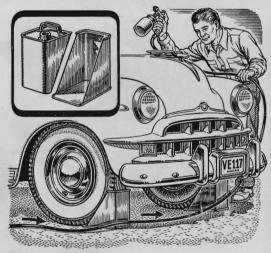
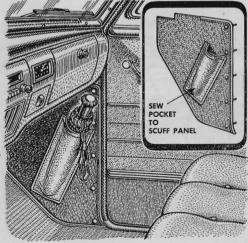


A license plate takes a beating when located ahead of the front bumper. But on some late-model cars that is where the factory bracket forces you to put it.

If your plate is way out front, you may be able to shift it to a safer spot above the bumper by the simple steps outlined here. After the U bracket has been reshaped, you usually will find enough clearance between the bumper and gravel plate so that the bracket can be slipped into position by pressing down on the gravel plate.



Here's a shop trick guaranteed to save tempers every time someone starts dragging an air hose, air grease gun or paint sprayer around a car. Put these diagonally cut oil or antifreeze cans ahead of the wheels and the hose won't snag under the tires.



An umbrella holder can be added to your car at little cost. For a folding umbrella, remove the scuff lining from the passenger's side and have an upholstery shop sew on a pocket of matching material. A pocket for a full-length umbrella could go on a door.