential part of maintaining it and keeping unnecessary costs down. It is also an important part of keeping your truck performing at top level while avoiding, or surviving, a bad situation. If you've never been stuck on the side of the road during a snow storm, you're either very lucky or you understand the importance of winterizing your truck. Winter weather can sneak up on us and now is the time to start preparing for the winter months ahead.

Preparing Your Vehicle –

* Blended fuel purchased and a diesel supplement is added to the fuel tanks as temperatures creep below 32 degrees.

Check with the Shop for company procedures and a supply of anti-gel.

* Make sure the unit block heaters are plugged in when unit is not in use during the winter months.

* Check the tire tread, which is what provides traction to push your truck through the snow or wet pavement. You must always have at least 4/32 inch tread on your front tires and at least 2/32 on the rest.

* Make sure all fluids are up, including window wash. Now is the time to check additional fluids, such as DEF.

* If equipped with air brakes and air tank pull cords and/or drain orifices, you should purge tanks daily, make sure the air system airs to 120 psi, and listen for the air drier to purge the system clean of moisture.



* Make sure wiper blades are functional, all glass/mirrors cleaned. If equipped, make sure heated mirrors are working, make sure headlights tail/turn lights are cleaned off of snow/ice/salt and operational.

* Winter driving allows for brake shoes to become frozen to the brake drum. Professional drivers are aware of this condition and should always make sure the wheels are turning, not sliding, before leaving on a trip.

* Make sure any steps and grab handles are clean, secure and dry to avoid slipping.

In the approaching winter months, you also need to be alert to weather conditions that will cause poor visibility. These conditions include .. rain, snow, sleet and fog. Other factors that can reduce your visibility include .. sun and/or snow glare, approaching head lights and work zone lights. Take extra precaution when driving in these conditions by following these tips:

* Turn your headlights on well before dusk or any time your visibility is reduced.

* **Reduce your speed.** Keep an appropriate following distance and be ready to react.

* Consider getting off the road to a safe place until the visibility improves. Many accidents involving multiple vehicles have reduced visibility to blame.

* Make sure the defrosting and heating equipment are working since they give you the visibility you need for safe driving.

* **Know your route and exits** - since you may not see the road or exit you need before it's too late.



Mike Unger

... is the lucky winner of the gift certificate this month for turning in his signed newsletter.

With the winter weather approaching, you need to plan for weather related issues. This may mean leaving earlier to beat a storm, to parking overnight in an area you can get out of if it snows, to managing your drive time if traveling in hazardous conditions.

Please always keep an eye on the weather and plan accordingly.



I have read and understand the above information regarding "WINTER DRIVING & DECREASED VISIBILITY".

Signature

Date