

Car Washing Guide

Wash:

1. Start by hosing any loose dirt from the surface of the vehicle. Use a hose without a head attachment. The natural stream of water is best.
2. Mix the ph balanced car shampoo (NO DISH SOAP) in a bucket. I recommend Coats Products Hawaiian Shine Shampoo or the new Meguiar's NXT shampoo.
3. Using 100% Cotton Terry Towels (MADE IN USA) wash the surface of the car. Work top down and make sure to rinse the towel often. Also, do not apply a lot of pressure to the towel, as this will only cause scratching.
4. Don't forget under the side skirts, doorjamb, hinges, under hood ...etc.
5. "Water Dry" the car first by allowing a slow stream of water from the hose to flow over the car. Most of the water will sheet away.
6. Dry using a California Water Blade and The Absorber.

Surface Prep:

1. Clay Bar the surface of the car. Use the cellophane wrapper from a pack of cigarettes over your fingers to detect for missed areas. The missed spots will be VERY apparent. Also, make sure you keep the surface of the vehicle well lubricated with an "instant detailer" type product. I recommend Clay Magic BLUE bars with Coats Products Miracle Mist for lubrication.
2. Strip the surface of the car with 3M General Purpose Adhesive Remover. This will remove any remaining wax from the surface and will leave you with a perfectly clean starting surface. Apply the GPAR with a micro fiber towel.
3. Using a polish/cleaner and micro fiber towels, apply the product to the surface letting it dry completely, and then buffing it off. I recommend Coats Products Swirl-Less.
4. Wax the vehicle with a high quality car wax. Micro fiber towels are once again preferred for both application and removal of the product. I recommend Coats Products Cherry Wet Wax. It goes on very easy, and wipes off even easier. The shine is also top notch.

5. Remove any of the white chalky wax residues on your black plastic panels. To do this, you will need a toothbrush and some creamy peanut butter. Apply some of the peanut butter to the “chalky” area and work it in with the toothbrush. The oils in the peanut butter will break up and lift the wax from the plastic. Wipe the peanut butter away with a 100% terry towel. You can also use 3M Adhesive and Wax Remover in place of the PB ... but it is always best to use chemicals as your last resort. However, with the 3M product you will see instant results since it evaporates very quickly and areas that need more attention can be addressed.
6. Condition the plastic trim using the non-silicone version of Stoner Trim Shine. I am currently searching for a US Distributor of AutoGlym to gain access to better products for this application.

Wheels/Tires:

1. Wash your wheels using the shampoo solution. Clay bar the wheels using the technique mentioned above to remove embedded particles. For any problem areas, feel free to use a wheel cleaner (Meguiar's Hot Rims is recommended) and some brushes. After the wheels are SPOTLESS give them a coat of Wheel Wax. This will help keep them cleaner longer and will make future cleaning easier. If the wheels get to the point again where you need to use a wheel cleaner again, apply the Wheel Wax again.
2. Dress the tires with either Meguiar's Endurance Tire Gel and Eagle One tire swipes, or with Stoner More Shine Less Time. Either way, make sure you wipe excess from rims and be very careful not to get any on your painted surfaces.

Engine:

1. On a cool engine, spray Simple Green on soiled areas and work it in using small brushes. Make sure you put plastic bags over open element air filters, and be cautious around electronics. Wax any painted surfaces in the engine bay. If you like the shiny look, spray No Touch Tire Foam on the engine and wipe up any excess. Note that you will need to let the NTTF dry before starting your engine, and that the NTTF will attract more dust than usual. Dress the hoses with Mothers Back To Black.

Glass:

1. Clean the exterior glass surfaces with the new Diamondite glass treatment. Follow the package directions. If you don't have the Diamondite treatment, clay bar the glass using the above mentioned procedure to remove embedded particles. Follow with a good glass cleaner, and finish with the RainX treatment. I recommend Stoner Invisible Glass to clean windows. Use the Invisible Glass for interior glass surfaces as well.

Leather:

1. Use Lexol PH to clean the leather and Connolly Hide Food to condition. Use micro fiber towels and follow the manufacturer's instructions for application.

Finishing Touches:

1. For your dashboard use Swiffer towels to remove dust. Qtips are great for hard to reach spots.
2. Plexus plastic polish applied with micro fiber towels is great for cleaning the plastic covering your gauges and also for your head/tail lights.
3. Chrome should be polished with micro fiber towels and a good chrome polish. I prefer Mothers Chrome Polish.
4. Polished Aluminum (exhaust tips) should be cleaned using micro fiber towels in a CIRCULAR pattern. Polishing in side-to-side motions will leave visible marks on the metal. I recommend Mothers Mag and Aluminum Polish.
5. Use the No Touch Tire Foam to dress your inner fender wells. Make sure you don't get it on the paint!
6. In between washings use an instant detailer to keep the show room finish going. I recommend Coats Products Miracle Mist again, applied with micro fiber towels.