

# CAR CARE GUIDE



Getting great results every time you valet your car is not as difficult as you may think. It just takes the right products, a little time and a bit of know how. It's one of the reasons why we created the Autoglym Car Care Guide.

Produced by our experts, it guides you through the correct cleaning procedure for all aspects of your car allowing you to achieve excellent results, quickly and easily. Once you've experienced the results of a professional valet, there's just no going back. *That's the Autoglym way. Always has been.*



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Professional car valeters will always attempt to separate the wet part of the cleaning process from the dry one. If possible, you should do the same by finding a place to hose down the car and wash all the surfaces before moving it to a dry area for polishing, particularly if using electrical equipment.

## TOP TIPS

- It is best to wash and polish your car out of direct sunlight
- Avoid washing your car on a gravel drive when using a high pressure water hose
- Do not use household products to clean your car



Dirt will accumulate inside a car however careful you are. Much of it is brought in by the driver and passengers but traffic fumes and airborne dirt enter the car through the ventilation system.



Start by emptying all the contents of the car into a handy container. This includes the contents of glovebox, centre console, door pockets and footwells.



Remove all the mats. You may find a variety of fixings, some need a coin to undo (leave a coin in the ashtray for the future) and others just a twist. Bang the mats out to loosen the dirt.



Do the same with the boot. Carefully remove the spare wheel, tools, mats and all other items. If your car is a hatchback, remove the parcel shelf as it is easier to clean this out of the car.



Before using a bucket, make sure it is clean and not full of gritty dirt from the last wash – a car's worst enemy. Change your water regularly.



Whether or not you are cleaning your car, always remove bird droppings as soon as you can as it destroys the paint surface quickly. Keep a pack of **Bird Dropping Wipes** in the glovebox.

Clean wheels and tyres really enhance the appearance of your car. Hose off your wheels to remove any mud and road grime before you start.

## TOP TIPS

- Apply **Clean Wheels** or **Custom Wheel Cleaner** to cold wheels only
- Work on one wheel at a time to avoid drying
- Never use abrasives on wheels
- Wear rubber gloves and goggles
- Follow product safety instructions when using wheel cleaners



1 Make sure the wheel is cold (very important) and then spray **Clean Wheels** or **Custom Wheel Cleaner** (check with your car manufacturer for any special requirements) so that it thoroughly wets all visible surfaces of the rim.



2 Working on one wheel at a time agitate with the **Hi-Tech Wheel Brush** making sure that you reach all surfaces. Use a thin powerful jet to hose off thoroughly and do not let the cleaner dry before hosing off.



3 For very intricate and high specification alloy wheels, use **Custom Wheel Cleaner** which has a balanced acid-free formulation that is both kind to the environment and the wheels.



4 Spray **Engine & Machine Cleaner** under the arches and on all muddy areas. Leave this strong detergent for several minutes to let it penetrate and loosen the dirt, then use a stiff brush or spatula to remove caked-on mud under the arches.



5 With the wheel either still wet or dry, spray **Instant Tyre Dressing** or **Foaming Tyre Dressing** onto the tyre, then leave to dry to a sheen. For a matt finish, wipe with a cloth before the dressing finally dries.

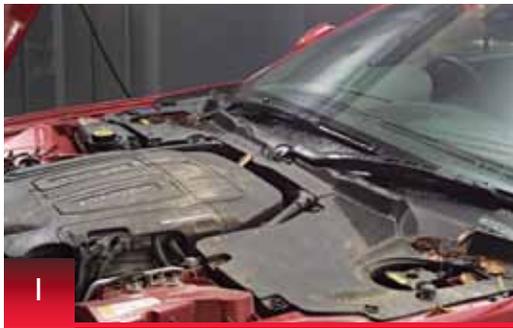


6 Carefully spray **Alloy Wheel Seal** onto the wheel or directly onto a cloth and then apply to the wheel to keep product off the brake discs and calipers. Buff with a soft dry cloth for a brake dust-resistant shine.

