



PRECISION PAINTING

How to care for your RV Finish

Keeping your RV looking its best at all times involves keeping the paint finish clean. This means periodic washing and polishing as well as repairing any damage as soon as possible.

The purpose of the paint finish is twofold:

- (1) Provide an aesthetically pleasing appearance
- (2) Protect the vehicle from the environment.



Your RV is exposed to many environmental conditions that have an adverse affect on the paint finish:

- *Road Salt and Sodium Chloride* • *Road Tar & Bugs*
- *Bird Droppings & Tree Sap* • *Industrial Fallout, Acid Rain & Pollution*
- *UV Exposure and Moisture*

The most common problems resulting from these conditions are corrosion, staining, and chemical spotting. These problems can be minimized by regularly scheduled washing and polishing.

Washing your RV:

Make sure the RV's surface temperature is cool, under 90 F, and out of direct sunlight. A shaded area is ideal for washing your vehicle as direct sunlight causes water spotting. Use a mild name brand car wash soap, which can be purchased at most auto parts stores. Avoid combination wash-n-wax products as these waxes cause build up and are designed for smaller surfaces. Have two dedicated sponges or wash mitts: one for the paint finish and one for the wheels and undercarriage. Brushes or wash mitts that are made of plastic bristles are acceptable for use on tires and wheel wells, but are NOT recommended for use on the paint finish. Avoid using such items on painted surfaces as they will damage the RV finish. Wash the wheels and wheel wells first as this removes heavy dirt and debris and prevents it from splattering on panels. Wet the entire area down to remove dirt and grime, then hand wash one area at a time using your dedicated paint finish sponge or wash mitt.

Wash from the top and work your way down, frequently rinsing to minimize grit abrasion. Follow with a final rinse of water.

This process will remove most contamination from the RV's surface. For stubborn stains such as road tar, use an ammonia based glass cleaner or a small amount of rubbing alcohol on a damp cloth immediately followed by warm soapy water and rinse with clean water. This may not dissolve the road tar, but it will loosen tar and bug stains and remove them from the surface. Do not use solvent based cleaners on bird droppings or tree sap as these are water based stains and will eventually dissolve using an ammonia based glass cleaner, warm soapy water and a little "elbow grease". Bird droppings and tree sap should be removed immediately upon detection. Once again, after removing stubborn stains, rinse with clean water.

Drying the RV is just as important as washing your vehicle because today's tap water and well water may contain chemicals that could water stain your RV's finish. We suggest using a clean damp natural or synthetic chamois; however, there are other drying products such as lint-free micro-fiber towels that work just as well.

When covered with clear coat the automotive painted fiberglass is a very UV resistant finish. The clear coat protects the paint colors from fading and color shift over time. Wax is not required as a protectant to the clear coat finish however, a wax treated surface will help to make cleaning easier and enhance the cosmetic luster. For ease of use, name brand spray on waxes are very effective. Some examples of the recognized names for spray on waxes are 303, McGuire, Turtle Wax, and 3M wax products. Depending on the frequency of washing, the best results may be received from applying a wax treatment to your RV in the spring and again in the fall of each year.