



## Car Tips & Tricks Storing Your Classic For Winter

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### Winter Storage

Cars and trucks were made to be driven regularly so winter storage, or any prolonged period of storage, can really take its toll unless people take a few precautions to protect their vehicle while it's in hibernation.

1. Protect your fuel system. To keep the gas fresh and system safe, add a container of fuel stabilizer to the gas tank and fill the tank to the top right before putting the vehicle into storage. Take the car for a brief drive before putting it in the garage so the stabilized fuel will circulate throughout the system.
2. Drain the cooling system (including the radiator) and refill it with a rust-inhibiting antifreeze.
3. Change the oil and filter. Make sure the oil contains corrosion protection.
4. Hook up the battery charger/maintainer to keep the battery alive.
5. Protect your tires. If you can't store the vehicle up on jack stands and don't want to remove the wheels and tires, make sure your tires are filled with air to reduce strain on the shocks and other suspension components.
6. Protect the paint. Give the vehicle a good end-of-season washing, dry it thoroughly and apply a protective coat of wax. Cover the car with a breathable cloth cover (plastic covers will trap condensation and provide a fertile breeding ground for rust).
7. Protect vinyl, leather, and rubber. If the vehicle will be stored in a dry climate, it's wise to apply a preservative to prevent seats, armrests and dash pads from cracking. Likewise, a good coat of rust inhibitor applied to unpainted metal surfaces will prevent rust.
8. Provide critter protection. All kinds of small animals find vehicle wiring, seats and carpet delectable and they think cars and trucks make a nice den too. To keep critters out, place mothballs inside a vehicle including under the dash and cover the tailpipe. Or, for total protection, store the vehicle inside a cocoon that seals it completely from the elements.
9. Store convertibles with the top up. Convertible tops can actually shrink if they are left in the down position for an extended period of time.
10. Check your insurance and be sure your car is covered.

*All tips provided obtained by the Muscle Car Club, an organization dedicated to the preservation, restoration and enjoyment of all American muscle cars.*