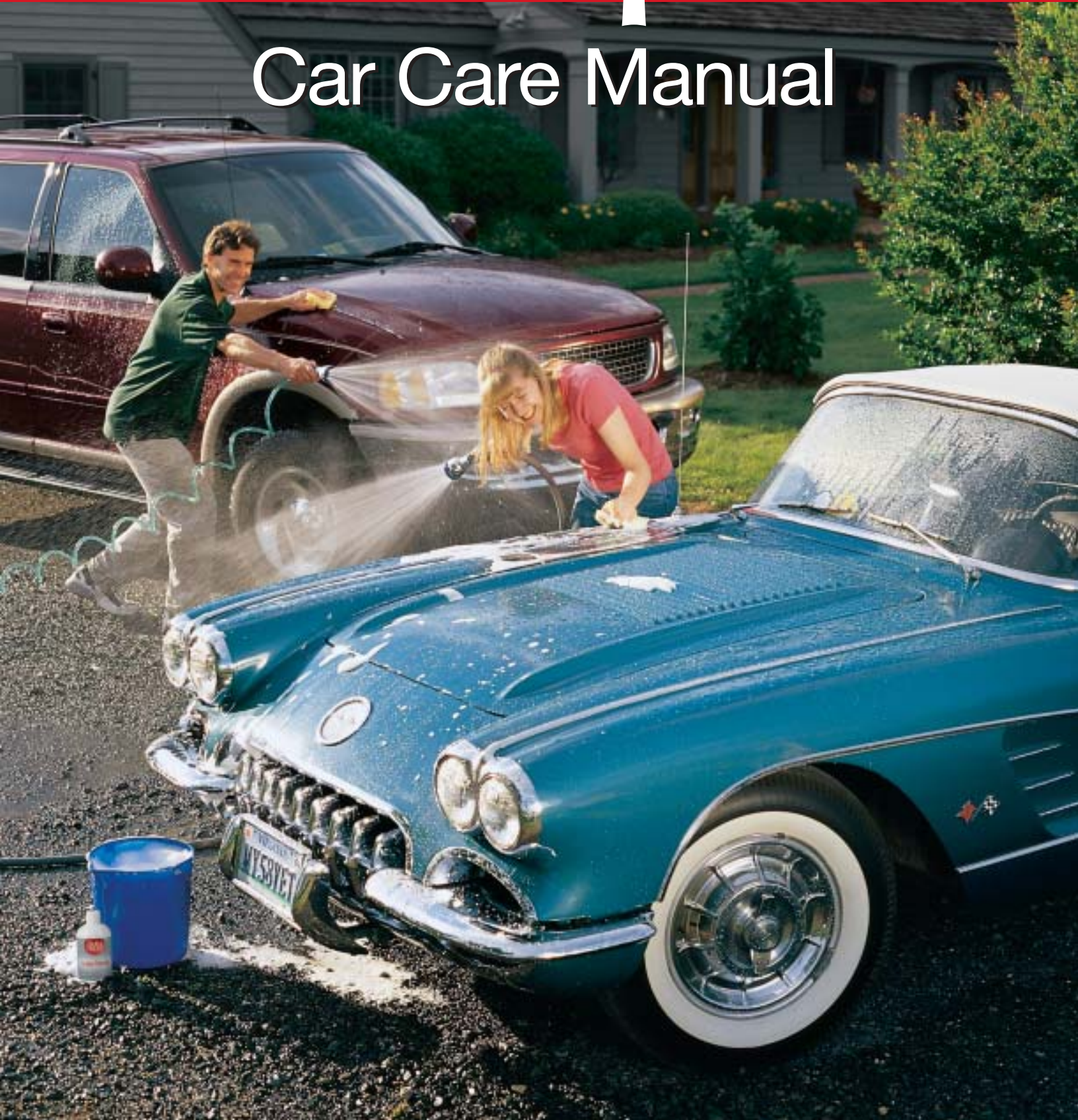


AutoSport™

Car Care Manual



We at AutoSport want to make it easy for you to keep your automobile looking like new for as many years as possible. With the right products and proper care you will be able to maintain your vehicle's showroom appearance and increase its resale value.

