

The car show season is here and I have been spending a lot of time underneath some awesome cars. These cars in the full concourse class have been restored to a level that even Dr. Porsche would be very impressed. From the floor pan to the backing plates, every nut and bolt has been restored, painted and/or cleaned. I'm quite sure this attention to detail is over and above the production standard. For you folks that are restoring a car at this time for show, and doing it yourself, spend the extra time to do it right. Every nut, bolt and washer needs to be cleaned and installed properly. The attention to detail will be appreciated and is mandatory in a full concourse show. All your effort will be worth the final reward and the feeling of satisfaction of a job well done.

After looking at all the cars at the local car shows, you're now motivated to bring your daily driver up one notch by detailing the underside. You probably have room for some improvement, here are some tips to help you get started.

Plan on going to the quarter car wash when is not too busy. Know that you will be spending some time and will get dirty. It's wise to bring some clean clothes to change into after your finished. Bring a floor jack to jack up your car. Spray your cleaner (simple green or gunk) under the fender wells, motor and trans. Put your quarters in the machine, put on your goggles and go to work. If you're like me, you will end up on the ground, getting wet and dirty. This is where the extra clothes will come in handy. Use the sprayer for a couple of cycles. Clean everything you can see underneath. Stop and double-check your work, making sure

you didn't miss anything. Spray extra cleaner on the areas that need special attention. Don't forget to rotate your rear axles and clean the backsides of the tires. At this point put a couple more quarters in and spray your vehicle down one more time. Once your satisfied with the job, clean up and drive home.

Now that you're home, take a look at your car and see what you want to do next. By taking off all the wheels and tires you can really start to do some detailing. Sometimes a fresh coat of semi-flat black paint under the fender wells is in order. If you decide to do this, spray only the parts that need painting, avoiding any wiring, horns or pieces that really shouldn't be painted. By masking off these areas you will eliminate the possibility of over spray and this will keep your clean up to a minimum. Kerosene is a good cleaner for removing gunk from suspension parts and wiring looms. Since you have the wheels and tires off the car, this is the perfect time to polish the rims inside and out. Take this time to clean up the tires.

Reinstall your tires and make sure your lug nuts are tight. Spend extra time cleaning; using brushes, rags and good products. The time you spend will leave you with a car you can be very proud of.

Now, you're done with this project, stand back and admire your car, enjoy your favorite drink and relax. You've earned it.

Good luck.
Wax on
Mark