

## Cleaning, Care and Maintenance of Matt Finishes

Matt finishes require special maintenance when compared to traditional coatings that use a gloss clearcoat. Conventional treatment of this special matt coating can lead to irreparable damage of the matt surface, potentially requiring respray rectification.

### Cleaning

We recommend washing the vehicle using a neutral detergent or car wash product specifically developed for matt finishes, with a soft sponge to remove and clean away stains and contaminants (do not use a scouring pad with detergent). Never remove contaminants by using a dry cloth, as this may cause severe damage to the surface. Never remove any stubborn contaminants by rubbing the affected area with pressure, as this will cause patches with increased gloss which cannot be reversed.

Heavily soiled matt finishes can be carefully high-pressure cleaned to removed dust and coarse dirt, in accordance with the OEM guidelines for the vehicle. Remove stubborn traces of insects or bird droppings by first soaking in water. If these residues remain after washing, then the use of a special cleaner for matt finishes with a microfiber cloth is recommended. Tar spots or splashes can be removed by using a commercial tar remover or silicone remover. Proceed carefully by using a microfiber cloth and without excessive pressure. Greasy or oily substances and fingerprints should be removed immediately. The use of an Axalta branded waterborne cleaner or a special cleaner for matt finishes like SwissVax products, should be used. Spray onto the affected area and wipe off gently by using a soft microfibre cloth.

### Washing

After the initial cleaning step, start the washing process by rinsing the vehicle with plenty of clean water. Wash the vehicle using a neutral detergent or car wash product specifically developed for matt finishes with a soft sponge. Make sure that the washing agent does not contain any wax or polish ingredients as this may lead to irritations or unevenness on the matt finishes. Rinse the vehicle again with plenty of clean water and dry with a damp leather cloth or soft microfiber towel.

### Maintenance

Never apply any polish or wax compounds for gloss surfaces to the matt finish, as this will cause blotchy patches. Protect matt finishes from environmental influences by using products which are specifically developed for matt finishes only and always adhere to the manufacturer's guidelines. When hand washing your vehicle, do not use the same sponge for your wheels and painted surfaces, as hard dirt particles or little stones can penetrate your sponge and can leave surface scratches on your matt paint. Do not apply any adhesive labels, stickers or similar items to the matt paint surface, as adhesive residues can damage the paint film. The use of magnetic signs should be avoided, as this can leave tiny scratches in the matt paint surface. To avoid water spots, please do not let the vehicle air dry. Always dry the car by using a damp leather cloth or soft microfiber towel. Do not wash the car in direct sunlight and ensure that the paint surface is not hot during the cleaning process.

For more detailed information relating to the cleaning, care, and maintenance of matt finishes, please refer to Axalta's technical data sheet for the new matt finish system.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Jim Iliopoulos, Product & Technical Manager ANZ on 0412793910.

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