

Exterior Car Care ~ WASHING

It's summer, so it's a perfect time to roll the windows down and enjoy your driving just a bit more than the colder weather allows. The drive is even more enjoyable when the vehicle is clean inside and out. Here are some tips for getting the exterior looking great.

Outsourcing the Wash

Running through a car wash is perhaps the easiest and fastest way to get the exterior clean. There are a couple of things to know about frequenting an automatic car wash.

Brushless is definitely the way to go. Some older wash facilities still use brushes while other use the cloth, which is much easier on the finish. Touchless wash systems can vary in effectiveness, but pose no danger to the painted surface.



The automatic car wash extras are rarely worth the investment. Underbody rust proofing isn't necessary and doesn't really work. Spray wax doesn't protect for very long and can result in hazing (especially on dark surfaces) over time. Spray wax can also cause a build up on the wiper rubber that actually reduces the effectiveness of the wiper blades.

The wheel and tire cleaners that car washes use are normally pretty effective, but brake dust that hasn't been washed off will likely require a little elbow grease to remove completely. You can avoid the added cost at the wash by investing in an all purpose

wheel cleaner and soaking the wheels prior to your visit.

One last point – if the car wash has people drying vehicles, pay attention to the cleanliness of the towels they're using. Dirty rags may have the kind of dirt that generates light scratches. Plus if the rags are dirty, what does that say about the effectiveness of the car wash?

Do It Yourself

If you wash your own vehicle, avoid using any kind of dish soap. Most dish soap contains ammonia or detergents that will clean, but will also strip the wax finish.

Working out of direct sunlight, start by getting the vehicle wet. Use a car wash soap that generates lots of suds. The more suds the better job you'll be able to do cleaning the vehicle surface. Warm or cold water will do.



A car wash mitt is better to use than a rag or sponge since it helps keep the suds going and does a superior job of releasing dirt into the rinse water. If you have an extra bucket, fill it with clean water and use it to rinse your mitt.

Clean dry towels or a chamois (yeah, even a ShamWow) will be useful drying the vehicle and avoiding streaking.

Enjoy your clean vehicle and have a wonderful summer!

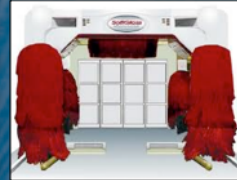
Exterior Car Care ~ WASHING

It's summer, so it's a perfect time to roll the windows down and enjoy your driving just a bit more than the colder weather allows. The drive is even more enjoyable when the vehicle is clean inside and out. Here are some tips for getting the exterior looking great.

Outsourcing the Wash

Running through a car wash is perhaps the easiest and fastest way to get the exterior clean. There are a couple of things to know about frequenting an automatic car wash.

Brushless is definitely the way to go. Some older wash facilities still use brushes while other use the cloth, which is much easier on the finish. Touchless wash systems can vary in effectiveness, but pose no danger to the painted surface.



The automatic car wash extras are rarely worth the investment. Underbody rust proofing isn't necessary and doesn't really work. Spray wax doesn't protect for very long and can result in hazing (especially on dark surfaces) over time. Spray wax can also cause a build up on the wiper rubber that actually reduces the effectiveness of the wiper blades.

The wheel and tire cleaners that car washes use are normally pretty effective, but brake dust that hasn't been washed off will likely require a little elbow grease to remove completely. You can avoid the added cost at the wash by investing in an all purpose

wheel cleaner and soaking the wheels prior to your visit.

One last point – if the car wash has people drying vehicles, pay attention to the cleanliness of the towels they're using. Dirty rags may have the kind of dirt that generates light scratches. Plus if the rags are dirty, what does that say about the effectiveness of the car wash?

Do It Yourself

If you wash your own vehicle, avoid using any kind of dish soap. Most dish soap contains ammonia or detergents that will clean, but will also strip the wax finish.

Working out of direct sunlight, start by getting the vehicle wet. Use a car wash soap that generates lots of suds. The more suds the better job you'll be able to do cleaning the vehicle surface. Warm or cold water will do.



A car wash mitt is better to use than a rag or sponge since it helps keep the suds going and does a superior job of releasing dirt into the rinse water. If you have an extra bucket, fill it with clean water and use it to rinse your mitt.

Clean dry towels or a chamois (yeah, even a ShamWow) will be useful drying the vehicle and avoiding streaking.

Enjoy your clean vehicle and have a wonderful summer!