



CLEANING GUIDELINES

Car show judging is mostly about cleanliness and somewhat about condition. That is to say if something is worn but clean, it probably won't be scored. But by its nature, car judging is subjective. There will be a judges meeting right after "Rags Down" where ground rules will be set for the event and questions answered to help eliminate judging errors.

There are many ways to improve your score and subsequent award placement that is neither costly nor difficult. It's the little things that will help set your car apart from your competition with just a little effort.

First of all, the judges can't touch your car, open a door or do anything but look. They are not allowed to discuss the condition of your car with you or the other judges while the car is being judged. They will spend only a few minutes looking at your car scoring the wheels & tires, the interior, the exterior, and in car show, the engine compartment. The engine compartment is not judged in the park & show class.

WHEELS & TIRES:

Wheels & Tires are supposed to be judged on the outside of the wheel and to the second tread on the tire. Tires are only need to be clean. Dressing tire is optional but I recommend. You will have a much better chance of not having deductions if you clean the whole wheel & tire. Get a wheel brush if you have spoke wheels that you can clean around & behind the spokes and to the rear inside of the wheel. You can get a tar remover, chrome cleaner, mag polish, or other wheel cleaner to remove any road tar or other spots on the wheel. Use a brush to clean around wheel weights, lug nuts, etc. C5 & C6 & C7 owners....be sure to remove those center caps and clean around the lug nuts. Long stem cotton swabs (Q-tips) can also be used to clean around narrow areas. Wipe the entire tire to remove dirt & debris. You may have to use a stiff brush to get the grass or other material (rocks) out of the tread. Use a tire dressing / protectant of your choice to leave a smooth black finish on the tire and tread. Check with your fellow members to see what they use on their tires such as a 50/50 mix of 303 & water. Don't worry about curb abrasions or other like damage that you can't fix....most judges won't score these. Finally, clean the wheel well area in front and behind the tire. Newer cars have plastic wheel wells that can be enhanced with tire dressing or protectant to leave a smooth black finish. Wheel wells are considered under the car so this area should not be judged. But for better presentation, I recommend to clean these areas.

EXTERIOR:

The exterior of most Corvettes is very clean and shiny, but if you look close, there are many areas that will make the difference between a top award and a lower place. Get a supply of good soft brushes that can wipe away dust and other loose debris. You will need soft, lint-free cloths and a spray bottle with water. Some people use a detail spray on the finish to remove spots and smears. Pay particular attention to the body seams....those areas around the doors, rear hatches, removable tops, gas door, headlight doors, etc. Use brushes and cotton swabs to remove dirt and/or wax build-up. Examine your clearance lamps and taillight lenses. Clean any wax or dirt from the tiny letters on the lenses. Do a close inspection of the mounting screws and the seams around the lenses. Wipe the lower body areas to remove dirt and smears with attention to the areas behind the tires. Inspect for and remove any ex-bugs from the front of the car especially the grill area and front emblems. The lower air dam on newer cars can be cleaned and renewed with tire dressing. Don't forget to polish those exhaust tips. Emblems can be cleaned with brushes and Q-tips.

INTERIOR:

The interior is best cleaned from the top down; that is clean the windshield and glass first so that any overspray or lint will be removed when you do the top of the dashboard and other surfaces, dust from the top of the dash will be removed when you clean the face of the dashboard.....etc. The lower inside of the windshield is the toughest to get clean. Use a second person from the outside to help you by pointing out areas in need. Careful not to touch the windshield with your hand or other body part...it will leave an oily smear. Use soft brushes & rags to remove dust, lint, & debris from the seams of the dashboard and seats. Don't forget the shift boot, console seams, and especially the air conditioning vents. Wipe the steering wheel / column and brush out the seams. Use masking or other tape to pick-up debris from the carpet areas with careful attention to the sides and rear areas



CLEANING GUIDELINES

around the seats. DO NOT leave any objects, personal belongings, or anything not part of the car visible inside. Position your seats, seat belts, air conditioning vents, etc. to give the best appearance and hide any flaws. C5 & C6 & C7 owners place your "Do Not Touch" sign over the HUD to hide the inevitable dust.

ENGINE COMPARTMENT:

The engine compartment is the most problematic for DVC members because we drive our cars! Engines are judged from the valve covers up only. Judging excludes engine mounted accessories, drives, supports, headers and pumps [water, smog, PD, AC] below the valve covers. Engine compartment is defined as the area between the fender wells, front of the radiator to the firewall above the frame rails and the underside of the hood including attach points and hinges. Areas below the top of the frame rails are not to be judged. Dirt on parts below the frame rail, for example, won't be scored. Paper towels can be used to sop up oil & greasy residue. Separate brushes, don't use the same brush on the body or interior, can be used to remove the dust, sand, leaves, or other loose debris from the area. Oil & smears can be removed from chrome parts with a soft cloth and a little rubbing alcohol or chrome cleaner. Protectant can restore a good look to faded rubber hoses and other rubber parts. Plain water and a towel can remove dirt and water spots from painted parts. A cleaner/degreaser can be used on stubborn areas. C5 & C6 & C7 owners - be sure to clean away the debris that collects on the ridges of the alternator mount arm. Use brushes or tape to remove leaves or other matter from the air inlet screen below the front windshield. Get cans of compressed air at Fry's or any office supply store and use it to blow away loose dust and dirt from hard to reach areas. A black magic marker can cover-up small dings on black metal under hood parts.

FINAL ONCE OVER BEFORE "RAGS DOWN":

Do a final once-over before "Rags Down" to touch-up areas missed earlier. Be sure to wipe any area like door handles and trunk or hatch lips that you may have touched to remove fingerprints and smears. Use your compressed air to blow away dust from emblems, lenses, and seams. Complete your judging form and place on the driver's seat. Place the colored dot designating your class on the upper left corner of the windshield.

RELAX and ENJOY the show!

As always, if you have any questions or need help feel free to call our car show chairperson[s]. The WSCC Competition Code with additional information and car show rules can be found at the WSCC web site – <http://www.wsc.net>

We hope this information is helpful and we encourage all of you to show your cars. It's a great way to spend the day with your fellow members and see outstanding Corvettes.