Headline: Snow, ice on car shouldn’t be ignored

Deckhead: Failure to remove them could cause crashes, injuries

It’s scenario we’ve all experienced. Overnight snow mixes with frigid temperatures to create an icy layer on our vehicles by morning. Snow blankets the roof, hood and windows, hiding the irritating concoction.

Even worse, we’re running late and are rushing to make it to work on time. This could be called the “peephole-driving season.” But that isn’t an option, anymore – at least in Pennsylvania. Christine’s Law, signed into law in 2022, requires drivers to thoroughly clear their vehicles of snow and ice.

Removing ice can be difficult, but there are some tricks. Spatulas, CD cases and credit cards are commonly used to scrape ice and snow off car windows. Auto-glass experts recommend using a proper ice-scraper or deicer spray. Only use a scraper on windows to avoid damaging the finish, exposing metal surfaces to corrosion.

Investing in a windshield cover also is an alternative to scraping. They’re relatively inexpensive – ranging from $20 to $30 – and are dependable. An alternative is placing a piece of cardboard or a plastic tablecloth over the windshield and securing it with the wipers.

An unconventional solution, meanwhile, might seem difficult to believe. Cut a potato in half and rub it over the windshield the night before a heavy frost. Potato juice functions like antifreeze by lowering the freezing point of water.

Hot water is *not* recommended. The significant difference in temperatures causes a thermal shock that could crack the windshield. Also, water that tumbles to the ground could freeze and create a risk.

Frost could form inside windows if humid air from inside the vehicle reaches contract with a cold windshield. Wet clothes, a hot cup of coffee or tracking snow or water into the vehicle all could contribute to the problem. It’s important to regulate the temperature and humidity inside the vehicle. Remove as much snow and ice as possible before entering.

These actions are crucial to maintaining safety on our roadways, particularly during the most dangerous season. Often, drivers remove just enough snow and ice from their windshields to have limited visibility. Know as “peephole driving,” it drastically reduces vision. Chunks of ice or snow could project from the vehicle, causing danger to other drivers.

Snow ignored on your hood or front bumper could blow onto your windshield and obstruct your vision. Snow blowing off your roof could blind other drivers.

Simply put, never drive before all the snow and ice from your vehicle have been removed and defrosted. Set vents to fresh-air positions to prevent windows from fogging. Open a window as soon as your enter the vehicle to speed up the process. And turn on your lights anytime daytime visibility is an issue.

Snow and ice form a dangerous combination. Don’t let them lock you up in a terrifying situation.

Cutline: SCRAPING BY – Clearing snow and ice off your vehicle are essential it keeping our highways safe. Image: Natasa. Adobe Stock.