



CLASSIC & SPORTS CAR

THE WORLD'S BEST-SELLING CLASSIC MAG
1000s of great classics for sale

AUGUST 2006 £4
www.classicandsportscar.com

SUMMER'S SEXIEST SPORTS CARS

Merc Pagoda takes on Ferrari-engined Fiat Dino Spider



PLUS
Bentley vs Facel-Véga
Gorgeous Opel GT aero
'Wedge' TVRs: in-depth buying guide
Hosepipe ban? Wash your car without water!



180MPH CORVETTE ZR-1
A bargain supercar contender



LIGHTWEIGHT LEGEND
Most original E-type racer?



LOST VAUXHALL REVEALED
C&SC discovers amazing photos



REAR-ENGINE SALOONS
The Imp meets its Euro rivals

Chemical cleaners sparkle in dry

We take a shine to seven of the most effective ways of using less water to wash classics

With a well-documented water shortage in parts of the UK, the burning question is: how do you clean your car during the show season?

Many dry areas, such as parts of continental Europe, Australia and the USA face the same problem when it comes to cleaning and detailing classics, so we've lined up seven of the newest products and tested them to find out whether they live up to their claims – to see if you really can get a show shine without washing your car. Each product uses trick chemicals that coat dust, dirt and debris before removing it from the paint surface, preventing scratches. Some add wax too, but which are the easiest to use and which give good results? Heavier soiling will need more work, so a little and often is the key to car cleanliness this summer.

What's obvious is that these waterless formulations mean a different approach to keeping your car clean, so be prepared to modify your usual method to get the best results.

TOP TIPS

Car cleaning tips in a dry summer

- If your car is outside, leather it off during or after rainfall or when there's heavy dew
- Keep your car well-polished – the dirt sticks less to waxed paintwork
- Frequent rub-downs with a damp chamois leather will prevent the build up of muck – carry one in your car in a plastic bag for the end of every journey
- Use a car dust-mop impregnated with dirt-retaining fluid to remove light particles from your paintwork, but wash it out frequently
- Clean your car in the early morning or late evening when the paintwork is cool
- Use brake pads that avoid black dust to help keep your wheels clean
- Polish glass regularly because clean glass and wheels give a dramatic impact to your paint

TURTLE WAX NO HOSE WASH
£4.99

7/10

Size 1000ml **Price per 100ml** £0.50 **Approx washes per bottle** 15 **Availability** motor factors, Halfords; 01695 716610

This product is formulated for low water use. Its active ingredients are a blend of non-ionic, cationic and amphoteric surfactants for effective cleaning, coupled with a rapid rinse formula. It's the usual bucket and sponge routine, though there's not much in the way of suds in the bucket, but sponging a couple of panels at a time, then rinsing, easily lifts and washes away dirt. The bonus of using real water is that gutters, 'screen mouldings and trim strips are flushed out too.



WAXFANTASTIC/CLEAN & WAX
£5.99

8/10

Quantity four cloths **Approx washes per pack** four **Availability** forecourts and motor factors; 020 8614 6580, www.carix.co.uk

These large triple-layer microfibre towels are impregnated to combine cleaning with a layer of silicone wax. The cloths lift dirt superbly and each has enough surface area for an average-sized car. The moisture residue left can be buffed to a high shine. They've just been repackaged so also look for Clean & Wax.



MEGIJAR'S SPEED DETAILER
£8.99

7/10

Size 710ml **Price per 100ml** £1.27 **Approx washes per bottle** six **Availability** motor factors, Halfords; 08702 416696

The pump spray makes it easy to layer a fine mist of the clear liquid on to the car, a panel at a time. Considering this is a detailing product, it's not out of its depth with cleaning. The formula softens light dirt and road soiling and helps it lift off as you buff with a clean stockinette. The paint surface comes up easily, the product leaving a conditioned, water-repellant glossy surface shine. It's good for light cleaning, after a single journey or to remove dust when you arrive at a show.



CARPLAN TRIPLEWAX DRI-WASH
£7.99

8/10

Size 1000ml **Price per 100ml** £0.79 **Approx washes per bottle** four **Availability** motor factors; 0161 764 5981

This thick white cream feels like a polish as you pour it on to a clean stockinette. It cuts through even quite heavy dirt with little effort, and deals readily with tree sap plus sun-dried insect splatter. It can be polished off when wet, or after it's dried to a haze. Paint looks and feels smooth. It is great for treating dirt-created staining.



MIRACLE DRYWASH
£9.99

7/10

Size 500ml **Price per 100ml** £1.99 **Approx washes per bottle** six **Availability** 08008 818062; www.miracledrywash.com

The trigger applicator bottle sprays a film of cleaner over a panel surface with just a few pumps. The waxy white liquid encapsulates dirt well and spreads over paintwork leaving a decent thin film that seems to pull filth from the paint, but when wiping off it is difficult not to leave slight smears in darker colours. It's a doddle to use though, and there's definitely a wax-like finish that forms water droplets when it rains after application, but it's easier to achieve a good result on lighter colours.



BIG WIPES
From £9.99

5/10

Quantity 120 wipes **Approx washes per pack** four **Availability** motor factors, Halfords; 01628 894374

You get 40 wipes each for exterior, interior and glass. The lightweight saturated cloths tear off easily, but are quite small when faced with a large panel such as a roof. Exterior cloths clean readily and soak up surface dirt, but can't remove stains. And the glass cloths struggled with tree sap and insects.



GO WATERLESS DRI WASH'N GUARD
£7.95

9/10

Size 500ml **Price per 100ml** £1.59 **Approx washes per bottle** six **Availability** 01256 889001; www.go-waterless.co.uk

Using the pump spray bottle, it is easy to apply an even mist with this formulation. The light purple liquid covers evenly and sticks well on initial application. It quickly soaks into dirt and hardened detritus such as dead insects and bird droppings, and can be buffed off with a clean towel, leaving a great shine.



THE FINAL VERDICT

★ **BEST PRODUCT** GO WATERLESS DRI WASH'N GUARD
WHY? Economic surface coverage, easy to use and quickly achieves glossy results

★ **BUDGET OPTION** WAXFANTASTIC/CLEAN & WAX
WHY? Great quick-fix answer to basic car cleaning – ideal to keep in the glovebox and use regularly