



# Winterizing Your POV

## Know Before You Go

[www.PCSMYPOV.com](http://www.PCSMYPOV.com)

Prior to shipping your vehicle, verify with your Transportation Officer that you have all of the required documentation and your vehicle meets all requirements. For information associated with shipping, storing and picking up your vehicle, please go to our website: [www.pcsmypov.com](http://www.pcsmypov.com). For additional information and country specific requirements, view the **Defense Transportation Regulation, Part IV, and Attachment K3-Shipping Your POV** and the **SDDC Personal Property Consignment Instruction Guide (PPCIG)** located on the **Links Tab** on our website.

### Exterior of your Car

- Replace your windshield wiper and fluid**
  - Examine blades to see if rubber is cracked or frayed
  - Change your blades every 6 months to a year
  - Fill up your windshield washer reservoir with windshield washer fluid (as water will freeze)
    - Some washer fluids have a defroster additive and a lower freezing temperature
- Check the tire pressure and tread depth on all of your tires**
  - Improperly inflated tires lead to poor traction which can be severely jeopardized in wet, snowy or icy conditions.
  - Generally you can expect to lose 1 pound per square inch whenever the temperature drops by 10 degrees Fahrenheit
  - Your vehicles tires should have a good amount of tread on them or
  - Consider purchasing snow tires, that are softer and more flexible than regular tires and designed for winter climates
- Give your vehicle a good coat of wax before winter weather arrives**
  - A waxed surface repels snow, dirt, and salt better than a non-waxed one.
- Make sure your lights are working**
  - Do a visual check of headlights, backup lights, signal lights, and hazard lights.

### Under the Hood

- Change your Engine Oil**
  - Check your owner's manual for guidance on which oil to use in different climates
  - Switch to a thinner, less viscous oil (for colder climates 5W-30 is recommended)
  - As a general rule, your oil should be changed every 3,000 miles or 3 months
- Consider obtaining a block heater**
  - A block heater keeps the engine oil from getting cold and thick. It is installed in your engine, can be plugged into a household electrical outlet
- Check your belts and hoses**
  - Make sure your belts are checked for wear and tear
- Replace old coolant with antifreeze**
  - Antifreeze should be tested to -20 (-60 for Fairbanks) degrees Fahrenheit or lower
  - Aim for having a 50/50 up to 60/40 mix of antifreeze and water respectfully in your radiator (this can be tested using an anti-freeze tester that can be picked up at a auto parts store)
- Check your battery**
  - Make sure your battery posts and connections are corrosion-free with minimal wear
  - Ensure that your battery fluid levels are not low.
  - If battery is more than 3 years old, have a certified repair facility test its ability to hold a charge
- Check your defrosting and heating units (including front and rear)**

### Additional Preparations

- Ensure that your spare tire is ready to use and is in good working condition**
  - Ensure that your jack, wrench, and wheel lock tool are in a safe, secure position inside the car and everyone is familiar as to where its located
- Make sure your 4-wheel drive is working**
  - Make sure that the system engages and disengages easily and that the transmission and gear fluids are at a correct level
  - Ensure that all drivers in household know how to activate the system

### Additional Information?

- Publications**
  - Shipping your POV (K3)
  - Storing Your POV (K4)
  - Personal Property Consignment Instruction Guide (PPCIG)
- Contact Information**
  - IAL Customer Service: Toll Free 855.389.9499
  - IAL Vehicle Processing Centers: Links and location information on website