

PRESS RELEASE

Prepare your car for winter

A survey of multi-car households by UK insurance company Aviva suggests that the average household has around £3,429 worth of items in their garage, yet keeps vehicles worth almost four times as much (£13,487) on the road or driveway. A quarter of people asked admitted that they park a car that's worth, on average, £20,000 on their drive. However, 41% said they were worried that their cars could be broken into, stolen or vandalised when parked on the drive or road.

Preparing for winter

If course, having your car stolen or vandalised is something that concerns most motorists, but many can forget that expensive damage can be caused to your vehicle simply by cold wintry weather. Dark mornings and longer evenings can generate a larger drain on your car's electrical system, as windscreen wipers, heaters and headlights are used heavily. Your battery is more likely to fail in winter because of the extra energy your starter motor needs to get your car going on cold mornings.

Those with less than fond memories of the snow we experienced last winter will already be thinking about how to protect themselves and their cars against the vagaries of our weather and Aviva has suggested some simple preparations you can make, to help prevent breakdowns and keep your car running smoothly this winter.

- **Ensure your cooling system has the right amount of anti-freeze** – your owner's manual can tell you how much is right for your car. You can also use an additive in your windscreen wash to stop the water bottle freezing. Some motor traders will offer a free pre-winter check on your car, especially if you bought it from them, so it is worth asking them.
- **Check your oil and water levels regularly** to keep your engine and cooling system working smoothly.
- **Avoid frozen locks by using de-icer on your car doors** – you can also use it to remove frost from your windscreen on winter mornings, along with a windscreen scraper. You should certainly **avoid** using hot water from a kettle, as this can crack your windscreen.
- **Get your battery and charging system checked** before the temperature drops. Make sure your battery's connections are tight and free from any corrosion too.

Looking after your car is essential if you are to avoid potentially costly winter damage, but you should also take precautions at a personal level when travelling in what may be – or become – poor weather conditions. Wrap up warm when you drive, and carry a blanket, waterproof clothing and sensible footwear in case you break down. Arranging breakdown cover can also help you ensure you get to your destination.

Advice is important

Consulting an independent insurance broker can always be of assistance in evaluating the scope of your requirements – and the options available to you. It is important always to seek professional advice before arranging any insurance and we would be pleased to provide more information.

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Notes to editors:

About Independent Insurance Services

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