

BODY PARTS STRIPPING

If you've ever done any work with metal, then you'll know how much easier it is to work with clean material than that which is contaminated with grease, rust or paint. How often have you wished that that old car body and floorpan were brand new. Many car restorers use a sandblaster to clean all the junk off sheet-metals. The sandblasting units are easily portable and only need to be hooked up to a compressed air supply for operation. However, if one is not careful, delicate metal parts can be distorted by the pressure from the sandblasting gun; also sand gets into all the small crevices and causes paint problems.

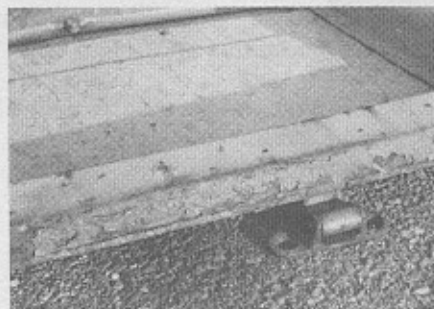
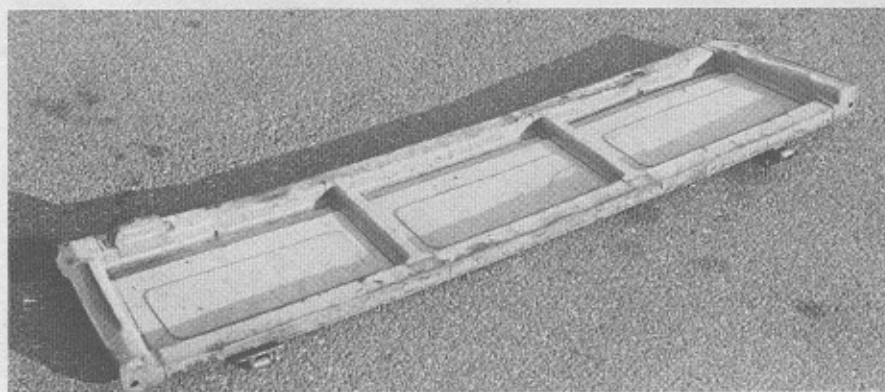
The best way to clean metal is to dip the parts in an acid bath that literally eats all the junk off the material and leaves it in an as new condition.

We took some parts from a VW pickup (a future project vehicle) to our local metal cleaners (look in your local yellow pages for the address of your local stripper) and had them cleaned prior to reinstalling on the vehicle.

Strip Clean Co., 5105 W. First Street, Santa Ana, CA 92703 will clean wood, plastic, as well as metal parts. They have several different sized tanks for different parts. The largest (20 ft. x 7 ft.) is big enough for a complete car body and

frame. Sample costs are \$45 to strip a VW floor pan without front suspension, and \$195 for a Bug body complete with doors, fenders, front and rear deck lids. After the parts are dipped in the tank, all traces of paint, rust, undercoating, bondo, tar, glue, primer, etc. will be removed. Immediately after removal from the tank, the stripped parts are sprayed with a protective coating to prevent the bare metal from rusting.

Strip Clean's Charlie Masters highly recommends that any total restoration project should start with a complete strip of the body and floor pan to insure a quality finished product. ●



TOP LEFT AND RIGHT, before! This sidegate from a VW pickup shows the accumulation of several years rust. **ABOVE, after!** The sidegate looks as good as new after being stripped clean and sprayed with a protective coating.

LEFT, the pieces to be stripped are placed in a large basket that is dipped into different types of acid, for varying lengths of time, depending on the amount and type of junk to be removed from the parts.