I. Washing

In addition to making your vehicle look great, proper washing will increase the time between major wax jobs by removing loose contaminants that can destroy the wax and dull the finish. Wash your vehicle as often as possible. To begin, pull the vehicle into a shaded area and let it cool. Direct sunlight and a heated surface will quickly evaporate the wash and rinse water, leaving those nasty salt and mineral deposits called "water spots." These deposits are capable of eating through wax and actually etching paint if left unchecked for any length of time.



Don't try to wash too large of an area before rinsing.

The right stuff...

Use a premium quality liquid soap formulated for automobiles, such as our AutoSport Auto Wash concentrate. The "mountain-of-suds" action of this pH-balanced soap (pH7) provides lubrication between the sponge or mitt and the painted surface. The light cleaning agents reduce the surface tension of the water, and float away particles of dirt and contaminants, leaving the wax surface unharmed. Never use household cleaners such as dishwashing or laundry detergents. These harsh chemical cleaners are formulated to remove grease and oil and can remove all wax protection, accelerating oxidation by depleting the oils from the paint.

In a large, clean bucket (3-4 gallons); mix 2 capfuls of car wash concentrate to every gallon of lukewarm water. Water that is extremely hot or cold can cause a "shock" to the paint, leaving microscopic fractures in the paint's surface.

Spray the entire surface of the car with a strong stream of water to wash away heavy deposits. Apply the soapy water with a clean sea sponge or lamb's wool wash mitt. The fibers in synthetic wash mitts and dirt that collects on the surfaces of synthetic sponges can scratch the paint's surface. Natural sponges and lambs wool have filaments that trap dirt and grime, keeping it away from the surface. Regardless of whether you use a mitt or sponge, rinse often to remove damaging particles.

Start at the top and work down...

Begin with the top horizontal surfaces, washing from the top of the vehicle down, rinsing often to keep the surface wet. Some enthusiasts use different sponges, mitts or cloths on the upper surfaces and the lower surfaces. Since the lower surfaces are closer to the road, they have more dirt and grime to collect on the surface of the soap applicator. If you drop it – get a clean one. You probably picked up sand and small rocks, and you don't want to rub those into your vehicle's finish.

Washing continues on next page...

After you've washed the horizontal surfaces; go to the vertical ones, always washing from top to bottom. The lower surfaces should be washed last, as they are probably the dirtiest and will leave considerable dirt in the bottom of your wash bucket. Next you'll want to wash the grille, lower trim, bumpers and wheels. Open doors, hood and trunk and wash seams and surfaces using disposable towels.

The final rinse of the vehicle should be gentle. Hold the hose nozzle close to the paint, letting the water gently flow across the surface. This will shorten drying time because the water "sheets" off rather than leaving water spots.

To prevent water spots...

Begin drying immediately. Remove excess water with a squeegee, chamois or cotton towels. If you prefer a chamois, use it only to remove excess water, and be sure it is English Cod Oil tanned, like our AutoSport Double-Thick Chamois. Other tanning processes use chemicals that can remove wax and scratch the finish. Dampen the chamois or towel slightly, wring it out, and lay it open on the surface. Gently pull the water from the surface in a straight-line motion. Work from top to bottom, and if using towels, change them often. With heavy deposits of water removed, complete the drying process by gently buffing with clean cotton towels. If you're using new towels, wash them first, to remove any "sizing." It's best to wash them in phosphate-free detergent and do not use fabric softeners. Chemicals in fabric softeners can damage automotive finishes.



A good chamois takes water off fast.



Wring it out, rinsing often in clear water.



Towel off any last remaining droplets.

