Best Tactical Flashlight Today

Winter car emergency kit checklist

Pack it once, then check it twice a year when the clocks change. Tick each item as it goes in the car. The tag on the right says where it belongs: **Cabin** items stay within reach if the trunk ends up against a snowbank.

☐ Packed Cabin Under or behind a seat Trunk Trunk or spare tire well

Get moving

9 items

- ☐ **Jumper cables** — 8-gauge or thicker, 12 to 16 ft long — Trunk
- ☐ **Portable jump starter** — Charged, so you don't need a second car — Cabin
- ☐ **12V tire inflator** — One that shuts off at your set pressure — Trunk
- ☐ **Tire plug kit** — Practice once in the driveway — Trunk
- ☐ **Tow strap with hooks** — Rated for your vehicle's weight — Trunk
- ☐ **Folding snow shovel** — For the tailpipe and the drive wheels — Trunk
- ☐ **Traction mats, sand or cat litter** — Grip under the drive wheels — Trunk
- ☐ **Tire chains or snow socks** — Mountain and unplowed roads, sized to your tires — Trunk
- ☐ **Ice scraper and snow brush** — Long handle for the middle of the windshield — Cabin

Stay warm

6 items

- ☐ **Wool blanket or winter sleeping bag** — One per person — Cabin
- ☐ **Emergency foil blankets** — A backup layer, not the main one — Cabin
- ☐ **Hat, gloves and scarf** — For everyone who rides along — Cabin
- ☐ **Hand and foot warmers** — Check the dates each fall — Cabin
- ☐ **Dry socks and winter boots** — For digging out or a walk to help — Cabin
- ☐ **A spare warm layer for each child** — Kids lose heat faster than adults — Cabin

Be seen and call for help

9 items

- [ ] **Reflective warning triangles** — Set them well behind the car — Trunk
- [ ] **LED road flares or a strobe** — Visible for a long way, with no flame — Trunk
- [ ] **Reflective safety vest** — Put it on before you step out — Cabin
- [ ] **Bright cloth or HELP banner** — Tie it to the antenna or a door handle — Cabin
- [ ] **Flashlight with lithium batteries** — Lithium cells keep working in deep cold — Cabin
- [ ] **Headlamp** — Both hands free for clamps and digging — Cabin
- [ ] **Power bank and phone cable** — Charged and kept warm in the cabin — Cabin
- [ ] **Hand crank radio** — Weather and road reports with no signal — Cabin
- [ ] **Whistle** — Carries farther than your voice — Cabin

First aid and supplies

9 items

- [ ] **First aid kit** — Gauze, tape, wipes and bandages in several sizes — Cabin
- [ ] **Water** — 2 to 3 bottles per person, room left at the top — Cabin
- [ ] **High-calorie snacks** — Nuts, bars and dried fruit — Cabin
- [ ] **A few days of daily medications** — In a pouch; swap before they expire — Cabin
- [ ] **Pet water, food and a leash** — Leash on before a door opens — Cabin
- [ ] **Small bills and coins** — For a tow or a gas station — Cabin
- [ ] **Spare lithium AA and AAA batteries** — For every light and radio in the kit — Cabin
- [ ] **Paper map of your area** — Works when the phone doesn't — Cabin
- [ ] **Wipes, tissues and a few trash bags** — Bags double as a rain or wind layer — Cabin

Tools

5 items

- [ ] **Pliers, screwdrivers and a knife** — Or a good multi-tool — Trunk
- [ ] **Work gloves** — For clamps, chains and a hot engine bay — Trunk
- [ ] **Duct tape and zip ties** — Holds a loose bumper or hose — Trunk
- [ ] **Tire pressure gauge** — Cold mornings drop tire pressure — Trunk
- [ ] **Window breaker and seatbelt cutter** — Within reach of the driver's seat — Cabin

Before you drive into a storm

- [ ] **Check the forecast and road reports**
- [ ] **Gas tank at least half full, or an EV charged well above the trip's needs**
- [ ] **Phone charged, power bank in the cabin**
- [ ] **Tell someone your route and when you expect to arrive**
- [ ] **Cabin items are in the cabin, not buried in the trunk**
- [ ] **Winter washer fluid topped up**

Cut along the line and keep this card in the glovebox

If you get stranded in winter

Keep in the glovebox

1. **Stay with the car.** It's easier for rescuers to find than a person. Leave only if you can see a building close by.
2. **Call 911 if you can.** Say where you are, who's with you and what's wrong. Don't hang up until you know what happens next.
3. **Clear the tailpipe first.** Snow can plug the exhaust and push carbon monoxide into the car.
4. **Run the engine about 10 minutes an hour.** Crack a window on the side away from the wind while it runs.
5. **Dome light only while the engine runs.** Save the battery for the restart.
6. **Make the car easy to spot.** Tie a bright cloth to the antenna or a door handle.
7. **Bring supplies into the cabin.** Blankets, food and water, while you can still reach the trunk.
8. **Take it easy.** Don't push the car or shovel hard. Sweat soaks the clothes keeping you warm.
9. **Eat before you sleep.** A high-calorie snack helps your body make heat. Never sleep with the engine running.

Emergency info card

Fill in and keep with the stranded card

Driver's name _____

Emergency contact _____

Contact's phone _____

Roadside assistance number _____

Insurance company and policy number _____

Vehicle make, model and color _____

License plate _____

Medical notes and allergies _____

Twice-a-year kit check

Spring and fall, when the clocks change

Date	Water and snacks swapped	Warmers in date	Lights and batteries tested	Jump starter and power bank charged	First aid restocked	Notes
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	
	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	

Stuck in snow: how to get moving

Before you call for a tow

1. **Straighten the front wheels.** Turned wheels plow snow instead of rolling over it.
2. **Clear around the drive wheels and the tailpipe.** Dig out the snow in front of and behind each drive wheel.
3. **Put traction under the drive wheels.** Mats, sand, cat litter or the floor mats from the car.
4. **Start in the lowest gear with gentle throttle.** If the wheels spin, stop. Spinning polishes the snow into ice.
5. **Rock it if it won't climb out.** Ease forward, then back, a few feet at a time, and build a short track.
6. **Ask for a pull.** Hook the tow strap to recovery points only, never to a bumper or suspension part.

Find the kit reviews and the interactive kit builder at **besttacticalflashlighttoday.net/best-car-emergency-kit/**