

Detail Guide

Tips and Tricks

getting cornered



Use a soft, natural bristle brush to loosen clingy dirt and push it into an accessible corner. Then use your vacuum's crevice tool to suck up all the debris.

if you don't succeed...



Repetition is the key to success when cleaning stained carpet. Several sprayings of carpet cleaner, along with brushing and then rubbing with a clean towel in between applications, works best in pulling grime away from the fibers. The whole process should both start and finish with vacuuming.

baby me



When taking care of leather you should think of it as your own skin. No, we don't mean you should rub on baby oil, but it should be treated regularly and gently with the right type of cleaner (test an inconspicuous area first).

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feeling kneady?

Follow cleaning with a good leather conditioner that has protective oils such as lanolin, (the same stuff found in a high-quality skin cream). You can even knead it into the surface by hand.



soft or hard plastic

Don't use the same chemical for soft and hard plastics. Use a penetrating protectant on soft or matte-finish (no gloss) vinyl, and a plastic polish on hard or shiny plastic. Apply the chemical to a towel to avoid spots on the windshield or door gloss.



no smelly amonia

Cleaning tinted windows requires special care. Don't use ammonia-based cleaners-and make sure the cloth is made of cotton or microfiber. Specialized glass cleaners are also better for removing that new car haze on the inside.

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tough spots?

When you're cleaning the outside of the glass, hard-water spots may require a bit more effort, or you can try Mothers® Chrome Polish to remove them. It may also help with the haze on those hard-to-clean glass windows on a convertible top.



withdrawing deposits

Oh no! Tweety Bird has left a little present on your hood! To remove it and other stubborn deposits, apply a concentrated amount of car soap and water and let it soak before washing. Or use Mothers® Showtime® Instant Detailer or Mothers FX® Spray Wax to clean up the mess. (And next time, don't park under a tree.)



shady subject

Hey, what's wrong with this picture? This guy is washing his car in the hot sunlight. But you know better, right? Stay in the shade if you can.

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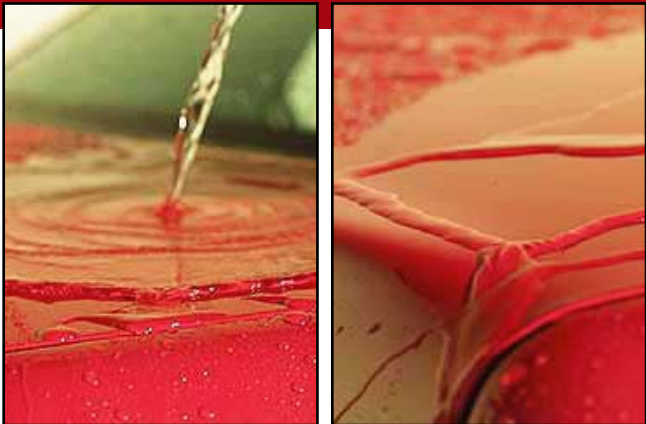
rub a dub-dub

A wool wash mitt works best but rinse it often and work from the top down. If you drop it in the dirt it's better to replace it or at least make certain you've removed every speck of debris or you might end up scratching the finish.



keep things moist

If you must wash when it's hot outside apply extra water on cleaned surfaces to keep them from drying, or you'll probably get some water spots.



sheeting action

Before drying off, run a slow flooding flow of water over all surfaces of the car. This will encourage a sheeting action, pulling more water off the paint as the flow passes.

