

# HOW TO PROPERLY WINTERIZE YOUR GOLF CART

**Before you put your cart away for the winter, it is a good idea to perform proper maintenance to enhance the life of your cart. Read on for some helpful tips to guide your winter prep. If you own an electric golf cart, several of these tips can be applied as well.**

Clean your Golf Cart, Battery Terminal, etc.

Before you store your golf cart away, it is important to thoroughly clean it. Use soap & water, degreaser and any other cleaning products of your choice to help you wash away any dried mud, sand, grime and dirt on the cart. If these items are not addressed properly before storage, they will only be harder to clean off later (and cleaning your cart will be a nagging chore for next season in the back of your mind). Cleaning the golf cart also makes it easier to work on/inspect before storage. It is a good idea to pick up the seat and spray the battery (cleaning it of any corrosion) before storage as well. Try simply using some water to clean the battery. If there is extensive corrosion (and water isn't working) mix a bit of baking soda and water together and use it to lightly brush the terminals. Rinse the solution off with water and dry with a towel. It is a good idea (While the seat is up) to check the connecting wires on the battery, making sure that cables are tight and in good shape.

## Electric Golf Carts

**Cleaning Batteries:** During normal operation and charging, the batteries "gas". The result is acid accumulating on the battery tops. Cleaning the batteries is a must before winter storage since acid on battery tops could cause a path of discharge to occur, causing your batteries to drain down faster than normal. **Tow switch:** This is VERY important. Place the TOW switch into "TOW" position. This disables the load of the system from the battery pack. If this is not done, your battery pack WILL completely discharge in a matter of weeks. You then run the risk of freezing and cracking your batteries. Even if the temperature never reaches freezing, you will still experience irreversible damage called sulfation if the batteries are left in a state of total discharge for a long period of time. **Battery rate of self-discharge:** The battery manufacturers say the rate of self-discharge (even with the tow switch in "TOW") is 1% per day. That equates to a total discharge in approximately 100 days. Their recommendations are to recharge the batteries each month to keep the state of charge levels up.

## Tuning up the Golf Cart

- Replace both the fuel filter and air filter
- Clean or replace the oil filter and
- Remove the old spark plug
- Pour a half-ounce of oil into the spark plug hole (this keeps the cylinder from corroding)
- Install a new spark plug
- Check and change your oil if needed
- Check all other fluids

## Disconnect Battery Cables and Check Tires

Disconnect battery cables to help prevent any unnecessary electrical problems from occurring while in storage. Now is also a good time to inflate your tires to the proper pressure before storing (helps your tires maintain shape). It is important for you to NOT LOCK your cart's parking brake. Locking the parking break cable for an extended period will cause the cable to stretch. You can place wooden blocks behind the tires to prevent movement while in storage.