Over time your car's engine bay can become home to a variety of contaminants from dead leaves and twigs to road grime and oil deposits. Removing these contaminants will make your engine look like new and is a simple and rewarding process.

## TOP TIPS

- Never clean a hot engine
- Check all caps on fluid reservoirs are tight before treatment begins
- Remove loose stones and debris if using a pressure hose, they can cause injury
- Wear goggles and gloves
- Take care to seal all visible electrical items with a cling-film or tape prior to cleaning and remember to remove it afterwards



1  
Dirt will accumulate inside a car however careful you are. Much of it is brought in by the driver and passengers but traffic fumes and airborne dirt enter the car through the ventilation system.



2  
A build-up of dead leaves in the fresh air intake grille can eventually block it completely. Remove all leaves and other debris from the channel at the foot of the windscreen.



3  
Modern car engines have many electronic sensors and these are best covered with waterproof tape before cleaning the engine bay. When in doubt, keep water away from electrical items.



4  
Spray **Engine & Machine Cleaner** onto every surface under the bonnet. Pay attention to the really grubby bits at the foot of the engine and take care on any fragile under-bonnet insulation material.



5  
Agitate the cleaner thoroughly using a small brush. Spend time here so that every inaccessible surface is treated and re-apply more cleaner if you missed it first time.



6  
Hose off the engine starting at the bottom and working up. This helps the detergent to flow off. The underside of the bonnet can be hosed; take care with frail insulation material.



7  
Use kitchen towel to mop up excess water in plug holes, then spray **Vinyl & Rubber Care** over the whole engine. Leave to dry and even out patches with a dry cloth.



8  
The treatment leaves rubber and plastic looking like new.

Dirt and road grime can start to build up in the door and boot shuts of your car and this is often an area which gets overlooked. Refreshing these areas is very easy and makes all the difference.

## TOP TIPS

- Use **Vinyl & Rubber Care** on door and body seals
- You may need to lubricate locks and hinges after treatment
- Use PVC tape to cover any metal components of your brush
- If using a pressure hose, check that the lock striker on the door hasn't closed
- Use sponge and water if hose is not available



1 Spray **Engine & Machine Cleaner** on all the door shuts and frames up to window height. Don't be afraid if you splash the interior; the cleaner is safe on all fabrics as long as it is removed before it dries.



2 Use a small brush to work in the cleaner around locks, striker plates and hinges. Wet the brush with cleaner before you start. Shut doors for a few minutes to let detergent work.



3 Repeat this process on the boot shuts on all the lower surfaces. Do not spray cleaner on the underside of the boot lid. Just use the small brush to carry cleaner to the panel edges and agitate prior to wiping off.



4 Using a concentrated jet, hose the shuts starting at the bottom and working up to waist height. Point the hose slightly away from the car; start the flow, then move...



5 ...the jet onto the door shuts. This gives more control and keeps water out of the interior. Repeat this process on the door frame and remove any blockages from the drain holes.



6 When you come to the boot, shut the lid onto the first catch and point the hose in the crevice between boot and body. This will get rid of most of the dirt and you finish it off with a cloth or leather.



7 The result will add to that 'new car' look and present a clean entry for passengers. Wipe the shuts every time you wash the car to keep them looking like this all the time.



8 Spray **Vinyl & Rubber Care** on to the **Perfect Polishing Cloth** and treat the door and boot rubbers to prevent the rubbers sticking to the door frames and to give them a perfect finish.

All kinds of dust, fumes, smoke and dirt build up inside a car interior so that every single surface is affected. Periodically it needs a thorough clean. The objective is to remove pollutants and preserve the original surfaces.

## TOP TIPS

- Put heater blower on full when dusting vents to blow dust out
- Do not use a brush on headlining materials as it may snag
- Do not use **Vinyl & Rubber Care** on steering wheel, gear lever or pedal rubbers as they will become slippery
- Leave doors or windows open so that interior can dry out
- Keep the **Hi-Tech Interior Microfibre** in your glovebox for regular dusting of the interior



1 With a high suction vacuum cleaner remove as much dirt and dust from the interior as you can. Use a stiff brush on the floor and fabric seats and a small, soft brush for dashboard crevices.



