



MIKES CORVETTE CORNER

A lot of people I talk to tell me that the only tool kit you need in a Corvette is a credit card and a cell phone. Well that may be true for the select few, but many of us like the idea of having a tool kit in the Corvette. But sometimes when you talk about tool kits, it varies from one individual to another. For some it could be a screw driver and a pair of pliers. Or like me, the tool kit would be the size of a small refrigerator.

Even though newer Corvettes are more reliable, one should be prepared for minor emergencies. For this article I'm going to stay with the basics. And keep in mind that these tools I recommend are just for local emergencies and repairs. I'm not going to address what you need to take on a cross country excursion. You can e-mail me for that information.

My first selection is a small $\frac{1}{4}$ inch drive ratchet set, Metric or SAE depending on the year of your Corvette. In addition make sure it contains Torx bits.

Pliers, I prefer slip joint pliers or channel locks with a serrated jaw. The reason for this is, in the event you have to replace a spring loaded hose clamp, you can get a good bite to compress the clamp.

Vise Grips, I would select the 7 inch pair, its quite universal. And also the small needle nose vise grips. These tools come in handy for crimping off a line or hose, holding a cracked bracket together, supporting a damaged panel, etc.

Screw drivers, I prefer a No2 Phillips, and a medium flatblade. Once again, you can get bits for your $\frac{1}{4}$ inch drive set to eliminate these two items, but sometimes the screw drivers are more desirable.

Crescent wrench, this tool comes in real handy for tightening a nut or a bolt. You don't need the big one, the mid size one is recommended, with a jaw opening of $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 inch.

Funnel, you can get a small one with a long neck for oil or transmission fluid, but they don't work well for coolant or fuel. But you can get paper funnels that fold and store quite well for fuel and coolant.

Needle nose pliers, I like the longer nose for those hard to get to places under the dash.

Tire pressure gauge, I like the analog type, non battery operated. The reason for this is due to the digital gauge having batteries which can freeze and become defective or go dead when you really need it.

Flashlight, we can get carried away on this one, I just love flashlights. I would choose a good rechargeable one like a Maglite, with the strobe beacon. When the strobe is on, you can see it for over a mile. And most of these flashlights can run up to 1 hour or more depending on the battery type.

Diagonal cutting pliers, These come in handy when you are trying to cut off a ty rap, wire, or a cotter pin.

The remaining items in your tool kit should also contain the following....

Ty Raps

Tape, duct tape, electrical tape, painters tape.

First aid kit

Rags

Hand wipes

4 oz can of silicone spray

Several small to medium size bungee cords

Disposable gloves

Fuses for your specific vehicle.

Fix a flat

1 Quart Mobil 1 5/30

Plastic Tarp (small 6'X6')

Believe it or not these items can fit in the rear well of a C5. But you can get a nice leather or vinyl pouch which will fit in any Corvette. The one thing I like to do is have a list of "Whats in the trunk" in my glove compartment, that way I know what I have or what I need in the future. I'm sure many of you can add to this list and I hope you do! One item I did not mention is wrenches. This is primarily due to early and late model Corvettes. But as a side note, on the early Corvettes I would include a 5/16 combination open end wrench for battery cable disconnects. In addition a 3/8 - 1/2 - 9/16 - 5/8 - and a 11/16. The newer Corvettes would include a 10 mm, 12mm, 13mm, 15mm, and a 17mm.

Mike