

**zymöl®**

**Education  
Centre**

## Why can't I just wash and wax my car?

Vehicle manufacturers apply a clear coat to paints to achieve extra depth, color, and gloss. Cars with Clear-Coat-Paints require more "very special" care than vehicles without clear coats.

***“Some waxes claim to be made for clear coated paint-but they leave a film or residue when dry.....”***

Clear Coated Paints:

You will damage your Clear-Coated-Paint when you use many of the car waxes on the market today. That's because most commercial products are made for the way cars used to be painted, with a very thick (18-26 mil) color coat directly exposed to the atmosphere. This 'ONE-Stage' paint needed strong solvents or abrasives in the wax to remove oxidation, soiling and stains. But most cars today have a thin layer (5-7mil) of basic color paint, covered by an even thinner (1-1.5mil) "Clear-Coat" paint. This 'TWO-Stage' paint is easily damaged (scratched) from the abrasives in ordinary commercial waxes. After spending many hours waxing your car you may have "swirl marks" or "cob-webbing". These are nothing more than patterns of tiny scratches. Some waxes claim to be made for clear coated paint-but they leave a film or residue when dry that is hard to rub off, and, rubbing harshly will do more damage.

Standard Paints:

When the 'ONE-Stage' color coat is exposed to the atmosphere and everyday use, the color becomes faded and dull. Light colored paints show soil and dark colors show more scratches. This 'ONE-Stage' paint is also easily damaged (scratched) from the abrasives in ordinary commercial waxes. Paint materials have changed completely in the last 50 years but many of the car wax companies have not kept pace. Again, after spending many hours waxing your car you may have noticed the color of your paint being deposited on the wax applicator by abrasives and chemicals designed to remove soil and oxidized paint. Are these products 'smart' enough NOT to remove good paint? Absolutely not!

Unfortunately the world's finest waxes will not produce a brilliant shine or lasting protection if applied over dull, oxidized, soiled paint or old wax. Normal washing will not remove oxidized paint, minor swirl marks, old wax, insect tar, acid rain and catalytic converter residue (hydrochloric and sulfuric acids). Proper Pre-Wax Cleaning is necessary to remove these impregnated contaminants and provide a fresh, clean surface to which the wax can adhere.

The difficulty is how to clean the paint safely without using abrasive grit or harsh solvents. Typical pre-wax cleaners "scrub" the surface clean with petroleum solvents and compounds which can accelerate paint oxidation and aging.

Paint **must** be cleaned BEFORE it is waxed. If you adhere to 3 basic steps, you can almost guarantee success. Contact your Zymöl Licensed Detailer or Authorised Reseller for the 3 basic steps today!