

Car or Truck Storage Checklist

- ❑ **Storage location.** Find a clean, dry building to store your vehicle
- ❑ **Replace oil.** Moisture and acids in old oil will pit bearings and other engine parts while in storage. Run the engine to warm the oil first. More of the dirty oil and contaminants will come out if it's warm. Add oil type recommended by manufacturer.
- ❑ **Stabilize Fuel.** Fuel can deteriorate in as little as 60 days causing gum and varnish build-up in engines resulting in hard starting, poor performance and reduced engine life. Add STA-BIL Fuel Stabilizer to fuel to prevent fuel deterioration. Next fill fuel tank. A full tank prevents water condensation from getting in tank and causing corrosion. (Draining fuel does not prevent varnish formation in engines as fuel is left behind in the fuel system. Plus gaskets can dry out resulting in leaks in the spring.) Run engine for a few minutes to get treated gas throughout system. Running engine will also circulate fresh oil to internal parts. If you use your car infrequently, stabilize gas at each fill-up.
- ❑ **Radiator fluid.** If it is near the time to change your radiator fluid do it prior to storage. Radiator fluid contains additives that prevent corrosion to internal radiator components. These additives wear out over time and need be replaced.
- ❑ **Transmission fluid.** Check transmission fluid levels. If it's time to change transmission fluid, do before storage because transmission fluid contains anticorrosion additives that deplete over time.
- ❑ **Protect internal engine components.** While in storage engine oil drains away leaving internal engine components exposed resulting in corrosion and metal-to-metal contact (cylinder scuffing) at start-up next spring. Spray STA-BIL Fogging Oil into the air intake with the engine running until the engine stalls. STA-BIL Fogging Oil penetrates deep into the engine, coating parts with a protective layer of anticorrosive compound that also lubricates the piston at start up next spring preventing cylinder scuffing.
- ❑ **Disconnect battery.** Remove the negative battery cable to prevent battery from draining, or connect a trickle charger to battery. Better yet, remove the battery and store in cool, but not freezing, location connected to a trickle charger.
- ❑ **Protect Finish.** Wash, wax and cover with car cover. Be sure to use a cover that can breath, otherwise mold will develop in the interior.

- ❑ **Protect Tires.** If storing car for more than 12 months remove weight from tires by placing car on jack stands (This prevents flats spots from forming on tires). Apply a protectant to tires to prevent rot.
- ❑ **Parking Brake.** Do not apply the parking brake during storage as it may become rusted to brake drum. For manual transmissions, leave the gear in neutral. Use car stands or wheel chokes to keep car from rolling.
- ❑ **Mildew prevention.** Place moisture absorption tubs or desiccant tubes in vehicle interior and trunk to prevent mold and mildew growth.
- ❑ **Protect Rubber.** Apply a rubber protectant to weather stripping to prevent rot.
- ❑ **Protect interior.** Remove valuables. Remove any food or food packaging that could attract vermin. Place mothballs in interior and trunk to repel rodents.