Care of Matte or Low-Gloss Finishes

A MATTE OR LOW-GLOSS FINISH IS A UNIQUE EXTERIOR FINISH THAT GIVES YOUR VEHICLE A DISTINCTIVELY DIFFERENT APPEARANCE. IT REQUIRES SPECIAL CARE TO MAINTAIN ITS UNIQUE LOOK.

A LOW-GLOSS FINISH IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER AUTOMOTIVE PAINTS. STANDARD HIGH-GLOSS PAINTS USE A CLEARCOAT FINISH THAT REFLECTS LIGHT AND GIVES A GLASS-LIKE OR SHINY APPEARANCE. A MATTE OR LOW-GLOSS FINISH USES A DIFFERENT TYPE OF COATING THAT DIFFUSES LIGHT, CAUSING THE FLAT OR DULL APPEARANCE.

UNLIKE A STANDARD HIGH-GLOSS COATING, DAMAGE TO A LOW-GLOSS COATING CAUSED BY SCRATCHES OR AGGRESSIVE CLEANING CANNOT BE POLISHED OR BUFFED OUT. ONCE AN AREA BECOMES DAMAGED OR GLOSSY, THE ORIGINAL MATTE OR LOW-GLOSS APPEARANCE CANNOT BE RESTORED.

PREP RECOMMENDATIONS

After reading this guide, should you have further questions about the care for your matte finish vehicle, please contact your PPG Representative.

GENERAL CLEANING

To maintain your vehicle’s low-gloss appearance for years to come, please refer to the following maintenance recommendations below.

DO NOT:

- Use any type of wax, polish, detail spray, or any products made for a standard, glossy finish. Use only products specifically developed for low-gloss or matte finish paint.
- Use products that are even mildly abrasive, such as rubbing compounds or glazes.
- Use mechanical cleaners or polishers.
- Use commercial car wash facilities and/or their finish enhancement/protection products. Facilities that use commercial brushes or towels can damage the low-gloss finish.
- Use terrycloth, cloth, or paper towels.
- Rub the finish vigorously. This will burnish the finish, causing a permanent shiny spot.
- Wipe vehicle in a circular motion. Lightly wipe the vehicle in a forward and backward motion.

DO:

- Remove foreign substances such as insect remains, tar, and road debris using a soft applicator and a mild solvent. Saturate and soak the area before cleaning—lightly rub to clean.
- Hand wash with a soft wash mitt and mild cleaning product and soak the area before cleaning—lightly rub to clean.
- Remove foreign substances such as insect remains, tar, and road debris using a soft applicator and a mild solvent. Saturate and soak the area before cleaning—lightly rub to clean.
- Use microfiber cleaning clothes with alcohol-based window cleaner for basic surface cleaning.

SPOT CLEANING

Pressure washing is the preferred way for removing typical road dirt and debris. However, when you need to do a quick spot cleaning to remove tree sap or bug/road debris before it causes stains and lasting damage to the finish, follow the recommendations outlined below:

Equipment/Supplies:
- Alcohol-based window cleaner (not vinegar- or ammonia-based) or mixture of 50% alcohol and 50% deionized water.
- If needed, tar remover or mild solvent.
- Microfiber soft cloth suitable for low-gloss or matte finishes

Cleaning Tip: Always test cleaning products in hidden area before using.

Cleaning Procedure:
- Apply cleaner to both the microfiber towel and the spot/surface to be cleaned.

Note: Using a dry towel can damage the finish.

WASHING YOUR VEHICLE

Pressure Washing:

Pressure washing is the best way to remove heavy soiling and debris before washing. A 40º fan tip is recommended keeping the tip at least 12 inches from the surface/finish.

For tough-to-clean stains, refer to the “Spot Cleaning” recommendations outlined in this document.

Hand Washing:

Hand wash for best results. Be sure to park your vehicle in a cool, shaded area. Avoid direct sunlight. Follow the recommended steps listed below.

- Before soaping up the car, prepare your equipment and supplies.
- Pre-Wash Check List:
  - Car wash soap specifically designed for a matte or low-gloss finish.
  - Soft car wash mitt, wash pad, and/or microfiber sponge.
  - Two buckets with dirt separator grids at the bottom
  - Hose and sprayer with shut-off nozzle.
  - Alcohol-based window cleaner (not vinegar- or ammonia-based) or mixture of 50% alcohol and 50% deionized water.
  - If needed, tar remover or mild solvent.
  - Microfiber soft cloth suitable for matte or low-gloss finishes
  - Chamois cloth for drying.

Cleaning Tip: Always test cleaning products in hidden area before using.

Drying:

Drying:
- Avoid circular motions. This can leave swirls in the finish.
- Dry with clean damp microfiber soft cloth.
- Air dry, dampen the areas that you are not drying.
- Prepare one bucket with matte/low-gloss finish car wash soap, using a damp microfiber cloth. Rinse well with water.
- Dry with clean damp microfiber soft cloth.

Cleaning Tip: Saturate/soak microfiber cloth with tar remover and place on the debris. Allowing to soak for approximately five minutes.

WASHING TIPS

Pre- and Post-Cleaning Tips

- Do not use soap, detergent, or any petroleum-based products to wash the matte finish paint. Avoid getting any wheel cleaner used to wash the matte finish paint.
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- Do not use harsh detergents or soap to wash the matte finish paint.
- Avoid using abrasive products or cleaning devices on the matte finish paint.
- Do not use high-pressure water to wash the matte finish paint.

Drying Tips

- Do not use high-pressure water to dry the matte finish paint.
- Avoid using harsh detergents or soap to dry the matte finish paint.
- Avoid using abrasive products or cleaning devices to dry the matte finish paint.
- Avoid using high-pressure water devices to dry the matte finish paint.

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