

Applying Car Wax

Waxing your car with car wax is an essential part of car maintenance, but few people know how to do it well. Here are a few answers to the most common questions car owners have about using [car wax](#).

What function, exactly, does car wax perform?

Car wax protects the paint, creating a barrier between the paint and corrosive substances like tree sap and bird droppings. It also protects the paint from ultraviolet induced fading and reduces oxidation in the paint. Some modern waxes have additives that also help to clean the car and buff away tiny scratches. But the most visible effect is the creation of rich, deep color and a high shine.

How often should I apply car wax?

Every two to three months, depending on the type of wax you use. Spray on waxes hold up worse than liquid or paste waxes. Your climate also makes a difference: If you park your car outside, live in a very hot area, have a lot of blowing sand, or expose your car to any other conditions that could affect the condition of the paint, you should wax more often. The best way to tell whether your car is due for a wax is to watch how water beads on the finish. If the drops are over half an inch wide or if the water forms sheets instead, your car needs another coat of wax.

What is the best way to wax a car?

First, wash and dry your car. The car should be absolutely dry before you start waxing. Water and wax do not mix. If you parked your car in the sun to dry it, move it to a shady spot and let it cool off before you start waxing, since heat can bake the wax onto the car, with ugly results.

Protect any parts you do not want to wax with masking tape. Using a damp sponge, apply the car wax to the car. Small circles work best for older cars, and long strokes work best for new cars with the newer types of finish that are now on the market. Avoid letting wax settle into the seams of the car, and do not let wax get onto any dull plastic your car may have on its exterior. Follow the same path across the car to buff off the excess wax, using a lint free soft towel. When the car is free of excess wax, go over it again with the softest cloth you can find to polish it and finish removing any streaks.

Peel off the masking tape, and you have a freshly waxed car! Related Content [Waterless car wash](#) | [Automobile](#) | [Car wash supplies](#) | [Waterless car washing](#) |

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