

Happy Holidays everyone!

With the Holiday Season upon us our garage time is going to become very limited. So, the objective here will be to tell you how to keep your car looking presentable even when you're in a pinch for time.

If your car is dirty, you will need to wash it. Resist the temptation to drive through the local Car Wash! Spend the time to do it yourself. The half hour spent is well worth the little bit of grief it might cost you. Get out your bucket and chamois and go to work. You can save time by using a large sponge opposed to a wash mitt. The sponge will leave a better finish, helping to minimize hairline scratches. Common sense tells you to start at the top and work down; this will keep your wash sponge cleaner and free of particles that might damage your paint. Using a separate sponge to do the lower bodywork and wheels is a good idea. A huge time saver is to use your air compressor to blow all the water off your car. If you don't have an air compressor, some shop vacuums have a blow side for your hose to attach to. This will work almost as well. Blow off as much water as possible, remembering to do the door jams and mirrors. Finish with micro-fiber towels or a chamois. A word of advice here, before you wash your car use your air compressor to blow out the inside of your garage. Because most of us have a "real lifestyle" garage and the floor is not always perfectly clean. By doing this you will eliminate the problem of kicking up dust and dirt all over your car as you work.

If your car is only dusty you can save time by using a California Duster and just dust your car off. Don't use the duster too close to the bottom edges or around the rear bumper, because these areas tend to get the dirtiest. This will keep the duster clean for the next time. A product like Quick Detailer will enhance your cars' finish in a short amount of time with minimal effort. Follow the directions on the product, making sure to use clean micro-fiber or terrycloth towels. When your ready to clean your rims put on a pair of rubber gloves. Your hands will stay clean and you will save time in the clean up process. Most of the time, you can just dust off your rims with a dry towel. If the inside of your rims are visible they need to be attended to. Dust the inside first, and then clean the outside. If your wheels are chrome, you can use a window cleaner after dusting for a nice shine. Save the chrome polish for another day. Quick Detailer can be used on your painted rims as well as your car. If you like to use Armor All on your tires, spray it

on a sponge and wipe down the tires. It is a good idea to do this before working on your rims.

These are some very basic techniques for cleaning your car. The Holiday Season is better spent with family and friends than working in your garage.

Wax on.