

WAXIT car care cleaning & detailing guide ~ part 3



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

In the first instalment of this series we stepped through a couple of different techniques for washing your car using little or no water.

Instalment number two discussed using detailing clay to decontaminate your paint.

This instalment will move on to the next process in detailing your car, polishing the paint to remove dirt that washing and claying can't remove.

Firstly we need to choose the correct type of polish as there are several types on the market, some of which are suited to use by hand, which is the scope of this article, some are not and should only be used with a machine.

1. Paint Cleansers: This family of polishing products are our recommendations for hand polishing. Paint cleansers are non-abrasive and rely on chemicals to break the dirt down and oils to bring out the shine. Typically they are very creamy in consistency with no grit. A true paint cleanser will not contain any protective products (eg, polymers or waxes).

2. Abrasive Polishes: These products are typically called *cutting compounds*, a name that we try to discourage as in the detailing world you rarely need to be that aggressive. If you see a product labelled swirl or scratch remover you can be pretty sure they are abrasive and in our opinion are best used only with a machine and foam pads. Using them by hand usually results in dull spots or holograms on the paint.

3. All-in-One Polishes: Sold as "One-Step" or "Clean and Protect" products, all in ones do have their place, however typically as they are trying to be all things to all people they are a compromise and you will always get a better result using a dedicated polish followed by a dedicated protective product (wax or sealant).

AG Group are pleased to offer a 5% discount to all financial members of the Mazda MX-5 Club of Victoria.

Swissvax and Festool products and all Kits are exempt from the discount.

Produce your valid membership card and number to secure the discount.

To hand polish your car, follow these steps:

1. You have prepared the car by washing and claying the car and the paint is feeling like glass.
2. Using a damp microfibre applicator pad, apply the product using back and forth strokes over a small area (a bonnet should be divided into four areas) until the product has almost disappeared. There is no need to rub hard when doing this; you are not trying to mechanically remove contaminants; the polish will break down the dirt and you will remove it with the polish residue.
3. Once the product has almost disappeared, use a microfibre towel to remove the residue and buff to a high gloss.
4. Move on to the next section and repeat.

We have only covered polishing by hand as *machine polishing* is a little too complex to describe. If you wish to know more about polishing or the products, please do not hesitate to contact Russell Van or Brian Gardner at our Tullamarine location – 34B Trade Park Drive (tel: 9330 2177).

