BYTRUCKERS

BYTRUCKERS FIELD GUIDE

WINTER PRE-TRIP CHECKLIST

Run through it before the first cold front and keep it in the cab all season.

01 ENGINE & FUEL

- [ ] Winter-blend diesel, or anti-gel additive added before temps drop
- [ ] Fuel filters changed and water separator drained
- [ ] Batteries load-tested, terminals clean and tight
- [ ] Coolant freeze protection tested
- [ ] Block heater cord and outlet working

02 AIR SYSTEM & BRAKES

- [ ] Air tanks drained at the end of every day
- [ ] Air dryer cartridge serviced, purge valve working
- [ ] Gladhands and lines free of ice, seals not cracked
- [ ] Brakes adjusted; check for frozen shoes after parking

03 TIRES & TRACTION

- [ ] Steer tires at least 4/32", all others at least 2/32"
- [ ] Pressures checked cold, not after a run
- [ ] Chains on board and checked, plus bungees and gloves
- [ ] Chain laws checked for your route (CA, CO, OR, WA and more)

04 VISIBILITY

- [ ] Winter wiper blades and de-icing washer fluid
- [ ] All lights and reflectors cleaned of snow and road salt
- [ ] Mirror heaters and defroster working
- [ ] Ice scraper and snow brush within reach

05 CAB SURVIVAL KIT

- [ ] Warm blanket or sleeping bag, spare gloves, hat and socks
- [ ] Water and non-perishable food for 72 hours
- [ ] Charged jump starter and phone power bank
- [ ] Flashlight or headlamp with spare batteries
- [ ] First aid kit and any daily medication
- [ ] Small shovel and a bag of sand or kitty litter for traction
- [ ] Warning triangles (required) and a high-visibility vest

06 BEFORE YOU ROLL

- [ ] Check the forecast and 511 road conditions for every state
- [ ] Plan fuel and parking stops with room to spare
- [ ] Share your route and ETA with dispatch or family
- [ ] Keep the tank above half whenever you can

Find the gear behind this list, ranked and explained, at **bytruckers.shop/power-winter.html**

General guidance only. Always follow your company policy, your equipment manual and FMCSA rules. © 2026 ByTruckers