



City of Seattle
Office of Emergency Management
105 5th Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98104
206-233-5076

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:

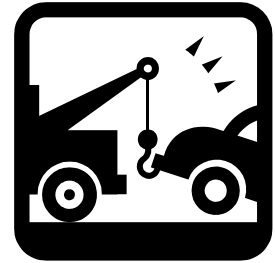
- ☐ Your brain —use your head to keep you out of trouble and get you where you need to go. Work smarter, not harder!
- ☐ Leather gloves
- ☐ Tire chains (blocks of wood may help with installation)
- ☐ Tarp (for use when putting on chains) and/or kneel pad



For more information, call 206-233-5076.

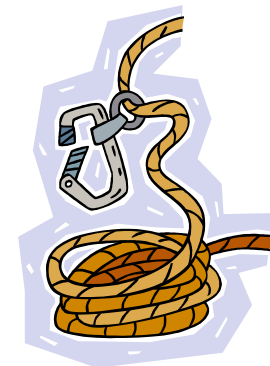
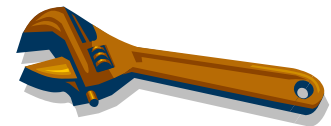
Items for road emergencies and winter driving (continued from page 1)

- ☐ 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.