



Protecting your Corvette Convertible Top in the winter

Dear Customer,

Welcome to our new weekly educational series designed to share our knowledge with the Corvette hobbyist. If you should have any further questions or feedback to share with us on this topic, we would welcome your input. Thanks, and we hope you enjoy the series!

That convertible cruiser, sports car or roadster is hardly a good investment if it stays in the garage for half the year. Countless Corvette enthusiasts are catching on to this and demanding convertibles that can be used year-round. For that reason, it's now more common to see Corvette Convertibles being driven around in the winter months, covered in snow and salt.

And why not?

Automakers have made strides towards unmatched levels of year-round performance and durability from their products, and convertibles are no exception.

"Today's soft-top convertibles are true, all-season vehicles," said Douglas Haartz, international sales manager at Haartz Corporation.

His company creates materials for durable convertible tops that are used by most Tier 1 automotive suppliers and aftermarket manufacturers. This includes convertible tops used on Corvettes.

"The evolution of convertible-top materials in the past several decades has enhanced the market for all-season enjoyment," he said. "Through innovations in surface or combining composites, the owner today can be assured that the top material is up to the challenge of everyday use. All materials used in modern convertibles are engineered to withstand the four seasons, and what Mother Nature can dish out," Haartz said.

Corvette convertible tops require a little extra attention to maintain their appearance and functionality in the long run, especially when they're driven in wintertime.





Here are a few tips to keep that convertible looking its finest for years to come:

- Frequent washes/rinses at your favorite coin-operated car wash are a great idea. The washes will maintain the shine and luster built into your top by removing abrasive salt and sand that can diminish the top's finish over time. Hand washing is ideal, but soft-cloth car washes can be used too.
- Treatments that offer cloth-top protection and water repellency are available, and can be applied ahead of winter driving for an added layer of protection. "A good cleaning and retreatment application several times per year will keep your top looking the best," Haartz said.
- RAGGTOPP Convertible Care Products have been exclusively tested and endorsed by Haartz.
- After a snowfall, remove all ice and snow from the convertible roof. Don't hack and chip away at ice or heavy snow, and be sure to use a soft brush or your hand wrapped in a mitt. Do not use a hard-bristled brush or ice scraper. Let your car warm up or park in a warm garage ahead of time to use temperature, not force, to loosen snow and ice. Heavy brushes and scraping could possibly damage your roof fabric.
- Do not operate your roof in cold temperatures. There's no need to cycle your roof up and down in cold-weather months.
- Do not put your roof down if it is wet. This is a 12-month rule as it can cause premature wear, allowing for the build-up of damaging mold and mildew.
- Be careful with that ice scraper when cleaning frost or ice from your windows. One slip and it could scratch your Corvette convertible top. It is a good idea to pre-heat your convertible to melt frost from the windows.



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