Vehicle Emergency Kit: 17 Items Everyone Should Have In Their Car This Winter

Categories: General, General Prepping

There’s not a single person who foresees themselves needing a vehicle emergency kit; however, should the unfortunate occur, these kits can mean the difference between surviving harsh winter nights or succumbing to the icy touch of Father Winter. While there are many items you should have in your vehicle emergency kit, the following 15 items are essential when traversing the roadways during winter months.

**Item #1 Flannel or Fleece Blanket**

Should you become stranded in your vehicle, a fleece or flannel blanket is essential to keep your body temperature in the acceptable range. While any type of blanket will do, flannel or fleece blankets are designed to trap heat better than cotton or polyester blankets.

**Item #2 Water**

Make sure you have at least four litres of water stored in your vehicle, ideally it should be in several
smaller bottles, so if one leaks, you haven't lost all your water in one go.

Item #3  Hand Warmers

Hand warmers are essential as they not only keep your hands warm, but you may place them inside your clothing to maintain ideal body core temperatures.

Item #4  Matches and a Butane Lighter

Should you be trapped for an extended period of time, it may be necessary to manufacture heat outside of blankets and hand warmers. Matches and wind resistant butane lighters provide instant access to starting a heat generating fire.

Item #5  Fire Starters

If you're stuck in snow or wet conditions, finding acceptable wood or other fire starters can be difficult, if not impossible. Gather at least 10 old newspapers or several fire starting logs to help start a fire when stranded.

Item #6  Portable, High Protein Food Source

Every vehicle emergency kit should contain at least 10 protein bars to keep energy levels high should you need to vacate your vehicle and traverse to shelter.

Item #7  Foghorn

While every kit should contain a whistle, foghorns provide a much louder noise capable of being heard miles away. This item could mean the difference between being heard, and subsequently rescued, or being left among the frozen vegetation.

Item #8  Neon Orange Flags

Should your vehicle slide off into a ditch where other travellers are unable to see, neon orange flags provide the ideal contrast to the white snow. The most important element when stranded is becoming as visible as possible by both land and air rescuers.

Item #9  Pepper Spray or Taser

Unfortunately, we live in a dangerous world. Whether another human wishes to take advantage of your vulnerable state or a wild animal desires to investigate the warm creatures in the metal box, defence items, such as pepper spray or a Taser, could mean the difference between staying safe
or being placed in harm's way.

**Item #10  LED Lantern and Flashlights**

While a flashlight is a necessity for any emergency kit, an LED lantern provides far more illumination, which may be required when walking around at night or investigating the condition of your car in low light situations.

**Item #11  Waterproof Jacket & Footwear**

Should you need to vacate the vehicle to seek assistance or other shelter, waterproof clothing and footwear are essential to keep you warm and dry whilst outside.

**Item #12  Bag of Sand**

A bag of sand is necessary to create traction to help navigate a vehicle out of an ice and snow covered ditch. Moreover, if you must walk down steep slopes, throwing sand in front of your path reduces the likelihood of slips and falls.

**Item #13  Portable Shovel**

Shovels are essential for any winter vehicle emergency kit as it assists in digging your car out of snow or creating pathways should you need to navigate through deep snow.

**Item #14  Extra Clothing**

Prepare for the worst by keeping three pairs of thick socks, several scarves and a few pairs of pants in your emergency kit. Should your clothing become wet, it's essential to replace with dry clothes to prevent hypothermia, or worse.

**Item #15  A Good Book**

While an emergency kit is designed to keep your body safe, a book can help preoccupy your mind should you be stranded for long durations. Avoid digital book readers as they're only useful when powered.

**Item #16  A Small First Aid Kit**

For obvious reasons!
Item #17  A Good Quality Multi-Tool

A good quality multi-tool such as a [Leatherman Sidekick](http://knowledgeweighsnothing.com) is worth its weight in gold. It is useful for a whole range of things from repairing your vehicle, first aid, rescue and survival. Everyone should have one in their car.