

CLEAN AS A WHISTLE

We show you how to make your fourby shine like new

WORDS BY SCOTT BUTLER, PHOTOGRAPHY BY SIMON BAYLISS



GEAR NEEDED:

Electric buff, garden hose, rags, 4cm-wide paint brush



After a hard day's 4WDing, we all need to clean our pride and joy, whether it is from mud, sand or just fine dust that made its way into every nook and cranny of your truck. Unfortunately, a lot of us just seem to spend hours and hours cleaning, with the end result just being average. What if we could show you how to do a full detail on your truck with a professional finish?

With the correct protection, the paintwork on your 4WD can resist stains from mud and the like. We look at what's involved to give your 4WD's duco that killer shine, along with the maximum protection that will see the water bead and roll right off.

We will look at how to get all the dust out from around the dash, along with which products should be used to clean the engine bay. Detailing your truck before you hit the tracks can help repel mud from staining the duco, so it's well worth doing.

Have you ever found after a big trip that your truck has dust in areas that you can see but can't get to? Without completely pulling apart the vehicle, we will show you some handy hints that will make it seem too easy.



A chamois should always be stored in a sealed container to prevent it from drying out



When cleaning your vehicle, remove your belt because the buckle may scratch the side panels when reaching over the bonnet

NEVER ALLOW THE SOAP SUDS TO DRY ON THE PAINTWORK

WASHING YOUR FOURBY

The trick to a professional detail is definitely to use good-quality cleaning products. The first thing is to remove all dirt from the body of the truck. Wash off with a good-quality car wash and warm water. Just like when washing your clothes, you will always remove the dirt much more easily when the water is warm compared to cold. Never allow soap suds to dry on the paintwork, and a good idea is to wash one large panel or two smaller panels at a time, hosing off as you go.

It's important to dry the body panels with a chamois to stop water droplets from leaving marks on the paint. A chamois should be wet down with clean water before using, never clean with soapy water, for it is extremely difficult to remove from the chamois. A good quality chamois is well worth the money, as the cheap versions just push the water from one place to the other without removing it.

Using a chamois, wipe the body and all the inner door edges. Keep ringing out the chamois as you go. Once finished, run the chamois under a tap to rinse it out (don't use



Be careful around the door handles with the buff as it can easily rip them off





A hose, broom and a couple of cable ties mean you stay dry!



CT18 is one of the only cleaners that will remove red dust from outback Australia



soapy water), then place it back in a sealed plastic container. If not a container, use a snap-tight bag to store it in until next use.

REMOVING SCRATCHES

To give that killer shine, an electric buff is a must-have tool (available for as little as \$30). This is used to cut back the painted surface, removing scratches and chalking paint easily. To use one, apply some cutting compound and then polish off using a lamb's wool buffing pad. When using the buff, move it from side to side varying the amount of pressure and speed used on the panel until the compound is all gone.

It's important to hold the buff on a slight angle (approximately 15°) and never hold the buff in one position because it can burn the paint easily. Electric buffs can damage some items of the vehicle, so be careful it doesn't get caught on the door handles, aerials and even the headlight protectors or weather shields. Once buffed, wash and dry the vehicle again, and be sure to wash out all inner doorframes of the residue from the cutting compound.

Now that the panels have been buffed, cleaned and dried, they need to have a quality polish added to protect them. Depending on your polish, this may need to be done once or possibly twice. Some polishes have a swirl remover and wax coating in one, but other brands will have a polish for each. This means you will need to polish with the swirl remover to remove any marks left from buffing and bring up that great shine. Then, a second polish with a wax coating should be applied to ensure that the shine will last longer by leaving a protective waxy residue over the paintwork.

Apply all polishes in the shade and on a cool panel. Using two cotton cloths, apply some polish using a circular motion and allow the polish to dry. Then, polish it back off again with a dry cloth using the same circular motion.

WHEELS AND TYRES

The use of mag cleaner is the easiest way to clean off the road grime and brake dust from the wheels. Just apply the cleaner, leave it for three minutes, then hose it off for a good clean. You



The use of a garden pressure sprayer makes it easy to apply the cleaner to tight areas

can use a sponge or rag if needed, but make sure it's not the same sponge that you intend to wash the vehicle with because it will leave dirty streaks on the paint.

The use of tyre black is a personal decision and it will not affect the tyre's performance either way, but it's normally used to improve the vehicle's looks.

UNDER THE BONNET

When cleaning the engine bay, it needs to be prepped for washing! To start, cover the alternator and any other electrics with plastic bags, taping them in place. This will reduce the chance of water damaging the electrics.

Once all covered, soak the engine bay with CT18 (truck wash). Using a garden pressure sprayer, mix and apply the cleaner to your 4WD. This is best left soaking for a couple of hours. CT18 is one of the few cleaners that will actually remove the red dust from your 4WD after an outback holiday.

Now it's time to finish cleaning the engine bay. Using a garden hose, or if available use a high-pressure hose, hose off the CT18 that was sprayed on earlier.

UNDERBODY

While you have the CT18 in the sprayer, coat the undercarriage with the cleaner. Once applied, let it soak for a couple of hours. This will clean off mud, road grime and oil residue from the vehicle.



