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THE PAINT-SAFE WASH CHECKLIST

Most swirl marks come from the wash, not the road. Follow these ten steps in order and your paint stays glossy for years.

01 SHADE, COOL PANELS ☐

Wash out of direct sun on cool paint, or soap dries on and spots.

02 RINSE FIRST ☐

Hose the whole car top to bottom to knock off loose grit before you touch it.

03 WHEELS AND TYRES FIRST ☐

Use separate brushes and a separate mitt. Never reuse them on paint.

04 TWO BUCKETS, GRIT GUARDS ☐

One bucket of soapy water, one of clean rinse water, a grit guard in each.

05 PH-NEUTRAL CAR SHAMPOO ☐

Not dish soap. It strips protection and dries out the finish.

06 TOP TO BOTTOM, LIGHT TOUCH ☐

One panel at a time, straight lines, no circles, no pressing hard.

07 RINSE THE MITT EACH PANEL ☐

Dunk and wipe it in the rinse bucket so grit never goes back on the paint.

08 A MITT, NOT A SPONGE ☐

A clean microfibre or chenille mitt. If it hits the floor, swap it. It is done.

09 RINSE BEFORE IT DRIES ☐

Flood the panels so the water sheets off. Never let soap dry on the paint.

10 DRY WITH A CLEAN TOWEL ☐

Blot or glide a soft drying towel. No scrubbing, no old rags.

NEVER DO THIS

- x Dish soap on paint
- x Washing in circles
- x Dry-wiping dust off the car
- x One bucket, one sponge
- x Using a dropped mitt or towel
- x Magic erasers on paint or trim

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