



Media release

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Drivers urged to winter-proof their cars

With cold wet weather and snow in higher places forecast, RACT encourages Tasmanians to stay safe on the roads during the school holidays by giving their vehicles a seasonal check-up.

RACT Head of Roadside Service Delivery Josh Dobie reminded the public that winter can be riskier on the roads and tough on cars, and that a few simple checks can make all the difference.

"It is important to drive to the conditions - wet, icy and snowy roads can be treacherous. Take it slow and smooth, with gentle acceleration and braking. If conditions are slippery drive in a low gear at a low speed. Go too fast, and the wheels can lose traction, and you can lose control of the vehicle. Avoid braking into and out of corners. Slow down before the corner while your vehicle's wheels are straight.

"If your vehicle skids or you hit black ice, avoid accelerating, braking hard or turning the steering wheel quickly. This prevents the wheels locking and a loss of steering and control," said Mr Dobie

Winter-proofing your car is important.

"From wet and icy roads to low temperatures that impact batteries and tyres, being winter-ready means taking a few simple steps to avoid being caught out," Mr Dobie said.

"Poor vehicle maintenance is a key contributor of incidents, and a major issue we continue to see is poor tyre condition, which can lead to aquaplaning on wet roads," he said.

"This can result in a loss of control and increase the likelihood of a crash. Basic checks and regular maintenance can help drivers to stay safer."

Tyres

"Check that your tyre tread is at least 1.5 millimetres across the entire surface. Low tyre pressure can increase wear and worsen handling.

"Check the tread by turning your front wheels to full lock in both directions, which allows you to view the inside and outside edges of the tyre."

Batteries

Mr Dobie said battery issues also spiked in winter, as cold temperatures can reduce battery performance.

"If your battery is already weak, it is more likely to fail during colder weather," he said.

"Make sure it's properly charged, especially before long trips, and, if you can, park in a garage or undercover to reduce exposure to the cold."

Lights

RACT also encourages drivers to check that their headlights and brake-lights are clean, bright, and functioning correctly.

“Increased fog, rain, and darker conditions mean poorer visibility, so making sure your lights are working is essential,” he said.

“Ensure low and high beams are adjusted and that brake lights work.

“If your car hasn’t been serviced in the past 12 months, now is the time to book it in - a qualified mechanic can check critical systems and help prevent problems before they arise.”

Dashboard

RACT also reminded motorists to pay attention to dashboard warning lights, which are often overlooked but can signal serious issues.

“These lights alert you to potential problems. Ignoring them can lead to damage and expensive repairs,” he said.

Some of the most critical warning lights include the check engine light, oil pressure indicator, battery warning, and brake system alerts.

“For any unfamiliar dashboard symbols, refer to your owner’s manual.”

For more information see RACT’s website including:

- [Preparing your car for winter](#)
- [Defrosting your windscreen](#)
- [Signs your battery is failing](#)

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