II. Cleaning...

Run your fingers across a horizontal surface of your vehicle. If you feel any sticky residue or sandpaper-like grit, it needs to be fully cleaned before waxing. The cleaning process will remove harmful residue, smooth out fine scratches and remove the oxidation that's dulling the finish. How often you perform this ritual is dependent upon where your vehicle is parked and the environmental conditions to which it is subjected. If you use a garage most of the time, you'll probably need to clean and wax twice per year. If the vehicle is parked outside under harsh conditions (smog, acid rain, etc.) you may need to clean and wax it every two months. In a given environment, a dark car may need to be waxed more often than a lighter one.



Let your fingers tell you when it's time to clean the surface.

Which cleaning product?

Once you've removed the heavy deposits and road film with a good bath, it's time to clean the finish. A pre-wax cleaner removes wax buildup and will penetrate the surface of the finish, releasing contaminants, and impurities. This allows a better bond between the vehicle's finish and the wax

If the paint is dirty, has a few fine scratches, or shows light oxidation, you can apply pre-wax cleaner by hand or with a random-orbital polisher such as our Porter-Cable unit. AutoSport has formulated two different pre-wax cleaners, appropriately called AutoSport Pre-Wax Cleaner (for use by hand only) and AutoSport Orbital Pre-Wax Cleaner (for machine or hand use). These contain micro-fine abrasives and cleaners that are safe for any paint (including clearcoat).

Note: If your paint is badly scratched or oxidized (chalky and dull), these products may not be able to fully restore the finish. More aggressive polishing compounds and rubbing compounds are available, but they will take off paint at a rapid rate and are best left to professionals.

Cleaning continues on next page...

CLEARCOAT

Over 90% of today's automotive finishes are clear coated. Clearcoat is a multi-layer finish comprised of a primer, a base coat (the color of the car), and a clear coat. Because it is clear and light reflects through it, this top layer is very sensitive to scratches and swirl marks. Oxidation is less obvious with clearcoat, but it still occurs. Airborne pollutants, acid rain and other factors will reduce the reflective quality of clearcoat until it becomes dull and lifeless. This top, clear coat is extremely thin and should never be treated with harsh abrasive cleaners and polishes. All of our AutoSport car care products are safe for clearcoat finishes.

If you are cleaning by hand...

With a clean, soft cloth or applicator pad, apply the pre-wax cleaner to a small 1-2 square foot area in STRAIGHT (not circular) strokes with medium pressure. The cloth or applicator pad will pick up contaminants during this process, so it's important to switch to a clean portion of the pad or cloth as you work. Be careful not to apply too much pressure to the applicator when cleaning ridges where the finish is the thinnest. Work the cleaner into the paint's surface until it becomes tacky with contaminants and dead paint. Using a soft cotton towel, buff the contaminants from the surface as it dries. Remember, always use a linear motion to prevent swirl marks. Change towels often, and if you should drop one, get a clean one. Don't risk rubbing grit into your vehicle's finish.

If you are using a machine...

Our Orbital Pre-Wax Cleaner brings out the shine in tired paint and can be applied by hand or machine. By hand, it is applied just like the regular Pre-Wax Cleaner. If you'd rather not do it by hand, use a quality random-orbit machine to apply the polish. Random-orbit action is totally safe for your vehicle's finish and will not leave ugly swirl marks. Hold the machine with light to medium pressure, letting it glide across the surface. As with hand application, work in small areas and buff the surface as the cleaner/polish dries. The machine should be used only to apply the cleaner. For best results, buffing should still be done by hand.

III. Waxing...

You've washed, cleaned and polished your vehicle to a fine luster; now it's time to apply a coat of wax to add a deep, rich gloss and to preserve the finish.

A quality wax, such as AutoSport Yellow Carnauba Wax, will restore the oils to the finish and fill in fine scratches and imperfections. Show-car enthusiasts and experienced detailers recommend a premium grade Carnauba wax for quality auto finish protection. Carnauba is extremely hard, and must be blended with other compounds to produce a workable product. This hardness accounts for its finish protection attributes.

Waxing Continues on next page...



Carnauba Wax Facts...

