

Traffic safety tip: clean your car

We've all seen that guy, driving down the road in winter, squinting through a fist sized hole in the windshield of his car. Often, snow will be trailing off his car as well, making it harder for those behind to see him.

Not only is this a difficult way to drive, but it's dangerous and illegal as well.

The Highway Traffic Act requires a driver to have a clear view to the front and sides of the driving compartment, as well as a clear view to the rear, either with side mirrors or a rear view mirror. When you drive your car without removing all the snow, ice and frost from your windshield, you put yourself and others at risk, and may be liable for a fine of \$110.

Ice, snow and dirt must also be removed from headlights and taillights, too. You are required by law to have sufficient light from your headlights that your car can be seen 150 meters away, and you can see an object 110 m in front. Taillights must be visible to vehicle approaching from 150 m to the rear.

Before you begin your journey, warm your car up to remove frost. Use a broom, brush or squeegee to remove snow from all surfaces to ensure that your windshield and windows remain clear. Top up your washer fluid. Check your lights; they must be visible.

Winter driving is challenging enough, give yourself the best chance for a safe drive by clearing your vehicle every time.