2 Any interior cloth surfaces should be carefully cleaned by applying **Interior Shampoo** to the **Hi-Tech Aqua-Dry** or a firm sponge. Then rub gently onto the fabric. If in doubt, try a small piece first, out of sight.



3 Clean plastic trim surfaces in the same way. Once cleaned, dry off with the **Hi-Tech Interior Microfibre** or the **Hi-Tech Microfibre Drying Towel** being careful not to rub too hard as the nap of some materials may be affected.



4 Pay special attention to the switches, steering wheel and controls as they collect a lot of dirt. Be careful not to flood areas that carry electrical switches and remove excess spray with the **Hi-Tech Interior Microfibre**.



5 Repeat the operation with the door trims, cloth seats and then carpets. Use enough **Interior Shampoo** to create a light foam over all the surfaces but be careful not to overwet fabrics.



6 Where interior trim has a lacquered or polished wood finish, once the dust has been removed with a soft brush and vacuum, use **Instant Show Shine** to remove finger marks and bring to a high gloss.

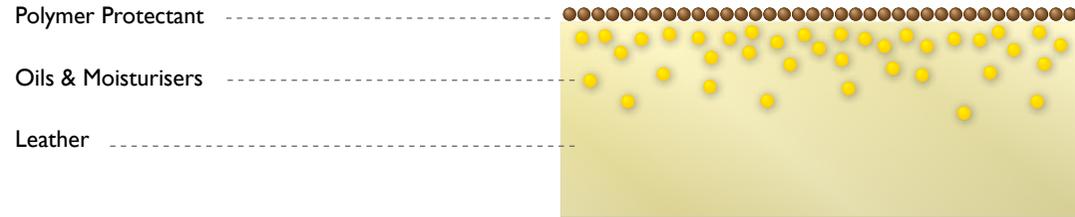


7 Mats are best dealt with outside the car. Brush or vacuum the mats, then spray with **Interior Shampoo** before hosing down thoroughly. Hang up to dry.



8 With the shampoo complete, spray **Odour Eliminator** onto carpets and mats. The product's bioactive formulation will tackle any undesirable odours such as cigarette smoke, dogs or take-away.

Leather seats develop an inconsistent finish over time and can become worn and cracked as the surface dries-out with age.



1 Use a soft brush to dislodge dirt from all the crevices in the seats and vacuum them thoroughly. Be careful not to scratch the leather with the vacuum nozzle.



2 Apply the **Leather Cleaner** directly onto the seats, concentrating on the squab first and then the back.



3 Work the cleaner well into the leather with the **Perfect Polishing Cloth**. This process will generate a light foam so then remove excess cleaner together with the dirt with the damp **Hi-Tech Aqua-Dry**.



4 Finally, dry completely with the **High-Tech Interior Microfibre** ensuring that you remove any excess from the creases and folds of the seats and trims.



5 Now that the leather is clean and dry, treating it with **Leather Care Balm** will preserve its natural characteristics. Apply to the **Perfect Palm Applicator** and then to the seat itself.



6 Work this into the leather, ensuring even coverage, and leave for at least thirty minutes to dry. During this time it will start to lose its sheen.



7 Once it has had a chance to dry, use the clean **High-Tech Interior Microfibre** to buff the leather back to a rich lustre.



8 The same process can be applied to the dashboard top where this is leather but to avoid contamination of the windscreen, this is best done by applying the products to the cloth rather than spraying directly on.

Mud and grit is highly abrasive and the act of rubbing with a sponge can cause serious long-term damage to the paintwork. Spend time with a hose, using its most powerful jet, starting at sill level and working upwards to the roof.

