



Basic Car Kits and Vehicle Preparation

At a minimum, your car kit should contain these 11 essential items:

- Bottled or stored water
- High-protein, high-energy food
- First-aid kit
- Blankets
- Flashlight/batteries
- Radio/batteries
- Basic sanitation supplies
- Warm clothing
- Sturdy shoes or boots
- Raingear, hat and gloves
- Paper and pencils or pens



Before traveling, especially in winter, make sure your vehicle is properly prepared. Check this safety list:

- Vehicle up-to-date on regular maintenance schedule
- Windshield washer fluid full with winter fluid
- Oil at proper level
- Vehicle heating system works, including defroster
- Antifreeze in radiator tests to -15 degrees F.
- Full tank of gas
- Good windshield wiper blades
- Headlights/tail lights/turn signals/hazard signals in working order
- Seatbelts for all passengers in working order
- If transporting children, approved, size-appropriate child seat properly installed
- Check hub locks for four-wheel drive
- Good traction tires, properly inflated. Tire pressure drops along with temperature.



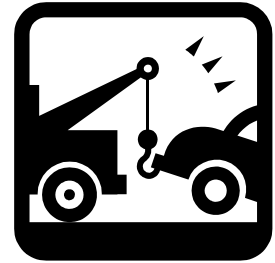
Include 15 additional items for road emergencies and winter driving:

- Your brain —use your head to keep you out of trouble and get you where you need to go. Work smarter, not harder!
- Leather gloves
- Tire chains (blocks of wood may help with installation)
- Tarp (for use when putting on chains) and/or kneel pad



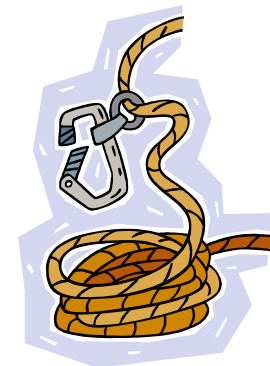
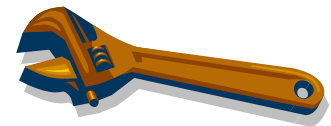
Items for road emergencies and winter driving (continued from page 1)

- Burlap sacks, kitty litter or sand
- Stock vehicle jack and a lug wrench that fits your wheel lug nuts
- Spare tire
- Shovel — the bigger the better
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Windshield de-icer and lock de-icer
- Jumper cables or self-contained battery jumper
- Small, empty gas can (fill only if needed)
- Flares or road-emergency warning lights
- Fire extinguisher
- Extra weight, properly secured for improved traction



For winter or during inclement weather, include these items if you have room:

- Small tools you know how to use
- Cell phone car charger
- Foot traction (Yak-Trax, etc.)
- High-lift jack
- Shackle(s)
- Receiver hitch with hook or hole for clevis (do not use tow ball)
- Tow strap – no hooks
- Saw (for cutting branches to use as traction)
- Rope
- Compass – and knowledge of how to use it
- GPS
- Maps of the area or bus route information
- “Little Hotties” type chemical warmers
- Emergency cash – in case you need a tow
- Portable air compressor
- Digital or disposable (one-time use) camera



More Car Kit Tips:

- Be sure to check your car kit supplies at least twice a year. Variations in heat and cold shorten the life of stored food and can deteriorate first-aid items and other materials like plastic and rubber.
- If you must leave your vehicle, leave a note on the dashboard stating when you left, where you went and any contact information.