

# WINTER TRUCK MAINTENANCE TIPS



**NEW ENGLAND MOBILE**  
WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS  
FLEET MANAGEMENT

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- Keep a vehicle running at highway speeds in extreme temperatures vs. idling so it can reach the temperature threshold required for the regeneration and Diesel Engine Fluid cycling processes.
  - Plug in the engine block heater on all diesel trucks each night - even when the temperature feels warm. The longer a truck sits, the more crucial it is to plug it in.
  - Be sure the vehicle is at normal operating temperature when you plug in your block heater. Block heaters maintain temperature; they are not designed to heat coolant from ambient temperatures.
  - Avoid cold soaks. Cold soaks occur when the engine fluids and the steel of the engine block drop to low ambient temperatures. This happens when a vehicle sits for more than a day and it impacts starting and charging systems.
  - Be sure to get a correctly blended fuel with a cloud point additive to prevent fuel filter waxing, especially if you are not fueling at a Ryder location.
  - Base your fuel needs on your destination weather. Use winter weight fuel when driving north and consider fuel additives.
  - Check your tires often. Freezing temperatures can cause slippery driving conditions. Having correctly inflated tires in good condition will help prevent breakdowns and accidents.
  - Have drivers pre-trip their trucks daily. This should include inspecting their vehicle for frozen components like trailer doors, power cords, etc. If they have any safety, starting, fuel or heater defroster-related problems, drivers should complete a Driver's Vehicle Condition Report (DVCR) so Ryder can address issues immediately.