

Winter Cab Checklist

A practical cold-weather check for Canadian truck drivers. Print it, mark it up, and keep it in the cab.

1 HEAT + 12V POWER

- ☐ **12V outlet:** test it under load; inspect the plug, cable and fuse.
- ☐ **Heated blanket:** check the controller and cord; store dry and unpinched.
- ☐ **Blanket use:** follow its manual; unplug it when unattended.
- ☐ **Bunk heater or auxiliary power unit:** complete scheduled service; test before the first cold run.
- ☐ **Airflow:** clear heater intake and exhaust openings of snow, ice and gear.
- ☐ **Carbon monoxide alarm:** test it and confirm its battery and expiry date.
- ☐ **No-power backup:** pack a cold-rated sleeping bag, hat, gloves and dry base layers.

Hard stop: Never use an unapproved fuel-burning heater in the cab. Carbon monoxide cannot be seen, smelled or tasted.

3 EMERGENCY + RECOVERY

- ☐ First-aid kit with seatbelt cutter; verify seals and expiry dates.
- ☐ Snow brush, ice scraper, small shovel and extra -40 C washer fluid.
- ☐ Traction aid: sand, non-clumping litter or traction mats.
- ☐ Booster cables or charged jump pack; tow rope rated for the task.
- ☐ Reflective vest, warning light or road flares; know your carrier's rules.
- ☐ Charged phone, power bank and charging cable.
- ☐ Paper route map, emergency contacts and required documents.
- ☐ Fire extinguisher secured, accessible and in service.

5 FOOTWEAR + LIGHTING

- ☐ Insulated, waterproof boots with sound tread; pack dry socks.
- ☐ Confirm footwear gives clean pedal feel and does not catch or bind.
- ☐ Remove slip-on ice cleats before operating the pedals.
- ☐ Clean and test headlights, markers, brake lights and reflectors.
- ☐ Pack a hands-free headlamp plus a backup flashlight and batteries.
- ☐ Keep one light within reach from the driver's seat.

2 COOLER + PROVISIONS

- ☐ **Cooler:** test power and temperature; inspect the seal and cable.
- ☐ **Secure it:** keep the cooler and loose items from becoming projectiles.
- ☐ **Food:** carry shelf-stable, easy-open meals and high-energy snacks.
- ☐ **Water:** use freeze-tolerant plastic bottles; rotate them every six months.
- ☐ **Backup utensils:** include a manual can opener if your food needs one.

4 GLASS + MOISTURE

- ☐ **Defroster:** confirm strong airflow and full windshield coverage.
- ☐ **Wipers:** replace streaking blades; fit winter blades where appropriate.
- ☐ **Windows and mirrors:** clean inside and out; clear every camera and sensor.
- ☐ **Condensation:** remove wet gear, dry the mats and use the defroster/ventilation.
- ☐ **Insulation:** fit removable window covers without blocking required sightlines.
- ☐ **Exhaust:** check for leaks and keep outlets clear of snow before heating or idling.

TWO-MINUTE CHECK BEFORE DEPARTURE

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|---|---|--|
| ☐ Weather + road reports | ☐ Fuel/charge + route range | ☐ Tire pressure + visible condition |
| ☐ Heater + defroster | ☐ Phone + power bank charged | ☐ Dispatch knows route + ETA |

ROUTE / DATE _____

THE DRIVER GEAR

Practical gear guidance for Canadian drivers.
thedrivergear.com

Reference: Government of Canada, [Emergency car kit](#); Transport Canada, [Winter Driving Emergency Kit](#) and [Preparing your vehicle for winter](#).

Use this with your carrier's policies, equipment manuals and required commercial pre-trip inspection.