

# Air-Schooled Vintage Volkswagen Winterizing Checklist



## Body/Frame:

- Wash and dry all painted surfaces and glass.
  - Wash undercarriage, ideally with pressurized water.
  - Wax all chrome and painted surfaces.
  - Close all windows.\*
  - Disposable dehumidifiers can be used to keep out moisture. "DampRid" is a known good brand. Boxes of baking soda work less effectively.
  - Close all air and heater vents.
  - Ensure wiper fluid is empty, or contains temperature appropriate fluid for storage.
- \* windows should be left cracked open in indoor (garaged) storage environments.

## Suspension:

- Grease front beam until fresh grease appears. Clean.

## Brakes/Wheels

- Inflate tires to maximum sidewall pressure.
- If possible, use jack stands to take some (not all) weight off tires.
- On a level surface, use 1st gear to keep the car stationary, not parking brake.

## Electrical

- Disconnect and remove battery. Keep battery stored in non-harsh environment.
- If possible, keep battery on a "battery tender" for the last few weeks/months.

## General

- Check with your DMV and insurance company to make sure the vehicle is covered for its intended use/non-use over the next few months.
- Do not start the car unless you can drive it, on a road, for thirty minutes or more. Any less, and the engine will not be able to burn moisture and harmful gasses out of the engine and exhaust system.

## **Engine/Transaxle**

- Drive car for thirty minutes, change oil, (and filter,) and park with engine warm. Do not start engine again (all winter!) unless it can be warmed up with another thirty minute drive.
- If transaxle oil is due, change along with engine oil before storage, not after.
- Fill tank to the brim with fresh gas. If possible, top off tank with a spare can of fresh gas once parked. (Stabil fuel additive is nice to have, but not a deal breaker if unavailable. If used, fuel stabilizers should be poured in BEFORE your final fuel fill up, so the additives can run into the fuel system and hoses.)
- Cover tailpipe and air filter openings with steel wool and/or aluminum foil to keep rodents out. Mothballs/dryer sheets in the surrounding areas add extra protection.

## Air-Schooled Vintage Volkswagen Spring Checklist

### Body/Frame:

- Wash and dry all painted surfaces and glass.
- Open all windows.

### Brakes/Wheels

- Inflate/deflate tires to recommended front and rear pressures.
- Attempt to roll vehicle forwards/backwards to make sure no brakes are stuck.
- Apply foot brake several times. Feel for good pedal pressure, then perform a visual leak check at the master cylinder, and all four wheels.

### Electrical

- Trickle charge battery before intended use.
- Reconnect battery.

### Engine/Transaxle

- Remove moth balls, tin foil, and steel wool.

### General

- Make sure car is registered and insured.
- Drive it!