

Tips to help protect your car from the North Texas storm season



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It's that time of year again in North Texas. Time for severe thunderstorms and damaging hail. Nobody likes this kind of weather especially car enthusiasts. A cruise down the highway with the convertible top down can turn into a rush to find cover from a storm. Here are a few tips to help you stay prepared during the stormy season here in tornado alley when an enclosed garage is not available.

- First and foremost watch the weather forecast every morning and evening. This will give you the best warning for possible automotive damaging weather. The weather forecasts are not perfect but they will give you an idea if there are storms in the forecast. This will help you be prepared if you are driving around and it starts to look dark and gloomy.
- Always be aware of your surroundings. This means make sure you know where all the good spots are to hide your car or truck in the case of a sudden hail storm. If you are driving, keep a watchful eye out for any open, public car ports or do-it-yourself car washes. These car washes are an excellent hiding spot from hail. Any public structure where your car will be protected from

damaging hail will do. In a pinch you can pull into a gas station and get a tank of gas and maybe some snacks under the protection of the roof. When hiding from hail make sure that you are not trespassing. The last thing you want when protecting your car from hail is to get a ticket for trespassing. One more warning, always listen to the radio for thunderstorm or tornado warnings. You do not want to be caught in your car if there is a tornado nearby. If there is a tornado warning head indoors to a safe place. Your life is more important than your car.

- One last piece of advice to protect your car or truck from storms, do not park under or near any trees or unsecured objects when storms are in the forecast. If you are parked under a tree when a severe storm hits, you may come out to your car covered in fallen branches or worse, a fallen tree. You might think a big oak tree will keep the hail from hitting your car, but strong wind gusts may break branches and damage your car. Unsecured objects like trash cans or benches can also be blown into your car causing major damage.

Following these tips will help you be a little more prepared to protect your car from severe storms. Make sure you use common sense and keep an eye on your surroundings. In a severe storm there are many objects besides hail, that could be damaging not only to your car but also to yourself, so always stay alert. Remember that human life is more important than any car.