



# AUTO BOOT CAMP

## PRESS RELEASE

### **If You Can Sand a Surface, You Can Repair Basic Scratches on Your Vehicle**

**ST. PAUL, Minn., (July 19, 2011)** – You just bought your car, and all of a sudden tiny scratches appear around the door handle. Or your SUV leaves the car wash with brush marks across the hood. Or your rear lift gate is marred with fine scratches from boxes, sports gear and grocery bags. These small scratches deliver big irritation – and an even bigger ding to your vehicle value.

There are three solutions to these small scratches – have them repaired professionally for hundreds of dollars, ignore them and hope they don't multiply, or tackle them yourself. Now, there is a simple, easy to use scratch repair kit that actually works and is backed by extensive product testing. What's more, you don't need to be an automotive mechanic to use it.

“With very basic skills and the right products, you can add to the value of your car or truck by repairing paint scratches like a pro,” said Todd Mathes, automotive expert for 3M Car Care.

“If you want to improve your car's appearance and save money, too, repairing simple scratches yourself is now an easy project that delivers great benefits,” said Mathes. “3M Car Care uses professional-grade products and processes to create a DIY kit that delivers high-quality results.”

The Scratch Removal System from 3M provides all of the products and step-by-step guidance needed to repair small scratches. It improves a vehicle's appearance by sanding, compounding and polishing the clear coat. It is designed to remove defects to the clear coat, like fine scratches to the door handle, door panels or the trunk.

To determine if you should use the Scratch Removal System from 3M, run your fingernail over the scratch. If you can feel the scratch, but your fingernail does NOT catch, your scratch can be repaired using the Scratch Removal System. If your fingernail catches on the scratch or if you can see metal, follow manufacturers' repair procedures or see a professional collision shop. It will not eliminate deep or wide scratches or scratches that go through the clear coat, which may require repainting a portion of the vehicle.

### **Remove Scratches in a Snap**

When removing a defect in the paint surface, you are actually removing a very thin layer of the clear coat paint. Although that might sound scary, the Scratch Removal System from 3M helps you tackle the job without fear. All you need is a household drill (1200-1600 RPM), a microfiber cloth, spray bottle and water.

The Scratch Removal System from 3M includes a disc pad holder for a drill, Trizact brand 3000 grit sandpaper square, purple compounding pad, black polishing pad, Rubbing Compound, Scratch Remover, all from 3M along with step-by-step directions for use. An instructional video is also available on [www.3MCarCare.com](http://www.3MCarCare.com).

### **The Process is Simple**

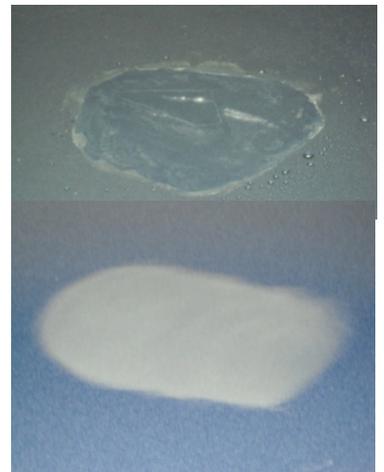
If you've ever sanded and refinished a piece of furniture or patched drywall, you can make this simple repair. There are just five key steps in the process, and the entire project can be complete in just an hour on a small section of the vehicle.

### Prepare the Surface

1. Clean the surface of the area to be repaired with car wash soap and water. Dry completely with a clean, dry cloth. When working around door handles, mirrors, bumpers, molding, decals and adjacent panels, protect from potential damage with Performance Masking Tape from 3M.

### Sand the Scratch

2. Spray water on the repair area and the Trizact 3000 grit abrasive square. Use the abrasive square to sand the immediate area of the scratch by hand. Confine sanding to a 4" x 4" area around the scratch. Gently sand the scratch area by hand using the grey/green side of the abrasive square. While sanding a white slurry or light foam will appear.
3. Wipe the sanded area approximately once every 10 seconds of sanding with a soft towel to determine if the scratch has been removed. If the scratch is still visible, spray the area and the abrasive square with water again and continue sanding.



**The area being sanded will become dull during the sanding process. The gloss will be restored during the compounding and polishing steps.**

4. Observe the scratch area from multiple angles to ensure the scratch has been removed completely. Once the scratch is no longer visible, wipe the area with a clean, dry towel and move on to the compounding step.

### Refine the Scratch

**SMART TIP: Always run the foam pad with rubbing compound. DO NOT hold the drill in one place while compounding; this will cause excessive heat that will lead to product smearing, handling issues, and paint damage.**

5. Mount the disc pad holder into a standard household drill. Attach and center the purple compounding pad to the disc pad holder. Place a quarter-sized amount of the Rubbing Compound from 3M onto the purple pad. Before turning the drill on, smear the rubbing compound with the purple pad over the sanded area. This will reduce splatter.



**SMART TIP: Use care around door handles, mirrors, bumpers, and adjacent panels. The side of the disc pad holder and the edge of the loop material on the purple pad can scratch or cause damage to paint.**

6. Buff area sanded in previous step. Extend beyond repair by approximately the width of the purple pad. This will ensure all scratches are removed from the surface. Buff area using light-to-medium pressure at a comfortable drill speed with up/down and side-to-side motions to ensure all sanded areas are compounded. Repeat application if any scratches or hazy/dull areas are still visible.
7. Remove any remaining rubbing compound from the surface with a clean, dry cloth before moving to the polishing step. If any rubbing compound sticks or smears on the surface, spray with water and wipe with a clean, dry cloth.

## Polish and Restore Shine

8. Remove the purple pad and replace it with the black polishing pad. Place a quarter-sized amount of Scratch Remover from 3M onto the black pad.
9. Polish area compounded in previous step. Extend beyond repair area by approximately the width of the black pad. This will ensure all scratches are removed from the surface. Polish area using light-to- medium pressure at a comfortable drill speed, using up/ down and side-to-side motions to ensure all compounded areas are polished.

Reduce pressure as polish dries and the desired shine is achieved. Repeat application if necessary. Buff area by hand with a clean, dry microfiber cloth to remove any remaining polish left on the surface.

## Protect the Repaired Area

For added protection, apply automotive wax to the repaired area and entire vehicle. For best results, 3M recommends using Performance Finish Synthetic Wax from 3M.

The 3M Car Care has a comprehensive line of 3M products for automotive maintenance. The innovative product line includes performance cleaning products, waxes, compounds, adhesives, abrasives and specialty products, previously available exclusively to the professional market. 3M serves the automobile owner and hobbyist as well as professional body shop, recreational vehicle and mechanical service markets.

The 3M Car Care product line can be found at leading automotive aftermarket retailers and online at [www.Shop3M.com](http://www.Shop3M.com). For more information, visit [www.3MCarCare.com](http://www.3MCarCare.com).

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## About 3M

3M captures the spark of new ideas and transforms them into thousands of ingenious products. Our culture of creative collaboration inspires a never-ending stream of powerful technologies that make life better. 3M is the innovation company that never stops inventing. With \$27 billion in sales, 3M employs about 80,000 people worldwide and has operations in more than 65 countries. For more information, visit [www.3M.com](http://www.3M.com) or follow @3MNews on Twitter.

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