Carnauba wax is extracted from the leaves of the Carnauba palm tree (Copernicia Cerifera) that grows in northeastern Brazil. During the harvest period (August – January) the leaves are cut, bundled together and put in the sun to dry. A powder is then mechanically threshed from the leaves and graded by color, the lighter powder originating from younger leaves. Once refined, Carnauba wax is offered in different colors, grades and forms. The Prime Yellow grades, which are a very pale yellow wax, are considered the finest and best for automotive waxes. And in spite of its limited habitat, the Carnauba palm is in no way an endangered species.

Once applied, a good Carnauba wax should deliver an even coat and protective finish and provide a deep, lasting shine. AutoSport Yellow Carnauba Wax is made from raw #1 grade yellow Carnauba, the finest available. It's an easily-applied, butter-soft paste that replenishes the oils in the paint and dries to a rock-hard protective finish.

The best time to wax your vehicle is in early morning or late afternoon. The vehicle should be out of direct sunlight and its surface can be warm, but not hot. You don't want to bake the wax and harden it to the point that the excess is difficult to remove. Humidity is also a factor, as high humidity can cause wax to streak.

By hand or machine?

Paste Carnauba wax should only be applied by hand, using a clean applicator. With AutoSport Liquid Carnauba Wax, you have a choice of application—either by hand or with a random-orbit machine. Applicators with a foam core are recommended as they conform to the curves of the vehicle and the foam does not absorb the wax.

By hand or machine, apply the wax to a small, 1-2 square foot area at a time. If you're waxing by hand, be sure to use linear, back-and-forth strokes to prevent swirl marks. As the applied wax becomes tacky, buff it to a high gloss using a soft cotton or micro-fiber towel. The excess wax must be removed while still slightly "wet." Remember, we're using a wax that dries really HARD. Constantly rotate the buffing towel so that you are using a clean section to remove excess wax. Use the wax sparingly. You want an even coat of wax, and if you apply too much, you're only wasting it. Only a very thin layer will adhere to the vehicle's finish and heavy deposits will be more difficult to remove in the final buffing process. When the vehicle is completely waxed and buffed, the excess wax should be removed from those cracks and crevices around moldings and door edges. A soft, clean toothbrush is an excellent tool for this process.

For just a quick touch-up...

Between major wax jobs, our AutoSport Carnauba Detailing Wax is ideal for cleaning up those water spots, tree sap, and bug and bird residue. Just spritz it on and buff it dry with a cotton towel to restore that brilliant just-waxed shine.



Apply paste wax by hand...



...or liquid, by machine or by hand.



Either way, buffing off is the same.

IV. Wheel Care

The vast majority of today's sport wheels are polished or painted and then clear coated, just like the vehicle's body. Consequently, they are protected in the same manner as the body finish: wash, clean, and wax.

Harmful disk brake dust builds up on wheels, particularly the front ones, and can be removed with a non-caustic wheel cleaner such as our AutoSport Gloss Wheel Cleaner. It easily removes the grime and keeps your wheels looking shiny longer. However, if you've waxed your wheels, it's best to spritz them with our AutoSport Detailing Wax after cleaning, as the repeated application of wheel cleaner will remove the wax coating.



Black brake dust can eat away the finish coat if you let it!

V. Tires, Rubber and Exterior Vinyl Protection...

There are two main elements that attack tires, vinyl and rubber trim: UV rays and ozone. Manufacturers add oils to rubber and vinyl to keep them pliable, but constant exposure to the sun's UV rays and atmospheric ozone depletes these oils, causing rubber and vinyl to deteriorate.

Tire/rubber/vinyl dressings should contain strong UV protectants, but should be free of raw silicone oil and formaldehyde. These latter ingredients will dissolve the oils in rubber and vinyl. Our AutoSport Tire & Trim Protection replenishes these essential oils and, when used regularly, prevents aging and cracking caused by UV rays and environmental pollutants. It dries to a matte, non-oily finish that won't attract dust and debris.



Take an extra five minutes to protect and beautify your tires.