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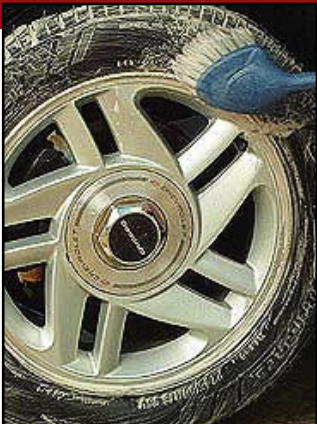
wax 'n dry

Using Mothers® Showtime® Instant Detailer, Reflections® Spray Wax and Mothers FX® Spray Wax on a wet, freshly washed car is a quick and easy way to turn up the shine. Just spray one section at a time covering area liberally, spread the instant detailer or spray wax around evenly with a fresh microfiber towel, if using a spray wax let it dry to a haze and remove all promptly with another clean



what a drag

Cotton or microfiber towels are the best choice for drying. A squeegee or chamois can damage paint when you drag it across the surface.



tiresome subject

If you're using soapy water to scrub the tires' sidewalls, a firm nylon or natural bristle brush makes the job faster. Usually it's better to clean the tires and wheels before washing the rest of your vehicle, so you take care of the dirtiest areas first, and avoid splashing wheelwell grime on an already washed car.

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sharp dressed tire

Instead of spraying a tire dressing directly on the sidewall, apply Mothers® Protectant, Reflections® Tire Care or Mothers FX® Tire Care to a sponge and then wipe it on. By doing this, you will avoid wasting the product and you'll achieve much neater result.



quick rinse

When spraying on Mothers® Wheel Mist® All Wheel, Wheel Mist® Chrome/Wire or Mothers FX® Wheel Cleaner keep a hose handy so you can rinse it off before the product dries on the wheel.



see clearly now

Frequent application of Clear-Coat Wheel Polish not only removes embedded brake dust but also helps to prevent the buildup of it between cleanings.

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keep rolling

Don't let wheel polish dry on the wheel-wipe it off immediately. If it does dry, just reapply the product and wipe it off before it dries again.



coated or uncoated

If you're not sure whether your wheels are uncoated aluminum or not, rub a small amount in a low-visibility area with Mothers® Mag & Aluminum Polish, Billet Polish or PowerMetal®. If it doesn't turn black, then stop immediately. Your wheel is likely coated, visit the Clear-Coated, Painted and Anodized Wheels section of this Detail Guide.



have a ball

Mothers® PowerBall® can also be used with Mothers® Mag & Aluminum and Billet Metal polishes. Simply apply the product to the PowerBall® with your fingers and spread it around. Slight spritz of water on the ball will ensure even application. Start the drill on slow, then begin increasing the drill speed. Remove excess with a clean terry cloth or microfiber towel to reveal a top quality shine.

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chrome chaser

When working on chrome wheels, chase the cleaner with a chrome polish to properly finish the job.



soak to restore

Regular treatments with Mothers® Protectant preservative will greatly improve the longevity of rubber.



rubber match

Neglected black trim items or those that have become impregnated with wax residue may require a thorough soaking with Mothers® Back-to-Black® to restore them.

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plastic fantastic

For transparent or shiny items, Mothers® Plastic Polish can help them not only look better but also last longer. If discoloring is extensive try Mothers® Mag & Aluminum Polish as a more aggressive first step. Yet another option is to use Mothers® PowerBall® with PowerMetal® or PowerPlastic® to get the job done in less time.



marvelous metal polish

Mothers® Mag & Aluminum Polish, Billet Polish and PowerMetal™ are all flexible enough to use with brass, aluminum alloys and magnesium, and for billet aluminum, aluminum engine parts, accessories and more. With the proper technique, all of these polishes can be used with the PowerBall® as an excellent way to turn up the shine factor.



chrome poly-protection

In addition to giving chrome a crisp sparkle, Mothers® Chrome Polish protects it with advanced polymers that resist smudges and fingerprints. This polish also works great on glass.

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soft touch

When scrubbing a convertible top don't use a wire bristlebrush only nylon or a natural fiber and preferably one that's not too stiff.



on the bleach

If you must use bleach, dilute it with water (less than 25 percent bleach), and be sure to wet the surrounding areas and rinse thoroughly. Too much bleach will break down the fibers and damage other components. Use bleach only as a last resort and not very often.



easy lube

Before using the clay bar apply a layer of detailing spray on a freshly washed surface. This film will serve as a lubricant for the clay bar so it doesn't stick and leave behind any deposits.

