

Give your car's body a protective winter coat

Just like you, your car's body needs a good "coat" for wintertime, protecting it from ice, snow, salt and grime.

A basic step in preparing a car for winter weather is to wash and wax it thoroughly. However, many people risk ruining the car's shine because all they are determined to use for winter prep is a "durable" car wax.

Many car waxes that are dubbed "durable" also may be those that contain

harsh abrasives that will damage the "clear coat" finishes of today's cars. They end up doing more harm than good.

Since the early 1980s, most cars have been painted with a clear coat finish that is actually a non-pigment layer of paint that adds depth and durability to the shine.

One problem with clear coats is that waxing them with a highly abrasive wax

will cause white "swirl" marks or hazing—resulting in a lackluster shine and a damaged finish.

"Ideally a wax should be durable, deliver a great shine, be easy to apply and not scratch your car," says Dr. Jim Latty, Armor All Product Corporation's vice president of research & development. "That's what we set out to do in developing Armor All's first car wax product."

To locate ingredients that would be safe for clear coat paints, yet deliver a durable, high shine, Armor All went to the jewelry industry to acquire the very same grade of polishing agents used by jewelers to shine crystal and gold. These polishing agents are five times finer than traditional automotive wax polishing agents.

"Super-fine polishing agents provide less surface resistance, allowing consumers to wax their cars in less time, while the superior silicones and waxes provide an incredible shine and outstanding durability," said Dr. Latty.

"In fact, tests show Armor All Car Wax significantly outlasts the current leading waxes."

Consumer reactions seem to support Dr. Latty's contention that Armor All has developed an ideal wax formula for today's cars. According to a recent study by a leading marketing research firm, in just four months on retail shelves, Armor All Car Wax virtually has tied for the number two sales spot, and is already closing in on the category leader, Turtle Wax Hard Shell.

So, this year, when looking for that great winter "coat" for your car, search for one that not only provides durability for the long winter months, but durability for your car's delicate clear coat finish.



GREAT WINTER COAT—One of the most important steps in prepping a car for winter is to add a "coat" of wax. But make sure that the wax used is not too abrasive, or it will end up leaving "swirl" marks on your car's painted finish. Choose a wax designed for today's "clear coat" finishes.

Exhaust systems need maintenance

From the installation of snow tires to the flushing and filling of your car's radiator, the coming of winter means plenty of preparation for your car.

One area often overlooked in getting a car ready for "Old Man Winter" is the exhaust system. Like any external car part, the muffler and accompanying pipes take abuse year round, and need to be checked periodically to be sure the system is in good working order.

An emissions test will tell you if your car's engine and exhaust system are operating properly, and a careful look under the car should tell you if the muffler and pipes are solidly intact.

If the system sounds louder than usual, or if you hear a hissing sound, it could mean your muffler needs replacing or the pipes are leaking deadly carbon monoxide. With windows rolled up during the cold months, this could be very dangerous.

Being under the car, the exhaust system is subject to damage from road debris. Corrosion from salt and moisture also is a problem and can shorten the life of a muffler.

Some exhaust system manufacturers are going to great lengths to extend the service life of their products to save consumers money.

Walker Manufacturing, for instance, is using a metal treating process with its new DynoMax™ line of high performance mufflers which helps to extend the life of a muffler. The process is called aluminizing, and involves coating the metal used to construct the mufflers in order to reduce corrosion.

The aluminizing process uses a spray coating which is applied to the steel sheets before final coiling. As the sheets are being formed and rolled into flat stock, a coating is sprayed on which adheres to the steel and becomes part of the metal.

The use of Absorbite and the aluminizing process are methods Walker has adopted to help reduce corrosion and

protect mufflers for extended life," said Kristine Johnson, market planning manager for Walker.

Walker features five different muffler types in its DynoMax line, which are designed for the high performance enthusiast. The Super Turbo, Turbo Tube and regular Turbo muffler all are double wrapped and this, coupled with the use of all-aluminized materials, results in extra-long service life.

The DynoMax Glasspack and Header mufflers feature a one-piece body construction for increased durability. It's that added durability which could prolong the life of your car's muffler, and prevent having to do costly repairs or replacement during the winter months.

DynoMax mufflers are designed not only for extended service life, but actually to help your car perform better. Through aerodynamic improvements, DynoMax mufflers reduce back pressure and increase horsepower.

The Super Turbo, for example, uses patented Flow Directors to help channel exhaust gases through the system in a smoother and less restrictive manner.

Consider having your exhaust system checked this fall as part of your annual preventive maintenance. Check for signs of corrosion or damage to determine whether you need a new muffler. Putting a new muffler on now may prevent losing one this fall, and will eliminate having to install one during the sub-zero months to come.

