

DID YOU KNOW???

ESSENTIAL SAFETY ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR EVERY VEHICLE

As drivers, we are aware that we should carry some essential items in our car at all times, more during winter driving. But, as our vehicles become more reliable, we don't always do what we know we should. It isn't much of a problem until we need it – then we pay the price for our neglect.

A survey of over 2,000 US drivers performed by Siegfried & Jensen, a local Utah law firm specializing in auto crashes, found that more than six in ten Americans (62%) believed they were prepared if their car were to break down on the road. However, people only carry just four of the eight emergency items recommended by DMV.org “as a minimum”; this is in spite of the fact that almost half of all drivers in the U.S. (45%) have broken down at least once in the last five years — a figure that rises to 51% among millennial drivers aged 16-34.

Although three quarters of drivers (73%) keep a spare tire and/or tire inflator sealer in the car, just half (51%) have a flashlight, 45% have a first aid kit and just 12% have flares — important not only to mark your car's location in the case of an accident, but also to start fires in an emergency.

Below is a breakdown of the proportion of drivers who keep each of the eight minimum recommended items in their car:

Item	% of all
Spare tire and/or tire inflator sealer	73%
Tire changing tools	68%
Jump leads/cables	58%
Torch/flashlight	51%
First aid kit	45%
Water bottle	42%
Tool kit	39%
Flares	12%

These are just the essential things to carry in your car at all times. In winter, you should also carry a small shovel, thermal blanket of some kind, an ice scraper/snow brush, washer fluid, cat litter in case you get stuck, and a cell phone, although you may not always have service.

Other items good for any time include a tow rope, duct tape, reflective triangle, WD-40, fire extinguisher, and a Hi-Viz bib. You may have other items that you consider important – the above lists are certainly not all-inclusive.

Since the Siegfried & Jensen survey found that over 60 percent of American drivers believed they were prepared, where do you stand? Are you prepared?