

WAXIT car care cleaning & detailing guide ~ part 1



Welcome to the first in a series of articles from Waxit Car Care covering the various aspects of car appearance maintenance and detailing.

Pretty much all detailing tasks commence with washing the car to remove road grime, dirt and dust. Washing and drying is also the major maintenance task that needs doing on a regular basis. Our preferred washing frequency is weekly or, if this isn't practical, bi-weekly.

Of course with water restrictions affecting most parts of Victoria it is illegal to use potable water for the purpose of vehicle washing. Tank or recycled water is the only option if you wish to use the traditional method of a hose and bucket. For this reason we will outline a couple of alternative methods which use either no water at all or a very small amount (six-eight litres, recycled or tank sourced of course).

Rinseless Wash Products and Techniques

Rinseless wash products are designed to be used with a very small amount of water, typically four litres per bucket with two buckets being used. Unlike traditional wash shampoo they don't suds up; rather they rely on polymers and mild detergents to loosen the dirt on the paint, this is then wiped away with a mitt. At Waxit we stock three brands of rinseless wash: *DP*, *Optimum* and *Quick & Easy Wash*.

When doing any car appearance maintenance or detailing task, always work on a cold car in the shade or in your garage.

The process you need to follow to ensure a minimal amount of marring is as follows:

1. Put four litres of clean water into a bucket and measure in 30ml of rinseless wash.
2. Put another four litres of clean water into a second bucket; do not add any product to this bucket.
3. Dip your microfibre wash mitt into the first bucket and commence wiping over a panel of the car. Always start at the top and work down.
4. Once you have wiped down the panel, drop the mitt into the second bucket.
5. Use a microfibre drying towel or chamois to dry the area you have just washed.
6. Pick up the mitt from the second bucket by the cuff and allow the water to strain through it. This will wash out most particles of dirt, road grime etc and stop them being wiped back over your car.
7. Dip the mitt into bucket one which contains the rinseless wash solution and wipe down the rest of the panel you are washing then repeat steps 4 and 6 until you have washed and dried the entire car.
8. Typically we then go over the car with a Quick Detail spray to ensure nothing is missed and to add that little bit of extra shine.

If done correctly you will find the water in second bucket is very dirty while bucket one is fairly clean. Over time some minor marring will result from this method of washing which is unavoidable as you don't rinse off the surface dirt prior to commencing the washing process.

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See AG's ad on page 28.

Waterless Wash Products and Techniques

Waterless wash products often come under attack due to the fact that many claim that they are 100% scratch free. Unfortunately this isn't the case; in our opinion prolonged use of a waterless product, regardless of how careful you are, will result in marring of the paint. This marring isn't a huge issue to most car owners ... however most enthusiasts find it unacceptable.

Waterless wash products are best used on cars that are only moderately dirty; we definitely wouldn't use them on a car that has been driven on wet roads for a few days a week and has the resultant abrasive road grime on the lower panels.

At Waxit we stock *DP Waterless Wash*, *Poorboys Spray & Wipe* and *Freedom One*.

To get the most from a waterless product use the following process and you will minimise the chances of marring your paint.

1. Spray the area you are cleaning until it is nice and wet.
2. Using a damp microfibre cloth, wipe the area with long gentle wipes, working in straight lines, do not use a circular action.
3. After a single wipe, turn the cloth and go over the same area again. Continue wiping and turning until you have finished the area.
4. Using another dry cloth wipe down the area again, ensuring you remove all the product and catch any bits you may of missed.
5. Repeat steps 2 to 4 over the entire car.

We do recommend that you change the damp towel once or twice during the process as this will reduce the incidence of swirl marks and marring.

We trust that this article has been of interest you and invite you call Russell Van or Brian Gardner at our Tullamarine location should you require further advice on this area of car care or any other.