## TOP TIPS

- Park wipers halfway up screen for best access
- Do not wash a car in hot direct sunlight
- **Bodywork Shampoo Conditioner** can be used with cold water



1 Use **Bodywork Shampoo Conditioner** with tepid water. The foam produced lubricates the sponge on the paintwork. Hose off the worst of the mud, then rain a fine spray over the whole car to wet it thoroughly.



2 **Active Insect Remover** can be sprayed where necessary onto the vehicle's bodywork to soften insect remains making them easier to remove. Likewise **Bird Dropping Wipes** can be used for heavier solids.



3 Sponge the car one side at a time starting from the roof and working downwards. Use plenty of water in a wide sweeping action to flow the dirt off.



4 Use a small, soft brush to shift the dirt in the crevices around bumpers, number plates, panel shut lines, badges and the front grille.



5 Rinse the shampoo from the vehicle before it has had a chance to dry particularly on hot summer days.



6 Use the **Hi-Tech Flexi Water Blade**, which quickly removes most of the water from the bodywork and windows, just needing a quick finish with the **Hi-Tech Aqua-Dry** synthetic chamois or the **Hi-Tech Microfibre Drying Towel**.



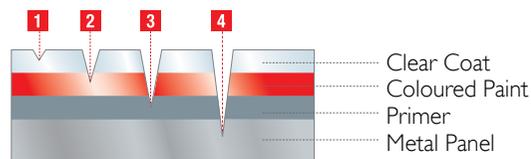
7 The **Hi-Tech Aqua-Dry** synthetic chamois will dry your car quicker than any natural leather and holds an amazing amount of water. Use flat to get the worst off before finishing off in the usual way.



8 Dry the door shuts and boot, then slam doors and boot to dislodge standing water. Leave open to drain. Areas around bumpers can be tricky to dry. Use the edge of the **Hi-Tech Aqua-Dry** synthetic chamois or the **Hi-Tech Microfibre Drying Towel** to soak up water.

Scratches come in all shapes and sizes, so before deciding on treatment you must first assess how deep the scratch is and how badly the paintwork is affected.

Polishing can only remove very light scratching but deeper scratches can be disguised by 'rounding off' the edges and filling the scratch with a thin layer of polish. A feature of modern paintwork is the use of clear coat lacquers. All metallic, mica or pearlescent paintwork has a clear finishing coat to create maximum shine and bring out the beauty of these specialist finishes. The diagram shows the layers of paint on a typical modern car. It also shows four scratches of varying severity.



## 1. SURFACE SCRATCHES

This kind of damage is confined to the finishing layer of paint or clear coat and may not be visible to the naked eye. It just looks dull or discoloured. It can usually be rectified by a thorough application of **Super Resin Polish**.

## 2. VISIBLE ABRASIONS

If a scratch penetrates through the top layer but not beyond the colour coat, it is usually still retrievable just by polishing. You will probably need to use **Paint Renovator** to cut back part of the surface and blend the scratch in. Be very careful not to cut back the surface coat too far; Exposing the layer underneath the topcoat will cause serious damage that will require re-spray work. Once you are happy that your scratch is all but gone, a final coat of **Super Resin Polish** will add a thin film to help fill the imperfections.

## 3. PRIMER DAMAGE

If your scratch shows a grey or white colour, it means that you are at least through to the primer. No amount of polishing is going to get rid of this mark and you could find that rust would start if the blemish goes untreated. Having thoroughly cleaned the area with detergent, careful application of touch-up using a fine artist's brush will protect your car and minimise the visible blemish. Follow this with lacquer if appropriate and, once the touch-up has thoroughly hardened (wait at least a week), the area can be polished to blend in the repair.

## 4. METAL SCRATCHES

Very deep scratches will go right down to the metal itself. Do not delay. Thoroughly clean the area and, on serious scratches, use a rust-protecting primer touch up before applying the colour coat and then lacquer.

