



# Dr. Detail

by Wayne Dzien

## To Store Or Not To Store

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Well, the outdoor car show/cruise season for 2010 has come to a conclusion with Fierorama as the high water mark for 2010. In addition, the indoor Muscle Car & Corvette Nationals that took place on November 20 & 21 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center is a distant memory. By the way, folks, the Muscle Car & Corvette National show is open to all types of cars, both stock and modified. I would strongly urge our membership and NIFE to participate next year. It was so good that it was sold out in June of last year. This show is for folks who wanted to show their rides and have them judged on a 1,000 point scale by professional judges. It's an awesome event and the trophy is almost as good as Fierorama's! Make a note for future reference and wouldn't it be great if we went to this event as a club? Maybe a rerun of World of Wheel's club display from a few years ago?

For those of us lucky enough not to have to drive our Fiero's on a daily basis, it's past that time to clean our rides for the last time. We should have already (although it is never too late to do) changed the oil & filter, checked the coolant level and changed or added some just to be on the safe side. You should have also added some "fresh" air to the tires (nobody wants stale air, that's offensive) to their correct pressure. When you disconnected the battery, you should have removed the metal cover so that you can quickly jump start your car on that first beautiful late winter/early spring day, and covered it with a clean dust cover. Be sure to caution your significant other not to park the grocery getter too close to your beloved ride and to be very careful when opening the door since you don't want any nicks or dings. I would advise this conversation post a beer or two to muster the required courage.

Members, I took care of the lucky ones in my second paragraph. Now I will give those of us who drive our cars on a 365-day basis a few more tips in protecting our 20-year-old plus rides to shine for 2011:

1. If your car is garaged, consider yourself very lucky. However, if you don't have a garage, you should consider applying another coat of Meguiar's Tech Wax 2.0. That should help protect your paint through the upcoming messy driving season. By the way, there is nothing that can completely protect your ride from the elements, but this wonderful product should help. If you don't have a garage, find a friend and use his/her's and have them help you clean and wax. Consider buying them a latte' or, better yet, a case of beer.
2. Replace your wiper blades if necessary. The covered winter blades are worth the extra expense and spend a little more in getting a quality windshield cleaning product that will work at 30 degrees below zero, just to be safe.
3. Apply some silicone to the rubber gaskets and lubricate the door mechanisms to ensure that they are working properly to avoid future freezing incidents.
4. If you win the lottery and have some extra bucks around and want to protect your carpet, consider going to the WeatherTech Automotive Accessories web site ([WeatherTech.com](http://WeatherTech.com)) or give them a call at 800-441-6287. They can provide you with a custom floor liner that will be the match for anything Old Man Winter throws at you. Did I mention that they are located at 2435 Wisconsin Street, in local beautiful Downers Grove, Illinois? The great thing about this vendor is that they can provide you with a floor liner/floor mat that is made for your Fiero and will fit perfectly! They come in three colors, and have a great textured surface and a raised lip to keep that slush off your carpet. This is a great product worth your consideration and a snap to clean with a bucket of water or hose.
5. If you don't have a garage, what can you do to protect your ride that won't break the bank? My proposed solution, go to the AutoAnything web site ([AutoAnything.com](http://AutoAnything.com)) or give them a call toll free at 888-686-5878 and consider buying a good, cost effective, outdoor car cover (way cheaper than building a garage). Man, this can really help you avoid the dreaded window scraping that you have to do to clean the frost, ice and snow that can accumulate.

6. My wife, Marsha, suggested that I mention snow tires. I told her that this has absolutely nothing to do with protecting a car's appearance from Old Man Winter (OK, so neither does checking fluids and oil), but to keep peace in the family I am mentioning it. Yeah, your '86 Fiero GT looks real cool with a set of cheater slick snow tires; however, there may be some of you out there that will consider this. My idea: if there's that much snow, my Fiero's too low, and out it won't go...
7. Here is another tip from Marsha. Somewhere she read that keeping your gas tank as full as practical without stopping at a gas station every other day will keep condensation, sediment, and rust from causing gas tank/line problems. Every time we go out in her car, she wants me to fill it up; maybe this is just a ploy???

Good luck driving this winter, and I hope that the above tips may make the rigors of winter driving a little easier to take. In the spring I will tell you a few tricks to get rid of the ravages of driving your ride in the rust belt.