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DIY Auto Body and Paint

Steps To Detail a Car

- 1 Raise hood and cover electrical components with rags.
- 2 Spray engine compartment with degreaser and allow to soak several minutes.
- 3 Scrub dirty areas with brush.
- 4 Re-Apply degreaser to any dry or dirty areas.
- 5 Pressure wash the engine compartment and under hood.
- 6 Apply dressing to the entire engine compartment and shut hood.
- 7 Spray wheel bright on all four tires and wheels. Be careful on some aluminum wheels. if in doubt, just scrub with a brush.
- 8 Scrub tires and wheels with brush
- 9 Pressure wash tires, wheels and wheel wells.
- 10 Take floor mats out and blow with compressed air.
- 11 Spray with all purpose cleaner.
- 12 Carpet mats vacuum – Vinyl mats pressure wash.
- 13 Blow Inside and interior of car.
- 14 Vacuum inside of car.
- 15 Clean inside of car with all purpose cleaner.
- 16 Spray dressing (ON RAG) and apply to plastics.
- 17 Clean and vacuum trunk area.
- 18 Pressure wash outside of car.

- 19 Wash outside of car from top to bottom. Rinse, wash, rinse. Never allow the soap to dry on its own.
- 20 Use clay bar to smooth any ruff surfaces on paint.
- 21 Use 000 or 0000 steel wool or clay bar on glass if there is overspray.
- 22 Rinse Car
- 23 Dry Car
- 24 Dry jambs
- 25 Wax or glaze paint surface.
- 26 Clean inside and out of glass.

If buffing is needed

- 1 Scrape of nib defect. (run, dirt, etc.)
- 2 Sand with 1200 on block or DA
- 3 Sand with 1500 on block or DA w/interface pad
- 4 Sand with 3000 on block or Da w/interface pad
- 5 Buff with #1 compound and white pad.
- 6 Buff with #2 polish and black pad.
- 7 If dark color, buff with #3 and blue pad.
- 8 Detail car as described in steps above.
- 9 Apply hand glaze.

Detailing is a lot of work, but can make the car look excellent.