Finding a good transmission shop

The automatic transmission, maligned in its infancy as troublesome and inefficient, has become an engineering masterpiece. Complicated as it is, it demands less attention and maintenance than most of the car's various components. With proper care, it should last the life of the car.

When transmission trouble does erupt, however, the owner should be careful about selecting the repair facility.

Car Care Council offers these suggestions:

- 1) Be leery of the shop that advertises cut rate specials on services.
- 2) Have second thoughts about the

shop that offers free towing service.

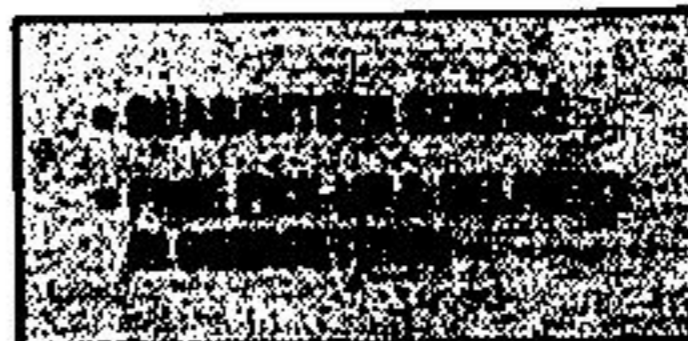
3) Seek out the shop that others have recommended.

4) In the shop, look for displays of certificates of training or certification. National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (A.S.E.) is nationally recognized, as are some trade association and industrial training/certification programs. Don't be afraid to ask for credentials!

5) Don't be misled by warranty claims. You want a properly warranted job, but examine carefully the costs and benefits of extended service contracts. You are buying repairs, not the warranty.

KIYO'S Japanese Car Service

THE JAPANESE CAR SPECIALISTS



20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

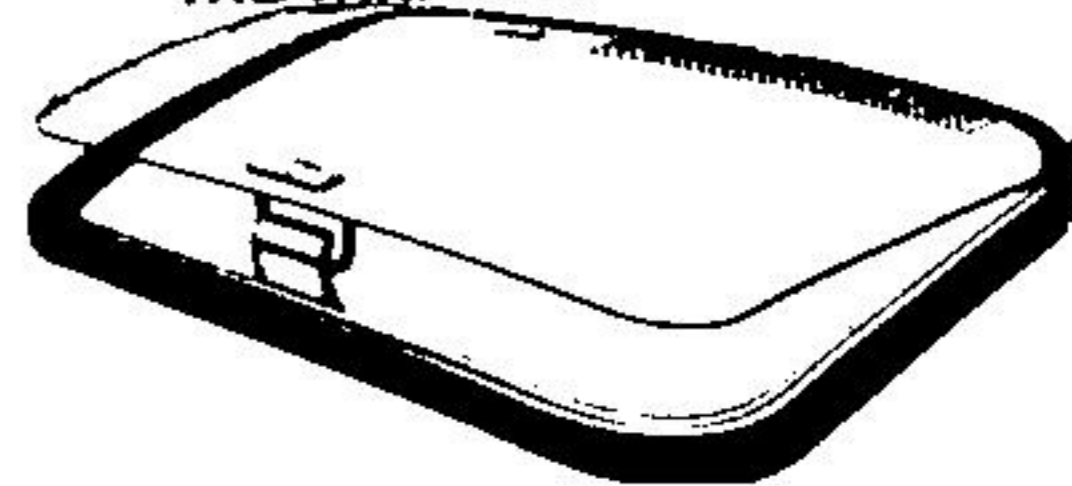
Call 873-0550

21 Mill Street

Georgetown

Georgetown AUTO-GLASS 877-7433

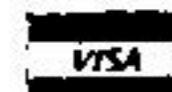
"THE WINDSHIELD EXPERTS"



Top Quality Auto Services Include:

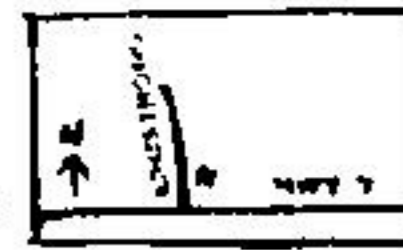
- Sunroofs
- Custom Interior Upholstery
- Seat Covers
- Bug Deflectors
- Running Boards
- Vinyl Tops
- Insurance Claims Welcome

We pay \$25.00 of your Deductible on Windshield Claims



315 Armstrong Ave. Georgetown

877-7433



If You

Call "Meet by Accident"

UPTOWN COLLISION

SPECIALISTS IN PAINT & COLLISION REPAIRS

- *RENTAL CARS AT LOW RATES
- *INSURANCE CLAIMS OUR SPECIALTY
- *HALTON HILLS' MOST MODERN BODY SHOP
- *FREE ESTIMATES
- ALL WORK GUARANTEED

873-1607

53 MOUNTAINVIEW RD N
GEORGETOWN