

The Details

an e-newsletter from Fresh Start Detail



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January 2010

Sweat Equity: Cleaning Up Pays Off *A Clean Car is Worth More When Trading In or Selling*

This article is the archived version of a report that appeared in the May 2009 Consumer Reports Magazine.

Time well spent

A sparkling car has a higher perceived value and should fetch more cash at trade-in or when selling. Maintaining your car's appearance is a big part of optimizing its resale value. Here are some tips to help you:

Wash often

Use car-wash soap only, since it is less likely to strip wax. Wash in cool shade or when it's overcast; the surface should be cool so that it doesn't dry quickly. Work in sections, to keep the soap from drying before you rinse. Use a chamois or microfiber cloth to prevent scratching when drying.

Wipe your wipers

Use window cleaner to keep your windshield wipers clean and keep them tight against your windshield. Replace the wipers twice a year.

Polish periodically

Wax your car a few times a year, especially in the spring and fall, to protect the paint from the sun and elements. Liquid and paste car waxes are more durable and clean better than spray products, but they require more effort. Some inexpensive waxes, notably by Turtle Wax and Black Magic, perform as well or better in our tests as the pricey ones favored by enthusiasts, but preventing streaks might require some effort. Make sure the polish you use is safe for clearcoat finishes, now found on most cars.

Clean your wheels

Gently remove brake dust and tar by using a dedicated wheel cleaner and a sponge. Use a cleaner that's labeled safe for use on all wheels.

Rub out scratches

Fine scratches can often be polished out. Scratches that expose the primer or metal must be repainted. You can use touch-up paint, but a professional should give the best results.

January Special

**10% off
Windshield
Chip Repair**



Offer expires 3/31/10

**During the winter months,
it's important to keep your headlights**



Before Fresh Start Detail **After**

Tend to inside details

Clearing trash and cleaning filmy windows tackles only part of the job. Less obvious tasks such as cleaning dusty air vents go a long way toward making your ride more pleasant. Also clean buttons and switches because excessive grit can cause them to fail. An all-purpose household cleaner is all you need for hard surfaces; automotive vinyl cleaners leave a glossy residue that can create glare on top of the dashboard and make the steering wheel slippery. Use a cotton swab and a small paintbrush to clean in seams, vents, and other tight areas.

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Clean your fabrics

Steam extraction machines work best for carpets and cloth upholstery. Leather surfaces need a dedicated leather cleaner. Follow up with leather conditioner. Vacuum last, since cleaning other areas often dislodges dirt.

Scrub under the hood

Wear gloves and eye protection, especially when working around the battery. Clean the battery with a stiff brush dipped in a mixture of water and baking soda, and pay special attention to corroded parts. Wash engine parts with soap and water or a degreasing cleaner. Keep water away from the air intake, fuse box, cable junctions, and any electrical connections.

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The Fresh Take...

The steps highlighted in this Consumer Reports article won't turn back the clock for your vehicle, but they'll make it more pleasant to drive and perhaps fetch you a better price when it comes time to sell.

Get those windshield chips fixed

A critical area that Consumer Reports didn't cover in their piece, is windshield chips. This is a common problem at this time of year in the Northwest, when icy, winter weather requires sanding on the roads. A rock chip in your windshield may seem little more than a visual nuisance to you now, but without warning they can spread into huge cracks, especially during drastic temperature changes. A professional can inject a special resin into the chip that will prevent it from spreading and also make it look a little better. (*Fresh Start Detail can help you with windshield chips - drop in if you need yours repaired!*)



Someone You Should Know

Hodges & Hart, LLC, Certified Public Accountants

Fresh Start Detail has been a client of Hodges & Hart since 2001 and we've been nothing but satisfied. They always have our backs, and are very approachable and knowledgeable. If you're looking for an outstanding CPA firm, we highly recommend Hodges & Hart, LLC

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Hodges & Hart's services include:

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- ✓ Business Tax Returns
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- ✓ Tax Planning & Strategy



- ✓ Financial Reporting
- ✓ Certified Audits
- ✓ Accounting
- ✓ Business Advisory Services
- ✓ Business Development Consulting
- ✓ Advisory Services/bullets
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- ✓ Technical Services

For more information about the firm, please visit them online at www.hodges-hartcpas.com or call 503.281.5213 to schedule an appointment.

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Fun Events / On Stage & Screen

Fun Events

Jan 29th-31st : Chocolatefest 2010 : <http://www.worldforestry.org/>

Feb 3rd : OMSI after dark (adults only) : <http://www.omsiedu/afterdark>

Feb 7 : Superbowl Sunday : <http://www.nfl.com/superbowl/44>

Feb 12th : Portland Showcase of Wine & Cheese, Portland Convention Center : <http://www.bgcpportland.org/get-involved/special-events/wine-and-cheese/>

Feb 13th : Zwickelmania-Oregon Brewery Tours : <http://oregonbeer.org/zwickelmania/>

Feb 14th : Worst Day of the Year Bicycle Ride : <http://www.worstdayride.com/portland/>

Feb 14-28 : Chinese New Year : http://www.lansugarden.org/events_classes/chinese_new_year

On Stage & Screen

Jan 8-Feb 7 : Reel Music Festival : <http://www.nwfilm.org/>

Jan 13-Feb 15th : Snow Falling on Cedars, Portland Center Stage : <http://www.pcs.org/>

Jan 13-Feb 20 : Hamlet-CoHo Productions : <http://www.cohoproductions.org/>

Jan 15-Feb 21 : Agatha Christie's Spider Web-Lakewood Center for the Arts, Lake Oswego : <http://www.lakewood-center.org/>

Jan 29-Feb 21 : Pinocchio-NW Children's Theatre : <https://secure.nwcts.org/?theater=nwcts#pinocchio%20target=>

Feb 5th-13th : Portland Opera-Cosi fan tutte : <http://www.portlandopera.org/>

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Feb 10-28 : Taming of the Shrew with The Women's Prize-Bag & Baggage Productions- Venetian Theatre downtown Hillsboro : <http://www.bagnbaggage.org/>

Feb 11-28 : Portland International Film Festival : <http://www.nwfilm.org/>



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