MIDNIGHT
AUTOWORKS

AFTERCARE GUIDE

Keep it looking like day one.

How to look after your ceramic coating, glass coating and interior coating: the first few days, how to wash your car, and which products to use and avoid.

Ceramic coating | Coated wheels | Glass coating | Interior coating

Midnight Autoworks
U5 / 16 Yampi Way, Willetton WA 6155
0437 339 147 · Admin@midnightautoworks.com.au
Instagram @midnight_autoworkss
ABN 91 300 175 589

STEP 1

The first few days.

Your coatings keep curing after you collect your car. Look after them during this time and they'll perform for years. We'll write your exact cure times below at handover.

Ceramic coating

Cure time: _____ days

DO

- ✓ Keep the car dry and undercover where you can.
- ✓ If it gets wet, gently pat the water off with a clean microfibre towel.
- ✓ Rinse bird droppings, sap and bugs off straight away with plenty of water.
- ✓ Park away from sprinklers and trees if possible.

DON'T

- ✕ Wash the car with soap or shampoo until the cure time is up.
- ✕ Use an automatic or brush car wash.
- ✕ Apply wax, polish, sealant or quick detailer.
- ✕ Let water spots dry in the sun.

Glass coating

Keep glass dry for: _____ days

DON'T

- ✕ Use your wipers until the time above is up.
- ✕ Clean the glass with any product during the cure time.

Interior coating

Avoid cleaners for: _____ days

DO

- ✓ Wipe spills straight away with a damp microfibre.

DON'T

- ✕ Use interior or leather cleaners until the time above is up.

> Only had some of these done? Just follow the parts that apply to your car. If anything doesn't look right during the first week, call or message us before you try to fix it.

STEP 2

How to wash your car.

A ceramic coating makes washing faster and easier, but it isn't a force field. Gentle, regular washing keeps the gloss and water beading going for years.

1. **Wash in the shade**
   Wash when the paint is cool to the touch, early morning or late afternoon. Hot panels dry soap and water onto the surface and leave spots.

2. **Wheels first**
   Clean wheels and tyres before the paint, using separate brushes and a separate bucket so brake dust never touches your paintwork.

3. **Rinse thoroughly**
   Rinse the whole car from the top down to remove loose dirt and grit. Keep a pressure washer nozzle at least 30 cm from the paint, and further from badges, seals and edges.

4. **Pre-wash (optional)**
   A pH-neutral snow foam or pre-wash lifts dirt before you touch the paint. Let it dwell, but don't let it dry, then rinse.

5. **Two-bucket wash**
   Fill one bucket with pH-neutral shampoo and one with clean water, each with a grit guard. Wash one panel at a time from the top down with a soft microfibre mitt, rinsing the mitt in the clean bucket before reloading it with soap.

6. **Lower panels last**
   The bottom of the doors, sills and bumpers hold the most grit. Wash them last, ideally with a second mitt.

7. **Final rinse**
   Rinse from the top down. Your coating will shed most of the water by itself.

8. **Dry gently**
   Pat or drag a plush microfibre drying towel across the surface, or use a car dryer or leaf blower. Never use a chamois, a squeegee or a used towel.

9. **Top up (every few washes)**
   Mist a ceramic (SiO_2) detail spray onto a clean microfibre and wipe over the dry paint to boost gloss and water beading.

Every 1–2 weeks
A regular hand wash. Dirt left sitting on the paint is what wears coatings down.

Every few washes
A ceramic detail spray to top up gloss and slickness.

Once a year
A coating inspection and top-up with us, to keep it performing at its best.

STEP 3

Products to use, and to avoid.

You don’t need expensive products. You just need gentle ones. If you’re unsure about something, send us a photo of the label and we’ll tell you if it’s safe.

USE	WHAT TO LOOK FOR
Car shampoo	pH-neutral, with no added wax, gloss enhancers or polish.
Wash mitts	Soft, deep-pile microfibre. Use two: one for upper panels, one for lower panels.
Buckets	Two buckets, each with a grit guard in the bottom.
Drying towel	A large, plush microfibre drying towel, or a car dryer or leaf blower.
Ceramic detail spray	An SiO_2 or ceramic detail spray to top up your coating every few washes.
Wheel cleaner	A pH-balanced wheel cleaner, with separate soft brushes.
Glass cleaner	Ammonia-free and tint-safe, used with a clean microfibre glass cloth.
Interior and leather	A pH-neutral interior or leather cleaner and a soft microfibre.

Avoid

- ✕ Automatic and brush car washes.
- ✕ Dishwashing liquid and household cleaners.
- ✕ Strong degreasers or undiluted traffic film remover.
- ✕ Cutting compounds, polishes and “scratch removers”.
- ✕ Waxes and sealants over the coating. They hide its properties.
- ✕ Ammonia-based glass cleaners on tinted windows.
- ✕ Old, dirty or dropped towels and mitts.

Microfibre care

- ✓ Wash microfibres on their own, warm, with a little detergent.
- ✓ Skip fabric softener. It clogs the fibres.
- ✓ Air dry or tumble dry on low.
- ✓ If a towel touches the ground, retire it to wheels or door jambs.

STEP 4

Glass and interior coatings.

If your car has glass coating or interior coating, here's how to look after them day to day. Both make cleaning easier, but they need the right products to keep working.

Glass coating

DO

- ✓ Wash the glass with your car shampoo when you wash the car.
- ✓ Use an ammonia-free glass cleaner and a clean microfibre glass cloth.
- ✓ Replace wiper blades once they start to smear or chatter.
- ✓ Top up with plain washer fluid or water.
- ✓ Rinse bugs and sap off the windscreen as soon as you can.

DON'T

- ✕ Use your wipers on dry glass.
- ✕ Apply Rain-X or any other rain repellent over the coating.
- ✕ Use washer fluid with added wax or repellent.
- ✕ Scrape the glass with blades, scourers or ice scrapers.

Interior coating

DO

- ✓ Wipe spills straight away with a damp microfibre.
- ✓ Vacuum regularly, so grit doesn't wear the surfaces.
- ✓ Use a pH-neutral interior or leather cleaner, sprayed on the cloth first.
- ✓ Wipe off denim dye from light leather before it sets.

DON'T

- ✕ Use leather conditioners, silicone or shine dressings over the coating.
- ✕ Use all-purpose degreasers, alcohol or baby wipes.
- ✕ Use magic erasers or stiff brushes on leather or trim.
- ✕ Let spills soak in or dry on.

> **Good to know:** coatings make spills and grime easier to clean off. They don't stop stone chips, scratches or cracked glass.