

This month I would like to talk about polishing and waxing your car. This process will differ from car to car because of different colors and varying paint conditions. It's going to be next impossible to tell you exactly how to wax and polish your personal car, but I can help you with the basic understanding how to do a three-step wax job.

The first thing you need to do is wash your car. If your car is in good condition all you may need to do is use your duster and finish up with a trigger wash. Meguiars, Griot's and, The Carnuba Store all have excellent products that will get the job done. If your car is to dirty for a quick wipe down then you need to do it the old fashion way. Get out the bucket and soap and hose the car down and give it a real good bath. Make sure the car feels cool and you work in the shade. Use good quality car wash soap along with clean wash mitt. I like to start from the top and work down, leaving the dirtiest parts for last; this keeps the water cleaner longer in the bucket. Use a clean chamois to dry off the car. The benefits of a clean surface cannot be over emphasized.

Now that your car is clean and ready for wax, you need to feel the paint with your hand and see if the surface has any texture? If it does, you need to remove it before you start waxing. They're a lot of ways to eliminate them. One way is to use a product called clay. Clay is like play-dough and you rub it on the paint and it will remove the containments from the surface. This leaves the finish feeling very smooth. This product is easy to use and then you're ready for the next step. Like all the products mentioned here, please read the directions completely before working on your baby.

Now some paints are going to benefit from using a polish or glaze to achieve a high gloss finish. Glazes and polishes, when used be hand will usually remove mild swirl marks, scratches, and refresh the paint with oils. When applying glazes or waxes use a wax pad

or sponge and go in straight back and forth method. Rub the glaze in well; one good coat is better than two quick coats. Once you are happy with the shine you can proceed with a coat of wax. You must wax after you use a glaze because the glaze offers no lasting protection at all, the only thing the glaze does is to make the paint shiny. So with that said, you can use one of the many waxes on the market now days. A carnuba based wax works well and offers good protection along with good clarity. If you think that sounds like to much work or you don't have the time to a three-step process, then there's a cleaner wax. The cleaner wax is just what the name implies, it has a chemical cleaner and a wax. These waxes work well in a time pinch, but won't match the shine or clarity of a three-step wax job.

Whatever method is right for you, you're going to need clean towels and some good lighting. Always remember to double - check your work outside in the direct sunlight. I hope that I was able to help out with a little information. Good luck!

Wax on, Mark