## TOP TIPS

- Be careful not to remove too much paint on edges when using any abrasive treatments
- Stone chips should be touched up without delay to prevent corrosion
- Use a fine artist's brush with the touch-up for best accuracy



More serious scratches will need **Paint Renovator**. Apply at right angles to the scratch until the scratch disappears, being careful not to rub too hard as you may remove too much paint or lacquer. Allow to dry then remove the excess.



Finish with **Super Resin Polish** to shine and protect the surface.



Using the **Perfect Palm Applicator** will greatly assist, helping to apply consistent pressure over the area.

Remove all bonded contaminants from your paintwork allowing for a more durable shine.

## TOP TIPS

- Use a plastic bag to feel surface contaminants on the paintwork
- Keep your car garaged or under cover to minimise attack from tree sap or bird lime
- Treat a small area at a time with the clay bar



The lower half of the body will be speckled with tar deposits picked up from the road. Squirt **Intensive Tar Remover** along the side panel and allow to stand for a few minutes before buffing off the tar.



The ultimate preparation is the **Surface Detailing Clay Kit**. Break off a piece of the clay bar and keep the remainder in the closed tin.



Roll and spread the clay to a flat profile ready for use and wet it with **Rapid Detailer** before use.



Spray **Rapid Detailer** onto the paintwork to lubricate the clay and then use back and forth movements to treat the area with the clay. This will lift contaminants and leave a completely smooth surface.



Finally, dry the paintwork with the **Hi-Tech Microfibre Cloth** supplied with the kit, ready for final polishing.



You will be able to feel the difference in the surface smoothness with your hand even before the paintwork has been polished.



To remove residues of old polish and contaminants from the paintwork prior to polishing, pour **High Definition Cleanser** onto the red applicator supplied and take it to the paintwork. Do not pour the liquid onto the car.



Work the cleanser into the paintwork keeping the pad moist at all times. Do not press the pad too hard. Remember you are cleaning the surface and not polishing it.



Remove the cleanser from the paintwork with the **Hi-Tech Finishing Cloth**, this is the softest of the Hi-Tech cloths.

Polishing your paintwork will remove paint defects and enhance surface gloss, leaving your vehicle's bodywork ready to be protected.

## TOP TIPS

- Do not apply in strong sunlight as this dries the polish too quickly
- On convertibles with fabric hoods mask material to avoid polish stains
- Remove old window stickers with metal scraper (take care to avoid heater elements). Use **Intensive Tar Remover** to deal with adhesive
- Use **Car Glass Polish** to prevent the misting of glass in cold and damp conditions



1 Super Resin Polish should be applied to the **Perfect Palm Applicator** and not directly to the paintwork.



2 Spread the polish on the body with the cloth or applicator and use large circular motions to work the polish in. Treat a small area at a time, then lay this area off in straight lines before treating the next section.



3 Both glass and acrylics can be cleaned with **Fast Glass**. Just spray on and wipe off with a kitchen towel.



4 For badly soiled glass, **Car Glass Polish** will remove contaminants and does not leave a residue when polished. Apply to a microfibre cloth or the **Perfect Palm Applicator**, then to glass. Put the windows down slightly to reach the top.



5 Pay special attention to faded paint and plastic areas such as door mirrors and bumpers which are painted with plasticisers in the paint.



6 Rubber and plastic trims can be brought back to new with **Bumper & Trim Gel**. Apply carefully with the **Perfect Polishing Cloth**. Surplus can be buffed off to a sheen.



7 The bodywork can now be buffed and the polish removed using the **Hi-Tech Finishing Cloth**. Turn the cloth regularly. No need to rub hard to produce a deep shine.

Seal and protect polished paintwork from environmental contaminants with a durable high-gloss shine.

