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# THE BMW GUIDE

TO SAFER DRIVING IN COLD WEATHER





# BEFORE YOU LEAVE

We're getting used to the onset of extreme winter weather, but what's the best way to prepare for driving in the icy conditions we have been experiencing in recent years?

These tips – and advice on how to keep your BMW running smoothly – during the winter months will help you to stay safe in cold weather.

- › Plan your journey. Tell friends or family where you're going, which route you're taking and when you expect to arrive.
- › Take a fully-charged mobile phone and car charger with you.

- › Keep a torch, blanket, ice-scraper, small shovel, suitable shoes or boots, de-icing fluid and a supply of winter grade screen wash fluid in the car. Some food and drink is a good idea, and perhaps a flask of hot drink for longer journeys.

## Getting ready

- › Don't set off if you haven't completely de-iced the windscreen and lights. Driving with a small 'porthole' of clear glass in a frosty windscreen isn't just dangerous – it's illegal.
- › Don't use warm or hot water to clear your windows as the sudden change in temperature could crack the glass.

- › Don't leave your car unattended with the engine running to de-ice it – you may lose the car to an opportunist thief.
- › Do ensure you have enough fuel for your journey, especially as you may get stuck in traffic due to wintry weather. Ensure electric vehicles are fully charged before setting off, and familiarise yourself with chargepoint locations on your route.

**For Seasonal Checks, please contact your local retailer.**





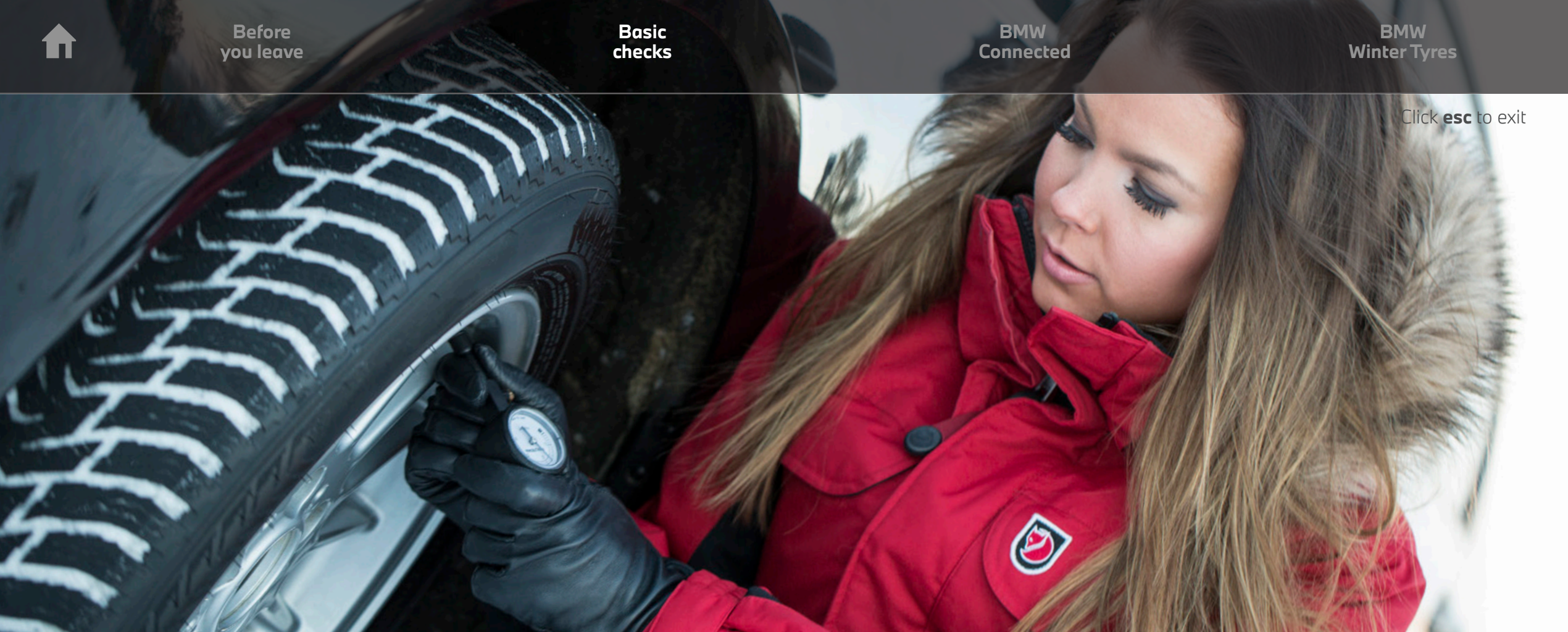
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# BASIC CHECKS

## The battery

- › Your battery's connections should be tight and corrosion-free. If they aren't, the battery may need replacing. The battery often has an inspection window on the top.
  - › Green: your battery is working properly.
  - › Black: your battery needs charging.
  - › Clear/yellow: your battery needs replacing.

If you're not sure about your battery's condition get it checked at your local BMW Centre.

