

Steps to do a quality paint correction

1. Wash the car (by hand)

Use any quality car soap or just use Dawn dish soap, This removes most all wax from the car. Dry the car (a large dense microfiber towel works well).

2. Clay bar the car (by hand)

Use either traditional clay bar and lubricant or new “synthetic” clay bar pads and lubricant. This removes any fine contamination left embedded in the paint. You should be able to feel before and after difference when you rub your hand over the paint. In many cases, you will see a difference also.

Next steps will use a RO (Random orbital) or Dual Action Orbital Polisher

Examples: Harbor Freight 6” Polisher, Griot’s Garage 6” Polisher, Porter Cable 6” polisher

3. Compound/cutting process (use appropriate compound/cutting pad)

Usually use an orange pad. Denser orange foam correcting pads are built for speed of material removal. The dense orange foam keeps polishes/compounds on top of the foam to reduce waste.

If there are significant scratches or scraps, a cutting/compound (read abrasive finish removal) should be used. Work about a 2 x2 foot area at a time to keep compound “wet”. Don’t let compound dry or let machine bind on the finish.

Micro fibers and lubricant comes in handy when removing residue. Check pad and replace if it begins to show compound build up.

4. Polishing (use appropriate polishing pad)

Usually a black pad, slightly softer than orange. Black foam finishing pads are perfect for applying a finishing polish or glaze to a vehicle.

If the finish only has light swirl marks, a polishing step might be all that’s required. They are much less abrasive than compound/cutting materials. Again work a 2 x 2 foot area at a time and don’t let the polish dry out on the pad/paint.

Micro fibers and lubricant comes in handy when removing residue. Check pad and replace if it begins to show polish build up.

5. Sealing or waxing (use appropriate sealing/waxing pad)

Use your favorite wax, or synthetic sealant

These are usually a red pad. Red foam finishing/waxing pads applies a thin, even coat of wax to create a uniform shine. The non abrasive red foam keeps wax on the surface of the pad so none is wasted.

Micro fibers come in handy when removing residue.

6. Cleanup excess polish, wax, etc in cracks, door frames, hood /trunk area. Clean off any wax/polish from lights, trim, etc.

Use small detail brushes, microfiber and a detail spray if necessary

7. Treat rubber with a rubber/vinyl cleaner/conditioner to keep from drying out and cracking
8. Clean the glass
9. Step back and admire your work!

Good site for DIY car detailers

<https://www.theartofcleanliness.com/automotive/the-ultimate-guide-to-buffing-pads/>

Foam Pads

Foam pads typically fall into three main categories: Compound, Polish, and Finish. Some manufacturers have more categories between these and that just means they allow a smaller step down between levels of cut. Generally, the more aggressive a pad is marked as the stiffer the foam is that was used in the construction of the pad.

Compounding



- Most aggressive
- Used with a cutting compound that has a high level of cut or aggressiveness
- First step in removing surface defects

Polishing



- Used with a polishing compound that has a low level of cut or aggressiveness
- Second step in removing surface defects

Finishing



- Used with a last step product like a sealant or all in one product such as a cleaner wax that have low to no cut or aggressiveness
- Last step in restoring and protecting surface finish

Machine Polishing

1. Attach the pad to the center of the backing plate on your polisher.
2. Prime the pad by applying a few small drops of polish evenly across the face of the pad into the pores of the pad.
3. Work the polish into the pad with your fingers and repeat until the entire face of the pad contains polish. You want to use the least amount of polish you can to cover the face of the pad. It should be soaked.
4. Apply three dime sized drops of fresh polish to the face of the pad near the edge.
5. Place the pad against the surface you're working on and move the pad around the surface a little to distribute the polish.
6. Turn the machine on low and move it across the surface to completely distribute the polish.
7. Turn the machine to medium or medium-high and begin polishing the surface.
8. Make sure you periodically clean the pad or change it out for a fresh one as described in the section below.
9. Repeat steps 4-8 on a used pad or 1-8 on a clean pad.

What types of Microfiber Towel Exist?

Standard Weave

This weave is typically for general use in cleaning, polishing, and waxing. It is identified by the uniform texture across the entire surface of the towel.

Ultra Low / No Pile 200 GSM

- Glass / Lense Cleaning
- Excellent at removing dirt and oil from smooth surfaces such as smart phone screens and eye glass lenses.
- Best Example: [Premium Glass Towel by The Rag Company](#)



Short Pile 200-250 GSM

- General purpose cleaning
- Use on durable surfaces such as engine bay plastics, textured interior plastic, leather, and glass
- Example: Zwipes General Purpose Cleaning Towel



Short Pile 300-350 GSM

- Soft and gentle
- Safe on most surfaces
- Application of spray waxes & quick detailers, wax & polish removal
- Use on hard paints, wheels, exhaust tips, and glass
- Best Example: General Purpose Towel by The Rag Company



Medium Pile 360-450 GSM

- Very soft and gentle
- Safe on most surfaces
- Application of spray waxes & quick detailers, wax & polish removal
- Use on hard and soft paints, glass, wheels, exhaust tips, and plastics
- Best Example: Minx Professional Edgeless by The Rag Company



Long Pile / Plush 530 – 700 GSM

- Extremely soft, plush, and gentle
- Safe on all surfaces
- Application of spray waxes & quick detailers, wax & polish removal, waterless washes
- Use on hard and soft paints, glass, and plastics
- Best Example: Eagle Edgeless by The Rag Company



Waffle Weave

This weave is typically for drying tasks or cleaning tasks that benefit from quick absorption such as glass cleaning. It is identified by a surface texture that resembles the surface of a waffle or waffle iron.

Short Pile Waffle Weave 300-500 GSM

- Soft and gentle
- Drying towel
- Safe for use on all surfaces
- Great for drying clear-coated paint and glass
- Best Example: Dry Me a River by The Rag Company



Foam Core Short Pile Waffle Weave 300-500 GSM

- Soft and gentle
- Drying towel
- Safe for use on all surfaces
- Foam core for added absorption properties
- Thicker and stiffer due to the foam core but otherwise the same appearance wise to the typical waffle weave towel
- Best Example: Cobra Guzzler HD

Micro-Chenille

This weave is found on wash mitts and sponges. It consists of microfibers woven to form fingers that extend out from the mitt to increase the fabric's ability to hold dirt away from the surface being washed. This reduces scratching and marring of your paint as you agitate the surface to remove stubborn dirt and debris.

- Soft and gentle
- Washing with shampoo
- Safe for all surfaces when clean (remember to rinse often)
- Best Example: [Ultimate Car Wash Mitt](#)



Microfiber Scrubber



This is a weave usually found on sponges that is primarily for removing stubborn dirt spots. Do not use this type of sponge as a general all-over wash sponge. Use a product such as [Stoners Terminator](#) to loosen up any stuck on bug guts or asphalt before you scrub.

- Removing stubborn spots such as bug remains or bird droppings
- Not for use for general hand washing
- Use sparingly and with plenty of soap and water to reduce the risk of marring your paint
- Example: [Detailers Choice Scrubber](#)