## TOP TIPS

- Always use the recommended microfibre cloths with **Aqua Wax** and **High Definition Wax**. They have been carefully selected to ensure ease of use and to achieve the best finish
- Once applied leave **Extra Gloss Protection** for as long as possible to allow the resins to continue to cure and work even better
- All Autoglym waxes and sealants offer impressive protection and will repel water. Once rainwater stops beading from the paintwork, it is time to re-apply

### SUPER FAST SOLUTION



1 Wash the vehicle in the normal way with **Bodywork Shampoo Conditioner** and hose down.



2 Spray **Aqua Wax** evenly over all surfaces except the windscreen.



3 Use one of the supplied microfibre cloths to spread the wax, then the other one to buff to a high gloss.

### CONCOURS FINISH



1 Using one of the damp red applicators supplied, apply wax evenly in a light circular motion to a panel at a time.



2 When you have applied wax to the whole car, leave to cure for around 15 minutes or more on a cold day.



3 Buff to a high gloss with the red finishing cloth supplied, turning it frequently to avoid build-up.

### LIQUID SEALANT



1 Pour **Extra Gloss Protection** onto the **Perfect Palm Applicator**. Do not pour liquid onto the car.



2 Use a light pressure to apply liquid to the car and leave to dry thoroughly for one to two hours to allow resins to cure.



3 Buff to a deep shine with the **Hi-Tech Finishing Cloth** turning it regularly. Avoid application on to the glass.

The essential last step for perfection.

## TOP TIPS

- Remember to clean the interior mirror. Spray with **Fast Glass** and clean off with a kitchen towel
- Try and check your car out in all lights to make sure there are no smears and missed patches
- Take your car for a short drive and use the brakes to clear any rust that has formed on the discs
- Always keep a pack of **Bird Dropping Wipes** and **De-Icer** handy in your glove box



1 A small amount of residue from the polish will be found around all the door, bonnet and boot shuts. Use the **Hi-Tech Finishing Cloth** to wipe it away.



2 This is a good time to check that your washer bottle is topped up with **Ultimate Screenwash** to keep your screen smear free in all weathers.



5 Spray **Odour Eliminator** in the footwells and boot area to remove any lasting smells left by cigarette smoke, animals and other pollutants.



6 To counteract unpleasant odours caused by tobacco smoke, dampness and traffic fumes, spray **Autofresh** sparingly on a patch of carpet. It does not leave a residue, is non-staining and creates a pleasant scent.



Vinyl hoods should be washed often and can be cleaned occasionally with Interior Shampoo and a brush to remove ingrained dirt. Once clean, apply Bumper & Trim Gel with a sponge to bring back the colour and give a deep sheen. Fabric hoods need more care as they can become very dirty while losing their waterproof qualities.

## TOP TIPS

- For bad cases of neglect, leave **Fabric Hood Cleaner** on overnight, keep wet by covering with a plastic sheet
- Use **Fabric Hood Protector** on boat canopies, tents and caravan awnings



1 Convertibles with fabric hoods should be masked up before polishing to avoid leaving white marks on the hood material. Use wide masking tape all around the edges of the hood.



2 To clean fabric hoods, first vacuum the hood thoroughly to remove dust then spray on **Fabric Hood Cleaner**. Wet the entire area and allow some time for the liquid to penetrate the material.



3 Using the coarse plastic sponge provided in the pack, work the cleaner into the hood being careful to avoid rubbing stitched seams. Leave for an extended period before wiping off.



4 Either while still damp or having dried out, apply **Fabric Hood Protector** liberally to the entire area and remove overspray from paintwork immediately with a kitchen towel. Allow to dry overnight.

# PRESSURE WASHING

Clean your car quickly and easily by using a high-pressure power hose to effectively remove the build-up of mud and road grime.



1

Fill the detergent reservoir of the pressure washer with **Autoglym Pressure Wash**. Cover the entire vehicle with foam.



2

When rinsing, start at the bottom and work up. This helps to flow off the dirt and stops **Pressure Wash** streaking down the side of the car. It also leaves the detergent in place until the last minute.



3

When cleaning door shuts, start the hose away from the vehicle then move the jet onto the area to be rinsed. This gives more directional control as the recoil from a power hose is considerable.



4

Using two hands on the lance, point the hose slightly away from the car when hosing door shuts. You will be surprised how little splashing there is and the interior will keep almost completely dry.