

Signs of Trouble: Weak Alternator

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Feb. 20, 2009 - [PRLog](#) -- Winter time can be especially stressful on your car as cold temperatures and icy conditions can make the going rough during that time of the year. Hazardous road conditions and near freezing temperatures can put your car at risk, even leaving you stranded if you are not careful.
<http://www.firstaidauto.com.au/index.php/mobile-auto-electrician-mechanic-articles/56-signs-of-trouble-weak-alternator>

There is one component inside of your car that can contribute to dimming headlights, a battery unable to hold its charge and just plain difficulty starting your car on a cold winter morning. That part would be your alternator, an essential component to ensuring that your car is running right under all conditions.

"The alternator, which supplies power to your vehicle's electrical system, works a lot harder today than it did in the past," said Fred Padgett, Group Product Manager, Starting and Charging Products for Bosch, the world's largest supplier of automotive parts to the automotive industry and the aftermarket.
www.boschautoparts.com.

When alternators were first developed, the only tasks they were responsible for was to power the horn and the headlights. Today, car's are much more technologically sophisticated and include a number of features that weren't available a generation ago including navigation systems, dual zone air conditioning, entertainment systems, rear window defrosters, in-car television, refrigeration and more. Initially a 50 to 60 amp alternator would have been sufficient but today's cars require a much more power unit, one with 130 amps or more.

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