

# Auto Detailing Checklist

By CarCleaningGuide.com



## Products Needed

Check out the products we use and recommend at [CarCleaningGuide.com/products](https://www.CarCleaningGuide.com/products).

### Interior

- Vacuum with hose (attachments recommended)
- Vehicle upholstery shampoo
- Leather cleaner/conditioner (if applicable)
- Interior detailing spray
- Exterior detailing spray (for door jambs)
- Scrub brush
- Small brushes/cotton swabs
- Glass cleaner
- Spray or paste wax
- Microfiber towels

### Exterior

- Microfiber sponges
- Microfiber towels
- Wheel brush (optional)
- Microfiber drying towel (optional)
- 5-gallon bucket
- Hose with spray nozzle
- Car wash soap
- Clay bar kit (typically includes detailing spray)
- Spray or paste wax
- Tire shine

# Interior Detailing

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## 1. Vacuum

- Remove loose items and garbage from the vehicle
- Vacuum the interior, working from top to bottom
- Check crevices and tight spaces for missed areas

## 2. Shampoo

- Identify and treat stains and spots that require special treatment
- Shampoo carpets and upholstery using a scrub brush and car upholstery shampoo
- Check for missed stains and unclean areas

## 3. Dashboard and Plastics

- Wipe all hard surfaces (except glass) with an interior detailing spray and microfiber towel
- Clean tight areas (air vents, cupholders, etc.) with cotton swabs or small brushes
- Check for areas that were missed

## 4. Glass

- Clean front and rear windshields with a glass cleaner and microfiber towel
- Clean side windows
- Check for areas that were missed

## 5. Door Jambs

- Clean and dry the door jambs with an exterior detailing spray or soapy water
- Apply 1-3 thin layers of automotive wax to the metal surfaces of the door jambs

# Exterior Detailing

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## 1. Wash

- Rinse the vehicle from top to bottom
- Wash the body of the vehicle from top to bottom
- Wash the tires, wheels, and wheel wells using a separate sponge (or wheel brush)
- Rinse the vehicle from top to bottom

## 2. Dry

- Dry the vehicle carefully from top to bottom using a large, soft microfiber towel
- TIP:** Don't apply pressure when drying, as it can scratch the paint.

## 3. Clay (Optional)

*Gently run your fingers over the body of the car. If the vehicle still feels dirty, there is dirt embedded in the paint that should be removed with a clay bar.*

- Choose a 1-2 sq. ft. section to start working on
- Gently glide the clay bar across the paint while lubricating with detailing spray
- Knead and clean the clay bar frequently
- Check for areas that were missed
- Wash the vehicle (except for the tires, wheels, and wheel wells)
- Dry the vehicle

## 4. Wax

- Ensure the vehicle is completely clean and dry
- Apply a thin layer of wax to a 1-2 sq. ft. section
- Let the wax dry to a light haze
- Buff with a clean microfiber towel to remove leftover wax

## 5. Wheels and Tires

- Check the wheels for brake dust or dirt
- Apply tire shine to the walls of the tires