

Cold Weather Ops

1. **Plug in engine block heaters** on planes when below 40degF. Engines only take an hour to cool down during the winter. They take four hours to heat up.
2. **Put cowl plugs and cowl blankets on** if the temps are below 20deg F.
3. **Use heated hangars whenever possible.** They do a much better job heating your plane up and you do a much better preflight if you are warm.
4. If you need to put oil in, **take the oil from the warm office.** Cold oil takes forever to pour.
5. **Be careful on the taxiways if there is ice.** Go slower and use the throttle to brake as much as possible. You may need to look elsewhere dry spots besides the runup area to do your runup.
6. **Bring a blanket** for your passengers in the back seats. Almost all heat comes from the front so you might be nice and warm, but your back passengers are not.
7. **Priming:** A cold engine will take 3-5 primes on a piper (3 primes on a cessna) and one throttle shot before starting. **DO NOT pump the throttle while starting.** Pumping the throttle during starting is 1) going to make starting harder and 2) increase the fire hazard during start.
8. Bring warm clothing as if you had to spend the night in the airplane for an emergency reason. Some people pack a cold weather back pack or duffel bag so they just have to grab that.
9. For more in depth cold weather operations, check out the following link from AOPA.

<http://www.aopa.org/Pilot-Resources/Safety-and-Technique/Weather/Cold-Weather-Operations>