

When you are ready to begin washing, be sure you are in a shaded area and the vehicle's surface is cool. If the surface is hot, clear or soapy water will dry on the paint and spot. If you've been out driving, wait an hour or two and let the car cool down. Your engine heats up the metal surfaces around it and the wheels and brake components will also be too hot. Spraying cold water on hot wheels and brake rotors may damage them.

Place one ounce of a high quality car wash solution per two gallons of fresh water into a clean wash bucket. Naturally, we at Griot's think our "Car Wash" is the right choice. It's important to use the proper amount of cleaner. Less is more... too much will strip wax off your paint. If you have access to warm water, use it. The increased temperature will improve the cleaning ability of the cleaner. Rinse the car thoroughly. It's best to rinse using a steady flow of water, not a fine mist. I start with a strong blast into the wheel wells, then move to the top and work down, spraying the wheels last. Avoid rinsing with high pressure or strong pressure washers. They can blast water into seals, under trim and may even damage paint. The idea is to loosen dirt and rinse as much away as possible.

Now, starting with the top and working your way down, begin cleaning. Using a boar's hair brush, sheepskin wash mitt or 100% cotton wash mitt, saturate it

## THE ART OF WASHING YOUR VEHICLE

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with lots of car wash solution and work in small areas. For instance, do half of the top and rinse off the soap. Then move to the other half. By concentrating on smaller areas you'll do a more thorough job and be able to focus on trouble spots. Use gentle strokes in a back and forth motion.

With every rinsing, rinse your brush or mitt, too. Even the smallest contaminant can get lodged into a mitt or brush, creating scratches and swirl marks. This is why I like a boar's hair brush so much. A quick dip into the wash bucket, a shake and everything falls off. The heavy stuff sinks to the bottom of the bucket and you're safe. With bristle applicators, however, I've found that where the brush is dragged across the paint, that area will be clean, but then just a "hair's width" away might be dirty.

If you notice large tar spots, bird droppings or any contaminant stuck on the paint, here are several removal tips. First of all, be gentle. Saturate a 100% cotton towel with full strength cleaner and carefully wipe the area. For stubborn tar, use 3M Adhesive Cleaner in the same manner. Remember, as you break up these contaminants, they contain minute bits of abrasive material that scratch paint. Even bird droppings contain sand and seeds that will scratch. Our Paint Cleaning Clay works well for this task.

Clean the vehicle in this order: Top, front hood, the front fenders, doors, rear deck, rear fenders and the rear. This is usually going from the least dirty parts to the most dirty. If the car is very dirty, you may want to rinse your wash bucket half way through and add fresh Car Wash and water. Do the tires and wheels last since they are usually the dirtiest areas.

When you do your final rinse, use a flat stream of water. You may even want to remove your spray nozzle and let a nice broad stream of water flow over the surface. This leaves a lot less water on the surface and allows you to dry the vehicle faster, reducing water spots and frequent chamois wringing or towel usage.

Have fun in your garage! 



You can find more information about surface care for your vehicle at [griotsgarage.com](http://griotsgarage.com) where our 90 page, full color, Detailer's Manual is available for purchase or a black and white version may be downloaded for free. <http://www.griotsgarage.com/index.jsp?subPage=12>