

Art Cox's Detailing Tech Session

Please read before attending the tech session.

Here's the "copy" which I'd like posted on the website registration page:

Of course the day and time, plus the address is 8 Boulder Circle, North Falmouth, MA 02556 and my cell phone is 508-769-2388.

The basic procedure for high quality detailing any vehicle is pretty much the same. Once you've removed and/or taped over all rings, jewelry, metal buttons and belt buckles, etc., it starts by rinsing the vehicle to remove accumulated loose dirt and dust, followed by hand washing using a compatible automotive detergent (we learned that dish soaps, etc. are strictly verboten!), followed by more rinsing to completely remove dirt, dust, and soap. The next step is to touch the paint surface to discover that, although it may look clean, it may not feel clean. So, while keeping the surface wet, a paint clay bar or clay mitt is rubbed across the surface to remove small, 'invisible' contaminants that are still 'stuck' to the paint and/or a previously applied protective coating like sealant or wax. The only way to learn how to do this, and maybe believe that it works great, is to actually do it. Repeating the surface touch test will prove the concept.

Now that the vehicle is quite clean, it's time for paint correction (a.k.a. polishing). A thorough surface inspection should indicate if the overall paint condition is good, fair, or poor. If it's bad enough to require major abrasive compounding, then maybe it should be turned over to a professional for correction. In our case we can deal with fair and good paint surfaces which we can optimize pretty well with a mildly abrasive polish followed by an even milder polish and then a glaze and wax, or to apply a two-in-one or three-in-one polish and glaze and wax or other finish coating. This can be done by hand or machine. In our case we learned to properly use an appropriate automotive machine polisher (there are other miscellaneous polishing machines which can do damage). So, again, the only really good way to learn how to do this, gain the right experience, and prove it to oneself, is to actually do it.

The following is a short video which summarizes quick detailing using clay, a random orbital buffer and a couple of application pads: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJRGHyfIVX4>

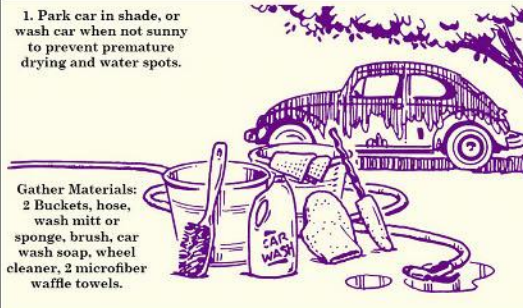



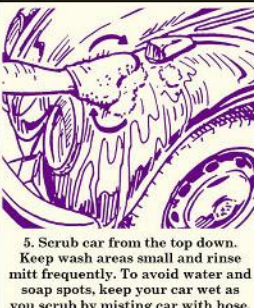
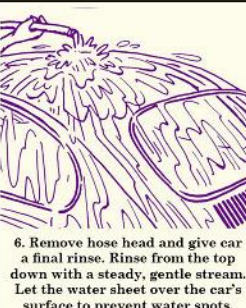

There are three attachments I'd like folks to print and/peruse before we start, pertaining to car washing, car detailing, and the ABC's of paint correction.

I'd like everybody to bring a clay bar or clay mitt, available pretty much anywhere that carries automotive cleaning supplies and, optionally, any cleaner, polish, wax, buffer, etc. you're comfortable using when detailing your cars. If you're going to work on your car, please hand wash it the day before, if possible.





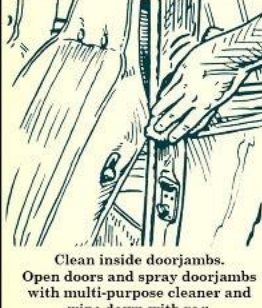

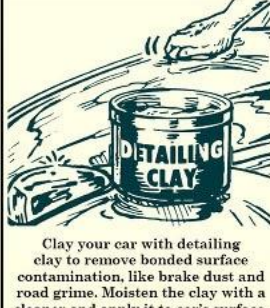

Attachments:

Guide to the Perfect Driveway Car Wash



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| <p>1. Park car in shade, or wash car when not sunny to prevent premature drying and water spots.</p>  <p>Gather Materials: 2 Buckets, hose, wash mitt or sponge, brush, car wash soap, wheel cleaner, 2 microfiber waffle towels.</p> |  <p>2. Wash wheels with wheel cleaner and brush. Make sure to scrub inside wheel wells.</p> |  <p>3. Pre-rinse car with hose.</p> | |
|  <p>4. Use the soap bucket to suds up your mitt; the water bucket to rinse off your mitt after you scrub and before you suds up again.</p> |  <p>5. Scrub car from the top down. Keep wash areas small and rinse mitt frequently. To avoid water and soap spots, keep your car wet as you scrub by misting car with hose.</p> |  <p>6. Remove hose head and give car a final rinse. Rinse from the top down with a steady, gentle stream. Let the water sheet over the car's surface to prevent water spots.</p> |  <p>7. Dry with waffle towel. Don't apply much pressure, just focus on soaking up the bulk of the water. Wring often. Spot dry with second microfiber waffle.</p> |

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| <p>An Illustrated Guide to Detailing Your Car</p>  |  <p>Thoroughly vacuum interior of car. Loosen caked in dirt with brush if needed. Treat stains with carpet and upholstery cleaner.</p> |  <p>Clean and treat interior plastic and vinyl with protectant.</p> |  <p>Clean glass inside and out with glass cleaner and newspapers.</p> |
|  <p>Clean inside doorjamb. Open doors and spray doorjamb with multi-purpose cleaner and wipe down with rag.</p> |  <p>Treat black trim with protectant. If car has chrome or aluminum on exterior trim or wheels, polish it.</p> |  <p>Clay your car with detailing clay to remove bonded surface contamination, like brake dust and road grime. Moisten the clay with a cleaner and apply it to car's surface.</p> |  <p>Apply wax on one small area of the car at a time until you cover the entire car. Let dry for 20-30 minutes. Buff the wax off gently with a microfiber or cotton towel or a power polisher.</p> |

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The ABC's of Paint Correction

WASH - CLAY CAR

Start with wheels and tires then move to top of car and work your way down. Once all dirt and debris is removed from car, perform the claying step. Some detailers wash again after claying the car to remove all clay residue and clay lubricant, this is optional.

A

PAINT INSPECTION

Start by identifying your paint's condition, then follow the path to properly correct paint.

B

BAD

MINOR

GOOD

COMPOUND STEP

Heavy defect removal using a compound. If paint is severely scratched or has orange peel wet sanding may be performed before compounding.

C

POLISH STEP

Medium defect removal using a Swirl Remover or a Finishing Polish. This will remove medium swirls and rotary buffer holograms.

D

FINISHING POLISH STEP

Light defect removal using a One-Step, Paint Cleaner or Fine/Jeweling Polish to perfect the paint's gloss.

E

WAX OR COATING

Protect the paint surface with either a carnauba or synthetic sealant, spray wax or quick detailer. When applying a paint coating there is a few extra steps that you need to perform in order for the coating to adhere to the paint surface correctly.

F

WAX

COATING

Carnauba or Synthetic Wax

Spray Wax
Quick Detailer

Chemically strip paint with coating prep wipe

Ceramic Coating
Coating Booster or Detailer

