

# Preparing For Winter

## Lets Keep Our Model “A” Happy!

By Claude Sipe

As I write this I know summer is coming to an end, even though the thermometer has been “flirting with 100 degrees” last week. Some of you will be storing your Model “A” for the winter season, and we will talk about that procedure next month. However a lot of us, drive our cars all winter, so this month I would like to talk about the checks we should perform [while the weather is still nice] before we go somewhere and get caught in bad weather unexpectedly.

First the more obvious things to check include: lights, are your headlights properly aimed? Do they go off sometimes when you turn the steering wheel? [better fix that] Are they nice and bright or is one a little dim. Are your tail lights and brake lights working properly? Are they nice and bright? Or are they a little dim. {the most common cause for dim lights is a bad ground} How good are your tires? Pay attention not only to the tread depth, you should have “at least” 2/32 tread depth in the most worn part of all tires, but also as rubber ages it becomes harder and your tires will not grip the road as well. How’s the windshield? Is it pitted or possibly scratched from a bad encounter with a faulty wiper blade? Speaking of wiper blades, are they in good shape? Just like your tires, they tend to harden with age. Do you use “Rain-X” do you have some available for the 1<sup>st</sup> rain? The engine coolant is something we tend to over look in the winter, do you have at least 25% anti-freeze, if you don’t use an anti freeze, be sure you don’t get caught with a frozen block! Also if you do drain the water out of your vehicle do something to remind you to refill it before you drive it again. [a note on the steering wheel works for me]



Now for some of the things we my not think of: Do your brakes stop nice and true? Or do they pull slightly to one side? Brakes that pull are not good at any time but they can be especially bad on wet pavement, and cause you to go into a skid. How

about your charging system? In the winter we are using more electrical power to run our headlights, wipers, etc. so if you have a stock charging system you may want to increase the charge rate for the winter, about 12 to 14 amps, should do it. Check the amp meter at a high idle with all accessories on and you should show a slight charge. A cold engine is much harder to start than a warm one so be sure your battery is in good shape as well as your starter. If your engine is not starting properly now, it will only get worse in cold weather, so if you need a “tune up” you should do it while the weather is still nice. Of course if you have any other items that need attention now is the time to spend “visiting with your Model A” the brisk nights and warm days are great working weather!

Happy Motoring

*Claude Sipe*