## Tyres

- › Check all tyre pressures, including the spare (if fitted). You will find the correct pressures for your car's tyres in one or more of the following locations:
  - › On a sticker on the driver's door pillar.
  - › On the inner side of the fuel flap.
  - › In the owner's handbook.
- › Check your tyre tread depths. The legal minimum for cars is 1.6mm, but deeper tread gives better grip in the snow.

Tread limit markers in the grooves of each tyre indicate wear. If they are flush with the tread you'll need to replace the tyre.

- › Consider investing in a set of winter tyres – the improvement in control and safety in cold weather is remarkable. See the main menu above for more on BMW Winter Tyres.

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## BASIC CHECKS CONTINUED

### Screen wash system

It's crucial that you use the correct screen wash additive, especially in colder weather, as it will help reduce the effects of freezing.

Check the instructions on the bottle for concentration levels against predicted temperatures. Don't dilute premixed screen wash solution with water when topping up as this will reduce its effectiveness. Remember: the washer system can still freeze, even if you have heated washer jets.

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### Windscreen wipers

- > Check your front and rear wiper blades for any signs of wear or splitting.
- > Don't use your wipers to clear snow or ice from the windscreen as they may be frozen to the glass. If they are stuck, free the blades using de-icer.

### Engine cooling system

If the cooling system warning light is illuminated switch off the engine immediately and check the reservoir. Always top up with the correct antifreeze solution not simply water which will dilute the concentration and reduce effectiveness.

### ABS & ESP

When driving in slippery conditions your BMW's ABS and ESP systems may activate to help you control the car effectively. ABS produces a distinctive 'crunching' sensation through the brake pedal when in operation, and a warning light flashes on the dash display.

Even with ESP/ABS, stopping distances may not be reduced when braking on ice or snow, so maintaining an increased distance from the vehicle in front is still paramount.

Click **here** to view the BMW range of winter accessories, available from your BMW Centre





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# BMW TECHNOLOGY

**Stay safe with BMW Technology, including BMW Connected** BMW Connected is a personal mobility assistant that provides mobility-relevant information. BMW Technology helps you stay in touch. Some of the features of the BMW Connected App are shown below. To download the App, visit Google Play or the App Store:

➤ **BMW Real Time Traffic Information (RTTI).** The system gives you precise information on the current traffic situation.

Whether it be road works, rush hour or holiday traffic, your BMW will work out the fastest route for your journey.

➤ **BMW Connected Send to Car.** Transfer a destination from the web or your smartphone direct to your car. A recommended departure time, based on current traffic conditions is calculated, while meetings, including intended arrival times, saved in the user's smartphone calendar are automatically imported into BMW Connected.

➤ **BMW Connected Door to Door Navigation.** Get to your appointments relaxed and on time with the BMW Connected App Door-to-door navigation. On arrival, users can use their iPhone or a connected Apple watch to be guided from their parked car to their final destination on foot.

Want to know more about BMW Technology? Check out our comprehensive video library that offers guidance on the multitude of services available. Click **here** to discover.





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# BMW WINTER TYRES

When the temperature dips to 7C or below, standard tyres harden and no longer provide optimum adhesion, compromising performance when accelerating, braking and cornering.

Switching to BMW Winter Tyres during the colder months dramatically improves your car's grip, stability and braking. And since winter tyres wear more slowly than standard tyres in low temperatures, they can last longer and provide cost-effective winter motoring.

There's no need to worry about the storage problem of seasonally changing your wheels and tyres. With the BMW Tyre Hotel, we will store your summer wheels and tyres when you change and can

swap them over for you with the change of season. Contact your local BMW Centre for prices and availability.

With the BMW range of winter wheel and tyre sets, you can be sure of improved stability, safety and comfort in slippery driving conditions.

Our wheel configurator allows you to add a personal touch to your BMW, showcasing a wide selection of wheel styles and winter tyres for you to choose from.

Click **here** to start the BMW Winter Tyre and wheel configurator for your car.

## Tyres through the seasons

### Winter tyre

> Winter tyres are made of a softer rubber compound designed for use in cold weather. Extra grooves, called sipes, and deeper tread improve grip, traction and braking in temperatures of 7C or lower.



### All-season tyre

> All-season tyres combine summer and winter characteristics to offer adequate performance in all conditions, but are not optimised for summer or winter in the same way as dedicated seasonal tyres.



### Summer tyre

> Also known as standard tyres, summer tyres have a harder rubber compound and a specific tread pattern for optimal performance on both dry and wet roads when the air temperature is above 7C.



## Winter tyre markings and what to look for

### Three-Peak Mountain Snowflake (TPMSF)

A stringent certification regulating a tyre's snow performance. These tyres provide high performance in terms of safety and control on snow, icy roads and at low temperatures.



### Mud and Snow (M+S)

Tyres with the M+S symbol have a tread pattern, tread compound or structure that is engineered to deliver better performance in snow than a regular tyre, especially in its ability to initiate or maintain vehicle motion.

