

Ozone Cure for Stinky Cars

Do you have a car that smells? I had a 1972 Eldorado Convertible that had sat outside for many years, acquiring a powerful stink from mold, mildew, mice and old age. When I wanted to clean it up, I closed all the windows to make it reasonably air-tight, then set my Quantum Pure Aire ozone generator on the passenger side floor, blowing under the seat to maximize air circulation. (After a few minutes, I saw two mice run away.) Twenty-four hours later, I couldn't believe the fresh clean smell. I opened the windows again to ventilate the car before I set to it with my brushes and professional carpet shampoo. They brightened up the upholstery and carpets and removed the actual dirt. Mission accomplished!

Note: Always do the ozone treatment before attempting to remove mildew, according to the International Fabricare Inst. And always ventilate the treated area before working, as high concentrations of ozone will irritate eyes, nose and lungs.

How does it work? The ozone molecule (O₃) has three loosely bound, hence unstable, oxygen atoms. When ozone comes in contact with mold, mildew, smoke or airborne bacteria, the third atom oxidizes the pollutant and leaves behind just oxygen (O₂) and water vapor. It also acts to precipitate floating contaminants such as pollen, dust and dust mites, viruses, smoke, animal dander, odors and toxic chemical fumes out of the air. (According to the USDA, ionizing a room leads to 52% less dust in the air and 95% less bacteria in the air, since many air pollutants reside on floating dust particles.) Ozone is heavier than air so it will eventually end up on the floor. Often a circulating fan (a standard house fan will work) is also placed in moldy rooms to increase the airflow. When done, items are aired out to allow the ozone to dissipate.

As a carpet cleaning equipment supplier, I first saw the powers of ozone generators thirty years ago when they were introduced to fire and smoke restoration professionals. Twenty years ago my brother-in-law (always on the cutting edge of electronics) loaned me his small Panda unit to freshen up my boat. That induced me to buy a Panda of my own, which I use not only for the cars and the boat, but also in a damp cellar, the bathroom before painting the ceiling, in musty closets-and anywhere else my wife wrinkles up her nose! Over the years I have called on the Quantum Pure Aire (formerly Panda) Corporation's Barry Newman for help and advice and found him more than helpful. He faxed me a letter from Inskip Motors, (Mercedes, Porsche, Audi, BMW, Rolls Royce, Lexus and Infiniti) highly recommending the Quantum machine to get rid of "literally any odor, pet odors, mold, mildew, etc." Barry also noted that a Honda dealer uses one to rid the mold smell from the A/C drip pans. They run the car 45 minutes, closed, with the A/C on, and the generator inside. If you think you might need your own ozone generator (I now have two), contact Barry, or Jeff Ramos at:
Quantum Pure Aire Corporation, 2642 Warwick Ave., Warwick, RI 02889 401-732-6770 Ext. 104 or 800-966-5575

www.quantumpureaire.com

Just mention the Cadillac LaSalle Club, and Quantum will give you a 10% discount!

- Chet Barrows

Cranston, RI

- Editors Note: I called rental companies, but many have not heard of this device. One that did was American Rental, Route 18, Abington, Mass at 781-878-4624. They charge \$35/day or \$105/week for a Dontec PA-1100. Another web site with lots of info, although more expensive units, is: www.jenesco.com

New Hampshire Exhaust Noise:

The New Hampshire House Transportation Committee passed an amended version of a SEMA-sponsored bill to remove vague and subjective provisions from that state's exhaust-noise law. Currently, New Hampshire deems illegal all modifications that increase noise levels above those emitted by the vehicle's original muffler. The original SEMA-drafted legislation required law enforcement authorities to prove that an exhaust-system modification results in a noise level in excess of 95 decibels as measured by SAE test standard J1169 before issuing a citation. Deeming the 95-decibel limit too restrictive, the House Transportation Committee simply deleted provisions in the current law, which referenced the noise levels of the original muffler.

FEBRUARY 2004 DRIVING FORCE

Courtesy, North Texas Region, CLC →

Automobile thieves have a new technique, as reported by Duane Medley of Houston. It seems that all a car thief needs to do is get a vehicle's VIN number, which on 1959 and newer cars is easily visible through the windshield on the driver's side. The thief can then take the VIN number to a dealer's parts department and have new keys made from the VIN number. Some dealers will not make a new key from the VIN number unless proof of ownership is provided, but there are ways around this. Please note that it is against the law to remove, mangle or destroy the VIN plate, however there is no law against covering the VIN plate with a piece of tape that is easily removed. A small piece of tape...cheap insurance against the car thief's new technique! Be right back...going out to the garage to find some tape.....