

BBLP CLOCKTOBER 2022

Winter Driving - Breakdown Kit Checklist

Winter weather can have serious effects on a car's health, increasing your chances of a breakdown and leaving you exposed to harsher conditions – so it is important that you drive prepared.

To help you stay as safe and well prepared as possible, we have drawn up a winter driving checklist of all the essential items you need in the event of a winter breakdown. Go through this list to ensure you have the correct items to be prepared for your journeys in autumn and winter.

Item	Check?	Information
Ice Scraper and De-Icer		The most basic items and a winter must-have! It is a legal requirement for your windscreens and windows to be clear of snow and ice before setting off.
Torch and Spare Batteries		Stuck by the side of a dark road on a winter's night with a flat battery? Without any light this is a very frightening and dangerous situation.
Warm Clothes and Blankets		A breakdown often means a long cold wait – so it's sensible to have some clothes to wrap up in. Think a big coat, gloves, spare jumper and wool hat.
High Visibility Jacket		This is one of the most important emergency items – if you leave your vehicle in the dark you need to be seen by other motorists. This could save your life!
Boots with Good Grip		Despite driving with sensible footwear, in heavy snow or slippery conditions, you will need suitable boots with a strong grip if you plan on exiting the vehicle.
First Aid Kit		Carry a basic first aid kit, including sterile cleansing wipes, wash proof plasters, dressings, scissors, nitrile powder-free gloves.
Jump Start Cables		Flat or dead batteries are much more likely to occur in cold weather. A set of jump start leads will help get you going again – with assistance from a passing motorist!
Empty Fuel Can		You should ensure that you have more than enough fuel for any journey. In case of emergency, carry an empty fuel can that can be filled to transport fuel.

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Food and Drink		Food and drink should be considered breakdown kit essentials. Carry water with you and if possible a flask of tea, coffee or other hot drink. Keep long life food supplies (such as energy bars) as a part of your emergency kit
Shovel		In deep snow – if you're driving on untreated roads – it can be easy for vehicle wheels to get stuck. If boot space is limited get yourself a foldable model.
Warning Signs		This is a legal requirement in most of Europe (but not the UK) – it is usually in the form of a triangle and is used to warn other motorists you have broken down
Road Atlas		Even with modern sat-nav technology there is the possibility that your battery is flat/poor signal, putting your electronic devices out of action.
Sunglasses		Low winter sun can seriously affect driver visibility, creating a glare which makes it difficult to see the road. Always ensure you have a pair of sunglasses to hand.
Portable Phone Charger		Breaking down is not the time for your mobile phone to run out of power, so, a portable battery charger could be very welcome.

Remember to get any items you are missing to complete your winter breakdown kit to ensure you're in the driving seat should you break down this winter.