

Safety Tips for Road Trips

Most travelers -- nearly 102 million Americans, AAA predicts -- are expected to drive. Avoiding travel altogether is the safest thing to do when conditions are poor. The National Weather Service in Chicago tweeted

(<https://twitter.com/NWSChicago/status/1605907709420654593?s=20&t=ZMOZTmoxV8OQWw0J-B7pHQ>) Thursday morning about "life-threatening conditions" Thursday evening through Friday night. Stay on top of the latest forecasts and avoid getting on roads in dangerous weather.

When you're traveling by car in the winter, it's important to set out prepared.

Have your vehicle serviced as often as its manufacturer recommends, and do the following, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises:

- Have the radiator system serviced or check the antifreeze level with an antifreeze tester. Add antifreeze as needed.
- Replace windshield wiper fluid with a winter-suitable mixture (which will contain additives to prevent freezing).

• Ensure the tires have sufficient tread and air pressure, which you can measure with a tire gauge.

Replace worn tires and fill low tires with air to the pressure recommended for your car.

- Keep the gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.
- Keep your car in proper working condition by checking the heater, defroster, brakes, brake fluid, ignition, emergency flashers, exhaust, oil and battery.

Pack what you'll need in case of an emergency. Things such as:

- Nonperishable, high-energy foods such as nuts, granola bars, dried fruit or beef jerky
- Bottled water (Using an insulated bottle can help prevent freezing.)
- First aid kit including adhesive bandages, medical tape, antiseptic wipes, gauze pads, antiseptic cream, medical wrap and pocketknife
- Clothing to keep you warm -- hats, wool socks, coat, hand and feet warmers, gloves, scarves, and blankets
- Battery-powered flashlight, extra batteries and flares
- Jumper cables, booster cables with fully charged battery or an external battery charger to start your car if the battery dies
- Basic tool kit
- Tire or tow chains
- Glass scraper for clearing windows

COMPREHENSIVE LIST HERE (<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/car-tips-winter-weather-wellness/index.html>)

of what to pack for a winter road trip.

MORE STRATEGIES HERE (<https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/how-to-survive-blizzard-weather-wellness/index.html>) on blizzard preparedness.