



## **Winter Strikes at our Automotive Investments**

While winter has been slow in getting started this year it is now time to plan your Winter Protection. You should be particularly concerned with your vehicle's condition in the aftermath of any storm. Road crews not only plow, they also spread sand mixed with sodium chloride or calcium chloride. Both mixtures can damage paint and the body-trim of a vehicle. In addition, your car's paint and trim also have to contend with the acidic output of many catalytic converters and the acid from diesel fuel.

It is during winter that people should do the most but end up doing the least and you may not have a warm garage to do the necessary work but that does not mean the work should not be done. It is, of course, possible to simply wash your car outside on many winter days. You can even choose a brisk day but it should not be so cold that the water freezes on contact with the metal. If it is too cold for doing the work outside, a Zymöl Licensed Detailer can provide the professional service your car needs. Or you can borrow or rent a garage or bay or go to a commercial, do-it-yourself car wash. Be sure to take a bucket, sponge and your own auto wash soap, fill the bucket with the wand while the water selector is in the 'rinse' position. This is important, since many commercial car washes use very strong detergents when the water selector is placed in the "wash" position. You can then use the car wash facility to clean your car properly.

Your goal should be to clean the entire car. Simply washing dirt off the paint is not enough. You also have to wash and rinse the wheel wells and the entire underside of the chassis. Use an alkaline-based auto wash product, not a detergent. The alkaline will neutralize the acids that form from the use of sodium chloride. New York City alone spreads 5,000 tons of road salt on its streets in just one day during the storm. Zymöl offers an alkaline-based auto wash designed to neutralize acids. Unfortunately, it is not just the road salt that can form acids on your car's paint. The catalytic converter, a major part of the exhaust system, also spews out acid. On a cold day, a converter can generate a lot of hydrochloric and sulfuric acids. The output from your catalytic converter can coat your car's trunk or tailgate, while the exhaust of the car in front of you can coat your hood and front fenders. Add in the cars to either side of you in traffic and the result is an acidic assault from all directions.

All together, the sand, the salt and the acid can etch glass, it can discolor alloy wheels and damage rubber seals and wiper blades. It can even block the radiator. Clearly, your paint does not stand a chance without proper care, which is why frequent washing is critical in the winter. Even if you only rinse and use an acid-neutralizing soap, you have done a lot to keep your car looking its best for many years. Make sure to wash off the radiator, belts and hoses under the hood, too. Broken belts and hoses are no fun in the cold of winter. Just a little care each winter can pay real dividends in the form of longer vehicle life and better appearance. These improvements, in turn, can mean your car is worth more at trade-in-time. For additional tips on car finish care go to the zymöl web site at [www.zymol.com](http://www.zymol.com) or visit [www.detailing.pro](http://www.detailing.pro) to find the service professional you need.