

TIPS ON HOW TO STORE YOUR CORVETTE FOR WINTER

>**The First Step**—Wash and wax the exterior and clean the interior. Give your car a very good hand wash, polish the chrome and give the car a good coat of wax. Make sure you remove any tree-sap drops.

>**RUST AND STORAGE** For any parts that are prone to rust, a good coat of WD-40 will work. You can also stuff a sock, sponge, or steel wool in the exhaust to prevent any small rodents from making a home. Make sure you remove them before starting.

>**INTERIOR** Make sure you check below the seats and all around the interior for anything that may have accumulated in the interior. If you steam clean the carpet make sure it is dry before you store the car to prevent any moisture buildup and mold on the interior. Mice and other animals can destroy the interior of any car so insert some drier sheets inside the car to make it less appealing to them. Mouse traps work well outside the car but don't put them inside the car. The last thing you want to find is a dead mouse in a trap on your seat for three months.

>**TIRES-** It is always worthwhile to inflate your tires to a **HIGHER AIR PRESSURE** before storing your car. Tires lose pressure over time and with temperature changes. Don't over inflate and remember to check air pressure before use. For special tires and collectible cars you can put the car on jack stands.

>**PARKING BRAKE** Don't engage the parking brake since it can become "frozen" and difficult to disengage.

>**FUEL** It is a good idea to use a fuel stabilizer since most ethanol-blended fuels have a shelf life of about three months. Fuel stabilizer helps prevent corrosion in the fuel lines and engine. Add the fuel stabilizer to a nearly full gas tank to prevent moisture.

>**OIL AND FILTER** It is a good idea to change the oil and filter prior to storing your vehicle. Some used oil has a tendency to build up some corrosive elements if it is used over thousands of miles. The new type of synthetic oil like "Mobil One" claims to be better in storage than most conventional oil.

>**ANTIFREEZE**- If your car is stored outside or in a cold area make sure the antifreeze is at a proper mixture to prevent freezing. If you add any antifreeze make sure the engine is warmed up to properly mix all the fluids added.

>**BATTERY** Your battery can either be removed or connected to a trickle charger or battery tender. Most of the cars today will continue to use power for the computer or electrical systems so the battery needs to be kept fully charged. Keeping the battery fully charged prolongs the battery life. A fully discharged battery will freeze and may crack the case in a cold climate.

>**CAR COVER** Invest in a quality car cover. If you store your car outside make sure the cover is waterproof. *NEVER PUT PLASTIC UNDER YOUR CAR COVER* It will damage the paint with temperature changes. For inside storage make sure your car cover is one that is breathable and keeps out moisture.

>**STARTING IT UP** Most people think that they should start the car up every so often. “If you do a proper job of storing your car, you don’t need to start it”. However if you want to start the car make sure you remove any items stuffed in the exhaust and completely remove the car cover. Allow the car to warm up to operating temperature and if possible allow the car to be moved to exercise all the mechanical components.

>**MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL** If your car is not stored in a temperature controlled environment make sure that the car is either stored on a protection mat or a plastic sheet. Changes in temperature can cause moisture buildup on the chassis and components underneath the car. This will cause rust and corrosion if not prevented.

SOME RECOMMENDED PRODUCTS

Simple Green (very safe for most cleaning)

WD-40 (will prevent rust)

Sea Foam Motor Treatment (use as a fuel additive for storage)

Meguiar’s Car Care Products (very good products)

Dryer sheets Any Brand

PRODUCTS THAT REQUIRE EXTRA CARE

Amor All (Some Amor All Products break down under sunlight and leave a film)

Windex (Some Windex products contain Ammonia-D and alcohol and could damage certain areas of your car.)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS SINCE LATEST REVISION

- A. Make sure you have proper fluid in your windshield washer system to prevent freezing. Many systems freeze if water is the only fluid in the system.**
- B. Make sure you have no food particles, gum, or any sweet food inside the car or trunk.**
- C. The exhaust system can be sealed using steel wool to prevent rodents from entering the exhaust system and building a nest.**
- D. In case a battery tender or charger is not used during storage the battery can be removed or disconnected to prevent a full discharge. For those vehicles that lose memory on radio and other devices within the vehicle a 9 volt battery connected to the lighter outlet will keep the memory stored.**
- E. A question was asked about taking the weight off the tires to prevent flat spots on older tires. On older Bias type tires it is a good idea to either take the weight off the tires or exercise them several times during storage. Flat spots develop on some tires when stored for long periods of time.**
- F. The new type insulation used on wiring on most vehicles manufactured since 1990 contains a type of soybean extract that is an attractive food product for rodents. (The Race Track in Spring Mountain in Nevada coats all the wiring on their C8 Corvettes with a substance to prevent rodents from eating up the wiring since they store most of their 100 plus C8 Corvettes outside.)**
- G. On battery chargers make sure you have a computer controlled type of float charger if left unattended for long periods of time. Fires and shorts have been noted on a non-float type charger that may overcharge a battery and could cause a fire or explosion.**
- H. The new type coverings for paint protection like EXPEL and others could be damaged if the cover used is not the proper type recommended by the manufacturer. This includes the new Ceramic type coatings.**
- I. Make sure that you remove the brake dust from the rims on your vehicle since the dust can be corrosive to many type rims.**
- J. Clean all glass to prevent any spots or tree sap to remain during storage.**
- K. All rubber or seals can be treated with a rubber lubricant to prevent any drying and cracking during storage.**
- L. During storage check for any leaks under the vehicle for engine oil, transmission, radiator, brake fluid, or any other component with fluid. If a leak is detected it can be repaired before the vehicle is used after storage.**