There you have it! Now you have washed the 4WD, it's bound to rain!

THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW CLEANERS THAT WILL ACTUALLY REMOVE THE RED DUST FROM YOUR 4WD

To clean under the vehicle, you could buy a hose fitting that allows you to hose upwards without jumping under the vehicle. Another option is to grab a broom and a couple of cable ties, then fix the hose to the end of a broom.

Be sure to spend plenty of time on this step. Hose out the inside

of the chassis rails while you are under there. Once clean and dried, check out all surface areas under the 4WD for signs of rust, or even if the metal surfaces have been blasted with rocks removing all the paint. If bare metal is showing, spray some black paint over these areas to stop rust from forming.

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Vacuum all seats, floors, even the dash!



All it takes is a \$2 paintbrush and some cleaner to remove the dust from the vents

INTERIOR

To start on the interior, remove everything from inside, then vacuum all floors, seats and even the dash. If you have been driving through a huge amount of dust, add the soft-bristled attachment to the hose and vacuum the roof lining.

A common spot for dust to be trapped is inside the vents. Using an interior cleaner (Chemtech's Detail) and a cheap two-dollar paintbrush, clean the vents. Clean all the interior with this cleaner as it's designed to clean plastic, rubber, vinyl, carpet and even leather.

Behind the steering wheel gets covered in dust and is only visible when turning the wheel. To clean, spray a rag with interior cleaner, then holding each end of the rag, move it back and forth in the gap between the steering wheel and the steering column surround.

Once the vinyl has been cleaned and dried, wipe it over with a good-quality protectant. This will reduce the effects that heat, sunlight and



Some areas can be a little tricky to get into



The use of a vinyl protectant will save the panels from damage



HOW MUCH?

These costs cover the initial outlay, and will be able to be written off over approximately 10 details, which makes it extremely cheap.

- CT18 - TRUCK WASH: \$10.00
- CT20 - WASH AND WAX: \$11.00
- SHIELD - VINYL PROTECTANT: \$13.00
- CLEAR - GLASS CLEANER: \$10.00
- DETAIL - INTERIOR CLEANER: \$10.00
- CARFRESH - DEODORISER: \$10.00
- MAG SHINE - WHEEL CLEANER: \$35.00
- VINYL WASH: \$11.00
- BLITZ - ALUMINIUM CLEANER: \$13.00
- CUTTING COMPOUND: \$15.00
- POLISH: \$21.95
- TYRE BLACK: \$3.00
- RAGS: \$25.00
- BUFF: \$30.00
- LAMB'S WOOL BUFFING PAD: \$15.00
- PAINT BRUSH: \$4.00

TOTAL OUTLAY: \$236.95
COST PER DETAIL (10X): \$23.70

dirt will have on the panels in the future.

If you have rubber floor mats, remove them from the vehicle, lay them out on a concrete surface and give them a wash with a soapy sponge if needed, then hose off.

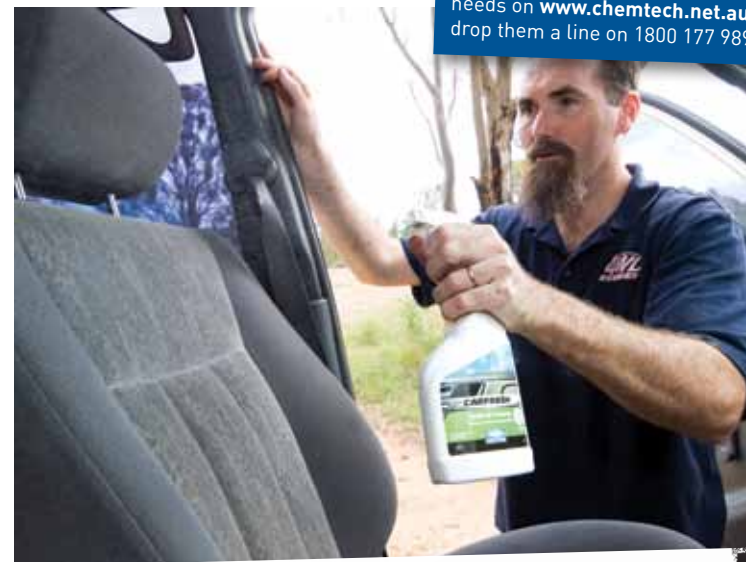
With two clean rags and a quality window cleaner, you need to clean the windows. Only spray small amounts of cleaner on at a time (one side window or half a front window at a time) and wash the window in a circular motion, then finish off with the dry cloth. Repeat on all windows inside and out. Be

careful with window tint - check the instructions on the side of the window cleaner before use to make sure it will not damage the tint.

Finally, give the interior a quick squirt with a deodoriser to give that fresh smell. To get a lasting aroma, it's recommended to spray onto the carpet if available. If not, about five squirts over the seats will work almost as good. *4WD*

FOR MORE INFO

Check out all the products from Chemtech for all your detailing needs on www.chemtech.net.au or drop them a line on 1800 177 989.



IF YOU HAVE ANY GREAT 4WD DETAILING TIPS, JUMP ON THE 4WD ACTION FORUM (www.4wdaction.com.au/forum) AND SHARE THEM WITH THE REST OF THE READERS!

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