

Detailing your vehicle with a Nano Ceramic Paint Coating

The key to a successful detailing project to achieve maximum quality which includes an ultra-smooth paint surface, shine and reflective qualities is the surface prep.

Many car owners want the nice shine, but fail to prepare the paint surface properly. The techniques mentioned below have provided superior results. Many owners underestimate the paint contaminants that our vehicles are subjected too on a daily basis. Whether the vehicle is new or older, proper surface de-contamination methods are extremely important.

Over the years, I have detailed many premium sports cars using the techniques mentioned below. What is most interesting is that detailing a vehicle has become easier over the years with new technology and products available to the car enthusiast.

I own several premium sports car brands which include Jaguar, Porsche and Chevrolet (Corvette). Each time I secure a new vehicle either new or used, they go through this detail process of paint protection.

The cost to complete a superior detailing project can run from \$800 to over \$4000 at the top of the line detail shop. Average costs are about \$1200. With the ease of new products, a car owner can complete the project with superior results for about \$125.00 to \$150.00.

Following these steps below will provide ease of maintenance in the future and your vehicle will look in showroom condition for years to come.

IMPORTANT: Steps 1 to 8 should be completed in a shaded area. We do not want the paint surface to become "hot". **We do "not" want a hot surface to apply the ceramic paint coating. The paint surface must be cool.**

- 1) Test the paint surface for contaminants. Slowly and gently wipe the paint surface with your fingers lightly to see if you can feel any surface contaminants. In many instances you will not be able to do so. Now, take a plastic sandwich baggie and place your hand in the baggie and slide it over the paint surface. There is a good chance that you will feel a sandpaper like surface. We want to eliminate

that roughness and make the paint ultra-smooth. In order to smooth the paint to an ultra-smooth status you will need to use a "clay bar" which is a proven old school method to remove contaminants or use the newest technology using a surface prep wash mitt. I now recommend the surface prep wash mitts. There are several available in the marketplace with costs under \$25.00 for the mitt. The mitts are re-usable. Using the new mitt technology will substantially cut your prep work time by 2/3rds.

- 2) Rinse the vehicle and let the water sit for a few minutes to break up any dust and dirt. For a wash solution, I suggest a 5-gallon bucket filled with about 4 gallons of clean water and use about 10-12 drops of Dawn Dish Washing Detergent found at any grocery store. You may have some of this already, Dawn will cut thru any oil on the surface. The Dawn solution will also act as a lubricant when using the surface prep mitts. Get the water soapy and sudsy.
- 3) Dip the surface mitt into the solution and wash the vehicle using normal pressure on the glove. You will immediately feel the glove working and the paint surface will become ultra-smooth. Be sure to keep the polymer surface of the mitt wet and slippery with the Dawn solution. You should be able to complete surface cleaning in about 15 to 20 minutes max.
- 4) Rinse the vehicle thoroughly with clean water. Dry with a Waffle Weave Towels (WWT) as the WWT will absorb the water quickly and dry the car very well.
- 5) Our next step to "prep polish" the vehicle using the recommended Meguiar's 205 polish. This prep polish can be applied by hand or with a DA Buffer at a speed of 5. Use normal pressure when using a buffer or hand polishing pad and take your time, working in small sections of the car, hood, quarter panels etc. Follow the instruction on the M205 bottle and buff with a microfiber towel. It should take about 1 hour to complete this process.
- 6) After the vehicle is polished and buffed out, take break. A solution of 70% isopropyl alcohol and 30% should be mixed. You can buy the isopropyl alcohol at any grocery store, Walgreens, CVS etc., for under \$2.00 per bottle, 2 bottles are suggested. You will use the

solution to wipe down any residue from the prep polish that might have been missed during the buff out process. Simply pour the solution onto a microfiber towel. The solution will dry quickly and to an ultra-clean surface. Time to complete about 15 to 20 minutes.

- 7) You are now ready to apply the nano-ceramic paint coating. The paint coating will come in a spray bottle. **The best success is to apply in a thin coat. Thin is in.** Spray the Lake Country applicator as recommended in my detail supply list to get it moist. Work in small sections. Apply a few sprays of the ceramic coating to the paint surface directly and using the applicator, work slowly in up and down motions and then cross wise. Do not apply in a circular motion. Your mind will tell you to go circular but stay on course with up and down strokes and sideways. The coating will "flash" and you will see it do this as it is applied. Wait about one minute then gently wipe the coating down with a microfiber cloth to what I call "leveling". You will see any flashing disappear and the shine will be evident. It will take about 1 hour to 1 ½ hours to complete the coating. Take your time and work slowly. You want perfection, not speed. Be sure to cover every inch of the painted surfaces. Some areas such as the hood (bonnet) and quarter panels, roof etc. will be easy. The smaller areas like around the grill, lights etc., will take more time. You can cover the plastic headlamps, tail lamps etc. with no problems and I highly suggest that you do so. Once completed move on to the next step.

Move the vehicle out into the sunlight if you have sun. You will want to keep the vehicle in the sunlight to help "bake" the ceramic paint coating into the surface and let the coating "cure".

After a few hours, park the vehicle in a shaded area or best, a garage. Cover the car with a car cover or bed sheets. Do not drive the vehicle for about 24 hours. The nano-ceramic paint coating needs to "cure" into the paint surface. After 24 hours you can drive the vehicle. Do not wash for a period of 4 to 5 days.

Your vehicle paint surface will have maximum shine and reflective qualities. Future washing will show super hydrophobic water

beading and will be very easy to wash and dry. Waffle Weave Towels are always suggested for drying. You will see a major difference in hydrophobic beading when caught in the rain or any time the car gets wet.

You have now achieved an ultra-smooth slick finish with superior shine and reflective qualities that will last for up to 3 years dependent on how the car is stored when not driving. I do suggest a cheap car cover priced under \$50.00 from sellers like eBay. Since the car cover will be used when indoors a nice loose fit cover is the best. Some car owners want a super tight fit cover, but may cause more harm to the paint surface than a loose cover.

I sincerely hope that you have found these detailing instructions to be helpful and valuable. Most all of your personal satisfaction that you have now completed a highly successful detailing of your beautiful sports or luxury vehicle. You have saved hundreds if not a \$1000 dollars by completing this DIY detailing project.

Happy detailing...Richard Dziak

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