VI. Interior Vinyl Protection...

Exposure to UV rays causes vinyl to release the oils that make it flexible. This is particularly noticeable on a vinyl dash. That difficult-to-remove haze that sometimes forms on the inside of your windshield is actually escaping oils that have deposited themselves on the glass. As with exterior vinyl protection, never use formulas containing raw silicone oil or formaldehyde. Those substances will dissolve the essential oils in the vinyl, causing it to crack.



Replenish the essential oils your vinyl needs.

Our AutoSport Interior Vinyl Protection contains UV protectants and essential oils to replace those lost from constant exposure to the sun and pollutants. It should be applied with a soft cloth and worked into the surface. Wait a few minutes and buff it to remove the excess. Treat vinyl upholstery the same way. But, pay particular attention to the dash, armrests, rear seat backs and any vinyl surface that's exposed to the sun. Those areas should be treated more often than others to protect them from harmful UV rays.

VII. Leather Care

Leather upholstery is the most delicate part of your vehicle, and represents a major investment. Body oils, clothing dyes and tobacco smoke can quickly discolor leather. But cleaning and conditioning on a regular basis will preserve your leather upholstery, keeping it looking and smelling new.

Cleaning...

Proper cleaning should remove contaminants—not grind them into the surface. Use pH-balanced (pH7) leather cleaner, such as our AutoSport Leather Cleaner, to remove dirt and oil without harming the delicate leather surface. Wet a washcloth in a bucket of water and wring it out. Leave it damp, and apply two or three half-dollar sized spots of leather cleaner to the wet cloth. Clean the surface in small sections (about 1 sq. foot), wipe away the cleaner, and towel dry. Rinse the washcloth and repeat this process until you've bathed all leather surfaces. Don't forget to clean the stitching. Ground-in dirt can ruin upholstery thread, so proper cleaning will extend thread life. You can spot-clean leather whenever necessary, but overall cleaning should be done about 2 - 3 times a year.



A little leather care keeps seats supple for years.

Conditioning...

Leather conditioning replaces natural oils to prevent cracking and leave the hide soft and supple. Our AutoSport Leather Conditioner, rich in lanolin and mink oil, feeds and preserves the hides while restoring the original luster. Apply the conditioner with a soft cloth or foam pad and work it into the leather. Allow it to “soak” for 30 minutes, then buff off the excess with a dry towel. It's important to buff, because excess conditioner can make your seats slippery. As with cleaning, do a section at a time, until all leather surfaces are covered. Conditioning is best done when the leather is warm and the pores can absorb the oils. Condition leather any time you spot-clean, but do the entire interior at least every 3 months, to restore the original moisture to the hide.

Vinyl-Coated Leather...

Some auto manufacturers upholster their vehicles with thin leather that has been coated with a flexible vinyl. Since the top layer is vinyl, this upholstery should be cleaned and preserved with interior vinyl protection, rather than leather cleaner and conditioner. If you're unsure whether or not your leather upholstery has a vinyl coating, a single drop of clear water will tell you. If the drop of water soaks into the surface and momentarily leaves a spot, it is not vinyl coated. If the leather is vinyl coated, no spot will appear because the water can't soak into the pores.

VII. Glass

The windows of your vehicle are the most important surfaces to keep clean. Your safety depends on your ability to see clearly, through glass that is free of light-catching streaks and filmy haze.

The true test of a glass cleaner is how well it avoids streaking and hazing, and our AutoSport Haze-Free Glass Cleaner is just that: haze free. It dries without streaks and gets those windows squeaky clean. It's also formulated to effectively remove the annoying (and dangerous) filmy residue on the inside of your windshield that seems especially prevalent in newer cars. Just spray and wipe. For best results, use two cotton or microfiber towels: one for cleaning, and the other to dry the glass.



Get rid of bugs on the outside; haze on the inside.

To remove heavy deposits of sap, bug-goo and bird droppings from glass, soak a small sponge with all-purpose cleaner and lay it on the spot for a few minutes, allowing the cleaner to soften the deposit. Once loosened, wipe with the sponge and follow-up with glass cleaner to remove the all-purpose cleaner and any residue. Be careful not to get all-purpose cleaner on other surfaces; it will remove wax and can damage clearcoat and paint. Do not use abrasive household cleaners, steel wool or scrubbing sponges on auto glass. They can damage glass to the point that vision is impaired and professional polishing will be required to remove the scratches.