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slide! slide!

To remove deposits simply slide the clay bar over the lubricated surface. Be sure to knead the bar regularly to expose fresh clay.



wax on, wax off

Since a clay bar is so effective at removing deposits it takes off wax as well. Plan on re-waxing the finish after using a clay bar.



no more nicks?

Removing scratches may require a stronger polish and rubbing against it from varying directions. Don't use too much pressure though, or you might damage the surrounding paint.

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chemical mask

Here's a neat time-saver: Apply a rubber/plastic preservative, like Mothers® Protectant or Back-to-Black®, to all non-paint surfaces before waxing or polishing to help keep that unpainted area from being stained by waxes.



a real smoothie

Polish before waxing in order to smooth the surface and bring back the luster of your paint.



no streakers

Less is more when applying wax or polishes-several thin layers go a long way-and don't use a lot of pressure. Also, pour the material on the applicator or towel, not directly on the paint, to prevent streaks from forming.

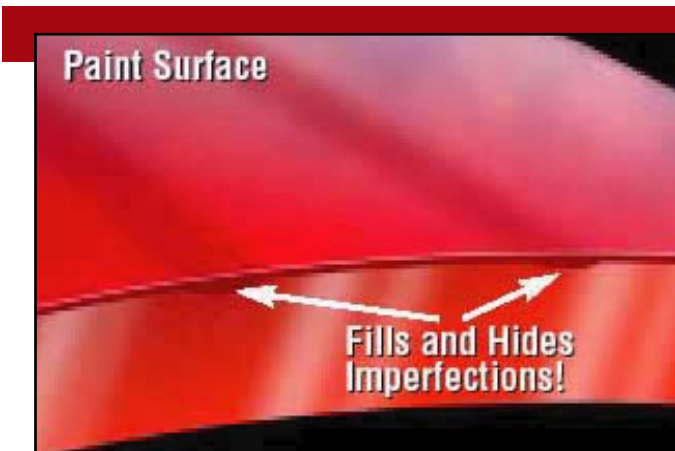
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stuart little's

If you looked at your paint under a magnifying glass here's what you might see gouges, scratches and old wax buildup. Use both polish and sealer to get your finish to look like the drawing on the right instead of the left.



glazed over

To properly finish a paint-detailing job a sealer/glaze conceals any remaining spots or blemishes.



it's elemental

Although a sealer/glaze has the advantage of allowing for repeated applications without re-polishing it should not be used in place of wax which provides a hard shell of protection from the elements.

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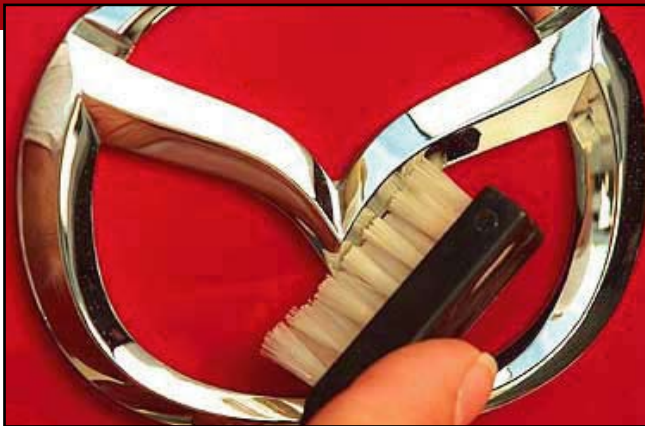
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don't forget to brush

Wax can accumulate in the nooks and crannies around emblems and trim pieces. Get rid of that unsightly buildup with a small brush before it has a chance to harden.



time after time

No time to wash? Just use a car duster and your choice of Mothers® Showtime® Instant Detailer, Reflections® Spray Wax or Mothers FX® Spray Wax. These products will save time and water. (Just as long as your car isn't too dirty.)