

Winter Is On The Way, Are You Ready?

Is your Miata a garage queen during the winter? Does your Miata avoid snow? Your Miata will love you next spring if you treat it well this coming winter. If you put your car away during the snowy months, let's talk about preparation for hibernation and storage. First of all, starting your Miata for short periods in not recommended as doing this only adds moisture to your exhaust system and also to your engine oil.

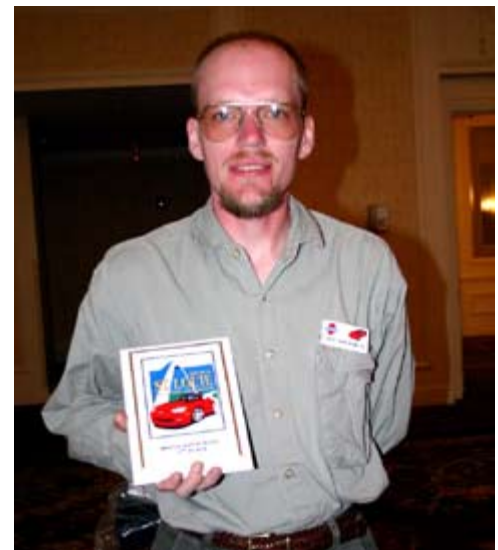
And now, the check list!

1. Wash and wax your car and clean interior.
2. Check the anti-freeze. If replacing the anti-freeze, use a 50/50 mix of antifreeze and distilled water.
3. Change the oil and filter just before storage.
4. Add STA-BIL fuel additive to gasoline, (directions on bottle) and fill fuel tank.
5. Inflate the tires to 50 psi if not storing on jack stands. This will keep your tires from forming flat spots. Flat spots are not a good thing for your tires.
6. Loosen the gas cap to relieve pressure on the fuel system. After the pressure is relieved, tighten gas cap.
7. Remove the battery. If the battery is not being removed, disconnect the negative battery cable. Dark currents will drain your battery if the negative cable is not disconnected. (Dark current is the power used by the radio/clock and the on-board computer when car is off with key removed from the ignition.) Store your battery in a cool location. You should also charge the battery once a month or so with a 2 AMP trickle charger. Do not charge battery with a high AMP charger. A Miata battery will be destroyed if a high AMP charger is used.
8. To prevent rust to the brake rotors, remove the wheels and spray some WD40 on a cloth and wipe the rotors on both sides.
9. Place some steel wool in the tail pipe to keep out the mice and critters. Let them find a different winter home.
10. Place a rag in the air intake snorkel located high left fender area under the hood, also to keep out the critters.
11. Loosen the top latches to relieve the strain on the top.
12. Roll down side the windows a half-inch or so to remove the glass pressure on the top gasket seals.
13. Place a bar of your favorite fragrant soap (cut up or shredded) in an open container inside the cabin. The mice hate it and your car will smell great next spring.
14. Cover your car with a car cover or old sheet/blanket. (This is to keep it clean and also to keep it warm during the cold winter, poor baby!!)
15. Pray for Spring!

More St. Louis Photos



Lyn and Mike Doyle with their 2nd place award.



President Jay Hofaker with his AutoCross trophy.



Photo right: Mike advises Chuck to be neat and clean as he displays his "Best Dressed Engine Compartment" award. Chuck was changing fouled spark plugs for Mike.