

## Press release/E-alert

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### How to get your car ready for winter: AUTODOC gives 6 tips for the start of the winter season

*The first frost always comes suddenly. If you don't have an ice scraper or de-icer at hand, it can be quite frustrating. Moreover, if your car's coolant freezes, this not only makes driving dangerous but also damages the engine. That's why it's better to think about winter ahead of time. [AUTODOC](#), a leading online retailer for vehicle parts and accessories in Europe, offers six top tips to get your car ready for winter.*

#### Fitting winter tyres – from Halloween to Easter

It's generally recommended to use winter tyres instead of summer tyres from Halloween till Easter. Basically, drivers should replace summer tyres with winter tyres as soon as the average daily temperature drops below 7°C for several days. Then it can quickly drop below 0 at night. Plus, driving with summer tyres in winter road conditions is less safe. Winter tyres are made of a softer rubber compound that remains flexible at low temperatures. The tread has more grooves, which guarantee better grip on slippery surfaces. AUTODOC carries a wide variety of [tyres](#) in its product range, and has tips on how to [change your tyres yourself](#).

#### 1. It's always best to keep an ice scraper and brush at hand

Nose close to the steering wheel, eyes squinted, straining to see through the gap in the windscreen that has been scraped clear: a fairly typical sight at the beginning of the cold season. A significantly reduced field of vision not only makes driving exhausting, it also puts you and other road users at risk. A scraper with a brush is ideal for scraping ice from windows and sweeping snow off the car body without scratching the glass or paintwork. An indispensable tool for winter when the car is parked outdoors. By the way, if you want to prevent windows from freezing, you can protect the windscreen with cardboard or a foil cover in the evening and secure it with the windscreen wipers.

#### 2. Preventing frozen doors – treat the door seal with silicone grease from time to time

Before winter arrives, it's a good idea to check the door and boot seals carefully. If they have hardened or cracked, they should be replaced. This is because if the seals are worn out, the doors could freeze or cold and moisture could penetrate the interior more quickly. As a preventive measure, they can be treated with a special silicone grease or Vaseline from time to time. Doors still frozen? Carefully pressing against the door can break the ice. If this doesn't work, you can try carefully pouring warm water (maximum 50 degrees) into the crack in the door with a small watering can. Do not under any circumstances pour water over the window pane as the large temperature difference can cause it to crack. After opening the door, dry all the rubber parts thoroughly and scatter sand or loose chippings over the water on the floor to prevent slipping. Is the door lock frozen? A special de-icing agent will help with this. Pro tip: store the de-icer spray at home and not in the car...

### **3. Even all-season oils are not always winterproof**

Most cars today are equipped with all-season oil. But did you know that even these oils, depending on their composition, are not suitable for temperatures below -5 °C? This applies to those with a viscosity grade of 250W-40. The reason for this is that when it is very cold, these oils increase in density. This increases engine wear during the start-up phase, as well as the load on the starter motor and fuel consumption. You can find out whether this applies to your oil by checking the packaging.

### **4. Coolant needs antifreeze**

Even when the outside temperatures are cold, the engine needs cooling. If the coolant is not made winterproof, it can freeze, causing hoses and even the radiator to burst. This is where it gets really expensive, not to mention that frozen coolant can even result in engine damage. AUTODOC recommends replacing the coolant every two to three years to maintain effective protection.

### **5. For a clear view, make your windscreen wipers and windscreen washer system winterproof**

It's equally important to add antifreeze to the windscreen washer fluid. During the winter season, dirt can accumulate on car windows due to snow, slush, and salt residues. This can quickly restrict visibility, especially when the sun is low in the sky. It is therefore important to ensure that the washer nozzles are clear. The rubber blades of the windscreen wipers should be soft and elastic – if they have hardened and cracked, a replacement is recommended. Tip from AUTODOC: wiper blades that are designed specially for winter are made of a water-repellent rubber that remains flexible even in sub-zero temperatures.

## 6. Keep a winter emergency kit in your boot

Lastly, some tips for putting together a winter kit so that you are well prepared in case of an emergency:

- Always carry a bottle of **windscreen washer fluid mixed with antifreeze** in case the windscreen washer system suddenly runs out while you're on the road.
- If the car won't start because the battery is flat, it is helpful to have a **jumper cable** handy.
- A **shovel** can help if the car is completely snowed in.
- Depending on where you live or where you are going on holiday, **snow chains** can be indispensable. They are available from AUTODOC in different sizes to match the tyres.
- If you are stuck in a traffic jam and don't want to leave the engine running all the time, a **blanket** in the boot will help keep you warm.

You can find more tips and tricks about cars in the AUTODOC [online magazine](#).

Please contact us if you have any questions.

**The AUTODOC Press Team**