

How To Care For Your RV Finish

Keeping your RV looking it's best at all times involves keeping the paint finish clean and in good condition. This means periodic washing & polishing as well as getting the paint finish repaired as soon as possible when the paint is damaged or affected in any way.

The purpose of the paint finish is two-fold: (1) provide an aesthetically pleasing appearance (2) to protect the vehicle from many environmental conditions that have an adverse effect on the paint finish:

- Road Salts & Sodium Chloride
- Road Tar / Bugs
- Bird Droppings / Tree Sap
- Industrial Fallout / Acid Rain / Pollution
- UV Exposure & Moisture

The most common problems resulting from these conditions are corrosion, staining, and chemical spotting. These problems can be minimized through regularly scheduled washing and polishing.

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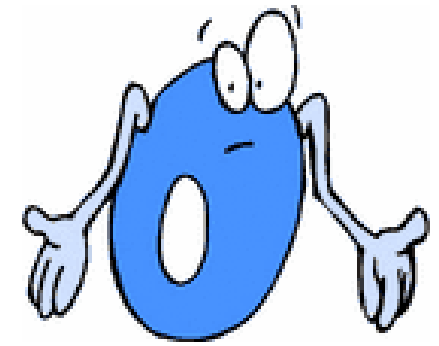
Do not use products that contain harsh abrasives such as rubbing compounds. These products should be used by an experienced technician with proper training and equipment. Most polishes and waxes are designed to clean and polish in one application whether by hand or machine.

A machine applied polish will last longer than one applied by hand because the high rpm of the buffing wheel creates heat, resulting in a deeper film with higher gloss. However, a hand-applied polish or wax will offer outstanding performance and protect the RV's finish.

When applying polish or wax, do so in a shaded area making sure the RV surface is at the specified temperature according to the polish manufacturers recommendations. Due to the various polishes and waxes, incorporate the following suggestions into the polishing technique:

- Condition the polishing pad by rubbing a slight amount of polish on it.
- Use only the amount of polish specified in the label directions
- Work a small area at a time
- Rinse off and remove dried polish from crevices, trim and moldings

For optimum results refrain from waxing or polishing for 60 days from date of Manufacture.



How Do I Properly Care For My New Paint Finish?



Washing Your RV

Make sure the RV's surface temperature is not hot, under 90° F, and not in direct sunlight. A shaded area is ideal for washing your vehicle as direct sunlight causes water and soap to evaporate too fast resulting in water spotting. Use a mild soap or detergent. Most auto care stores will carry a car wash shampoo. Try to avoid combination wash-n-wax products as these waxes cause build up and are designed for smaller surfaces. Have two dedicated sponges or wash mitts: one for the paint finish and one for the wheels and undercarriage. Brushes or wash mitts that are made of plastic bristles are acceptable for use on tires and wheel wells, but are not intended for use on paint finish. Avoid using such items on painted surfaces, as they will damage the RV paint finish. Wash the wheels and wheel wells first as this removes heavy dirt and debris and prevents it from splattering on already cleaned panels. Wet the entire area down to remove loose dirt and grime, then hand wash one area at a time using your dedicated paint finish sponge or wash mitt. Wash from the top and work you way down, frequently rinsing to minimize grit abrasion. Follow with a final rinse of water.

Washing Your RV (cont...)

This process will remove most contamination from the RV's surface. For stubborn stains such as road tar, use an ammonia-based glass cleaner or a small amount of rubbing alcohol on a damp cloth immediately followed by warm soapy water and rinsed with clean water. This may not dissolve the road tar, but it will loosen tar, and remove bug stains from the surface. Do not use solvent-based cleaners on bird droppings or tree sap as these are water-based stains and will eventually dissolve using ammonia-based glass cleaner, warm soapy water and a little "elbow grease." Once again, after removing stubborn stains immediately rinse with clean water.

Drying the RV is just as important as washing your vehicle as today's tap-water and well-water contain many chemicals that could water stain your RV's finish. We suggest using a damp natural or synthetic chamois, however, there are other drying products such as lint-free micro-fiber towels that work just as well.



Waxes & Polishes

Over 90% of all automotive finishes are clear-coated. The finish on your RV is a state of the art Acrylic Urethane Basecoat/Clearcoat. This means that what you wash and polish is a clear urethane coating designed to protect the basecoat: the pigmented coating that provides color. As it's main function of protecting the basecoat, clearcoats need to be maintained especially in harsh environments. Clearcoats do not fade themselves, but appear to fade or lose gloss as the surface becomes contaminated by the environment. If this contamination is not removed frequently, results will be a dull or low-gloss finish. Occasional washing alone will not adequately remove some forms of contamination and will require polishing.

Polishes & waxes primarily serve the following:

- to remove minor surface imperfections caused by water spots and acid rain
- To remove minor scratches by filling them and leveling the surface
- To seal the pores of the finish creating and easier-to-clean surface
- To beautify the paint finish appearance with more depth and high gloss
- To protect the paint finish from the elements

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