VIII. Convertible Tops

There are two basic styles of convertible tops. Most American and Japanese cars use a vinyl-impregnated or vinyl-coated canvas, whereas most European manufacturers use a non-coated canvas. Routine cleaning of both styles is similar.

Routine Cleaning...

You don't need to use car wash on the top every time you wash the rest of the car. Plain water is often all that's needed. When it does become dirty, use a

pH-balanced car wash, like our AutoSport Auto Wash and rinse the top thoroughly. Continue rinsing until the surface stops "sudsing" and the water runs clear. Remove excess water with a squeegee or chamois and allow the top to dry thoroughly. If you're wiping it with a cloth, be sure that's it's lint free. A sticky paper-tape clothing-lint roller or plastic packing tape is handy for removing lint or debris that sticks to the top. Never apply cleaners or wax intended for automotive paint finishes as they will penetrate the fabric and cause discoloration.



Convertible Tops continues on next page...

Vinyl Tops:

Wash the top as above, then apply our Tire & Trim Protection to prevent aging and cracking caused by the sun's ultraviolet rays. Apply with a soft, lint-free cloth and work it into the surface of the top, allowing it to penetrate. Buff gently to remove the excess. Never use household scouring powders on a vinyl top. They'll keep it clean for about two weeks and then it will start to crack and fail. The chlorine bleaches in these powders will deplete the oils in the vinyl and remove the UV protectants.

Canvas Tops:

Canvas tops are actually easier to maintain than vinyl tops. Usually a simple cleaning with AutoSport Car Wash is all that's needed. In the case of bird droppings and the like, use a mild dilution of all-purpose cleaner and a soft brush to remove the stain. Scrub lightly so as not to remove the canvas' protective coating. When dry, use a very soft brush to "brush" the nap in one direction.

Rear Windows:

If you're lucky enough to have a glass rear window, clean it as you would any glass surface, being careful not to get the glass cleaner on the top fabric. Most rear windows are plastic, and you should never use glass cleaners on a plastic window. They are entirely too harsh and will cause the plastic to deteriorate.

Scratched and "foggy" plastic rear windows can often be polished back to "nearly-new" condition. A small-head random orbital polisher with an aggressive plastic polish can renew the surface, but you may want to have this done by a reputable auto detailer. The cost of this service is much less than the cost of replacing the window.

Creases in a convertible's plastic rear window can be prevented. Place a blanket or towel over the window as you fold the top down, so that the blanket/towel is folded within the window. The thickness prevents the window from creasing and the plastic surfaces from rubbing against each other.

Our Goal:

We, at AutoSport, are committed to providing you with the finest car care products available. It's our goal to help our customers keep their cars the best they've ever looked for as long as possible -- with a minimum of effort. If you have specific questions or comments, please send us e-mail: customerservice@autosportcatalog.com. We look forward to hearing from you!



Products Links (in order of article reference):

Product Description and Item #

[AutoSport Auto Wash #44104](#)

[Two Sea Sponges #22174](#)

[Lambs Wool Wash Mitt #22203](#)

[Jumbo Double-Thick Chamois #22172](#)

[20 Cotton Cleaning Towels #22156](#)

[AutoSport Pre-Wax Cleaner #44105](#)

[AutoSport Orbital Pre-Wax Cleaner #44133](#)

[AutoSport Yellow Carnauba Wax #44113](#)

[AutoSport Liquid Carnauba Wax #44115](#)

[AutoSport Carnauba Detailing Wax #44107](#)

[AutoSport Gloss Wheel Cleaner #44108](#)

[AutoSport Tire & Trim Protection #44116](#)

[AutoSport Interior Vinyl Protection #44106](#)

[AutoSport Leather Cleaner #44117](#)

[AutoSport Leather Conditioner #44119](#)

[AutoSport Haze-Free Glass Cleaner #44112](#)