

# Spring Cleaning Time!

by Dr. Detail

Just like your house, it's time to get ready for the car's spring cleaning. Even though it's getting warmer, it's probably not going to get warm enough during April to get a coat of wax on the car, although I would really like to. On the other hand, it will be a good month to do some of the really anal things that we probably won't take time to do during the summer. Summer is for driving as much as we can. Here's a list of things that will keep you busy for a couple of hours or a complete afternoon.

Cleaning the Engine Compartment – this is something I was pretty much forced to do last summer, since the previous owner of the car had it Zeibarted, and there was a boatload of overspray throughout the engine bay. The usual method is to take it to the coin-op car wash and just spray it out. That can lead to water leaks around the spark plugs if you're not careful, so I chose another approach. I used Castrol Super Clean, carefully sprayed around the engine compartment *after* the engine had cooled down. I just sprayed carefully around and then wiped it off with a towel and then did a pseudo rinse with a wet towel and dried it. It turned out well and I didn't have to worry about leaks.

Cleaning under the Kickplates – if you have replaced your standard plastic kickplates with some nifty stainless steel ones, you will need to remove the new plates and clean under them once in a while. This is a good place for rust to get started. When you reinstall the plates, you can attach them with good double sided tape and the supplied screws. (My super anal room mate says it's a good idea to do this with plastic door sills also!)

Clean out the Trunk – while you sleep, gremlins break in to the trunk of your car leave all kinds of dirt, candy wrappers, shopping bags and other detritus. Now is a good time to completely empty the trunk and give a thorough vacuum and general cleaning. You might find the missing screwdriver and those socks that got lost in the dryer.

Rain-X – it's always a good time to freshen up the Rain-X on the windshield and the headlights, especially with the April showers that bring the May flowers.

Wheel Wells – if your car has been driven through the winter like mine has, take it to the coin-op car wash and thoroughly clean out the wheel wells. You will be surprised how much crud have accumulated, even with the mild winter we have had. A good rinse gets rid of most of it, and you can help the process along with Castrol Super Clean.

Spark Plug Wires – if you haven't replaced your plugs wires for a couple of years or more, now would be a good time to do it. Sara has the NGK wires and she says they help a bit. (Of course, she thinks adding a Voodoo shift knob added 5hp to her car.)

Carpet and Floor Mats – It's amazing how much stuff you can track into the car, even if you're careful. If your carpet and mats seem to have done a color shift, maybe it's time to think about a real carpet cleaning job. Vacuum thoroughly and then use one of the readily available home shampoo products.

# Shhh! It's A Surprise!

## *Chuck's Special Rally...*

Due to the move of the AIM tech day event from the May calendar, our fearless leader has stepped up and is planning a fill-in rally for May. Called "Chuck's Surprise Rally" it is scheduled for May 19th. Yes, a Sunday. Several club members indicated that they were unable to make Saturday rallies due to work and other conflicts, so here's a chance to rally!

Chuck promises it won't be a toughie, possibly a VIP tour of the city. He promises to let us know more details in next month's Open Road.

# Classifieds

## *For Sale*

Selling my 1999 5 speed. Our family has grown to six and our poor Miata is not getting the road time it deserves. Red with black top. CD/AM/FM. PW and AC. 16,900 miles. Excellent shape. I have all maintenance records. Always garaged and covered. \$ 15,900.  
Call Tamera (317) 841-3106 or e-mail: TDElam@aol.com

## *For Sale*

1990, 5-speed trans with 84,000 miles, make offer  
Trailer Hitch for 1990-1997, \$50.00  
Manual mirrors off 1990, white, \$30.  
Call Don Weiler at 317- 862-2473 or email: dmiata@iquest.net

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*You can receive updated information for Indy Miata club events at the club website - <http://members.aol.com/indymiaata/> or you can call our Hotline number at 317-767-5234. We rarely cancel or delay an event, but a call never hurts!*