



Detailing Guide & Quick Reference Handbook



Welcome to Adam's.

We're here to help you Discover Your Shine Potential

The fact that you're holding this detailing guide in your hands means that you've come across the most effective, easiest to use car care products available to today's car and truck enthusiasts – the Adam's Premium Car Care collection.

We're not just saying that either. All of our products are designed to be easy to apply, safe for all finishes, and to achieve the very best results. Whether your goal is to remove swirl marks, to add water-beading protection, or to give your car a shine that literally turns heads Adam's has the products to help you discover your shine potential.

Above and beyond our products, though, we offer something that no competitor can match: the very best, most attentive customer service in the industry. Have a question about an Adam's product? Call, e-mail, initiate a live chat on our website, or post to adamsforums.com and you'll get help almost instantaneously – and that's no joke. Our team is fanatical about helping customers with any and all detailing challenges.

All of us here are so sure you'll love our products and customer service that Adam's offers a 110% satisfaction guarantee on everything we sell. If we fail to meet or exceed your expectations just return the unused portion of the products and we'll refund you 110% of the purchase price.



Detailing 101

The easy steps to an amazing Adam's shine

Achieving detailing perfection is actually quite simple – just follow the proper steps and use the right products. Now, that said, every finish is different so you'll need to take some time to refine your technique as you work your way through this guide. The most valuable tool in any detailer's collection is patience.

To help with this journey we've provided some key words and explanations below. Take some time to familiarize yourself with terms.

Clay Bar - A semi-soft man made product used to decontaminate paint prior to polishing. Many types of contamination bond with exterior surfaces and cannot be removed by washing alone. Clay removes these contaminants safely and without damaging the finish. Clay does not remove scratches or swirl marks.

Polish - Chemicals comprised of liquids and solids, the abrasive qualities of these products can vary depending on the use. Polishes are used to remove imperfections from paint and provide no protection for the finish.

Sealant - Synthetic chemical compounds used to provide long lasting protection to automotive finishes. Typically sealants offer the best protection against the elements, and feature very bright, mirror-like, reflective properties.

Glaze - Used for aesthetic purposes only, glazes offer very little in the way of protection for automotive finishes, but they do offer greatly enhanced gloss and shine on paint, glass, and chrome with minimal effort. They can also be used to help hide minor imperfections and are most commonly layered over a sealant or under a wax to provide protection.

Wax - Naturally occurring ingredients like carnuba, sometimes reinforced with synthetic polymers, used for providing protection on painted automotive finishes. The quality and quantity of wax found in a given product will determine the durability, ease of use, and aesthetic characteristics. Waxes are most typically used for their ability to provide very deep, wet, glossy looking finishes.

Dressings/Conditioners - Chemicals used in the restoration and protection of automotive trim, surfaces like vinyl, rubber, plastic, leather, and other similar materials. Regular conditioning is important to prevent fading and UV damage of these delicate materials.

Microfiber - Man made, synthetic fibers that are up to 100x finer than a human hair. Woven into a variety of textures for different uses, microfiber is the safest choice for cleaning delicate finishes. Beware, not all microfiber is created equal and low quality microfiber can easily cause damage to paint.



1. Clean the Wheels

Never clean wheels while they are hot to the touch.

- A. Use a strong spray from the hose to break up dirt and grime on the wheels, tires, & fender lining.
- B. Spray Adam's Green Wheel Cleaner onto the wheel surface, including the inner wheel hoop.
- C. Thoroughly clean brake dust from the wheels using a soft wheel brush.
- D. Scrub the inner hoop of the wheel.
- E. Spray the tires and inner fender lining with Adam's All Purpose Cleaner.
- F. Scrub tires and fender lining with stiff a brush.
- G. Rinse the wheel thoroughly with a strong spray from the hose. Be sure no chemical is left behind.
- H. Rinse your brushes, proceed to the next wheel, and repeat the process.

2. Clean the Engine

- A. If you are unsure or leery of using water in your engine compartment consult Adam's for advice before beginning. Never clean a hot engine.
- B. Cover any exposed filters or unsealed electrical connections with aluminum foil or plastic bags.
- C. Use a broad fan spray from the hose to gently rinse the engine compartment.
- D. Spray Adam's All Purpose Cleaner onto soiled areas. Dilute 1:1 first for delicate finishes.
- E. Gently scrub using a soft brush.
- F. Rinse using a gentle spray from the hose.
- G. Remove any foil or bags, close hood, and start the engine. Allow to idle for a few minutes.
- H. Shut engine off, open hood, and towel dry any remaining water.

3. Prep Two Buckets

- A. Place Grit-Guard bucket insert into the bottom of each of the 2 buckets.
- B. Fill first bucket to approx. 3/4 full with clean water.
- C. Place wash pads on top of Grit-Guard at the bottom of the second bucket.
- D. Add 1-2oz of Adam's Car Shampoo directly onto the wash pad.
- E. Use a strong spray from the hose directly into the wash pad to create thick lather of suds.

4. Wash the Vehicle

Do not rinse soap until entire vehicle has been washed.

- A. Using a strong spray from the hose, rinse from the top of the vehicle down.
- B. Make sure to knock large particles, like bird droppings, loose using the hose before proceeding.
- C. Use soapy wash pad from the bucket and begin washing from the top to about 2/3rds way down.
- D. Between each section rinse the wash pad in the clean water bucket, scrubbing against the Grit-Guard.
- E. Reload the pad in the soap bucket with fresh soapy water and continue around the vehicle.
- F. Once upper 2/3rds are completed switch to a second wash pad and complete the lower sections.
- G. Make sure to rinse and reload the wash pad often.
- H. Rinse the vehicle thoroughly using a strong spray from the hose, be sure to get soap out of tight spots.
- I. Remove the nozzle from the hose and reduce pressure to a very slow trickle.
- J. Use this "Sheet Rinse" from top to bottom. The low flow of water will push water beads from the finish and reduce the amount standing water.

5. Dry the Vehicle

Move the vehicle into a garage or shade if possible.

- A. Use forced air dryer, like Adam's Blaster Sidekick, to blow excess water from mirrors, moldings, badges, wheels, and other areas first.
- B. Mist the entire vehicle with Adam's Detail Spray.
- C. Use Adam's Great White Drying Towel to dry, starting with the glass first, then moving to the paint.
- D. Spray more Detail Spray as needed to counteract water spots or streaking.
- F. Work from top down. Wring towel out as needed.
- G. Dry wheels with a separate towel.
- H. Open the doors/trunk/hood, mist with Detail Spray, and dry any pooled water.
- I. Close doors/trunk/hood, inspect exterior, touch up any drips or spots that may have appeared.

6. Clay the Exterior

Perform 'plastic bag test' to determine if clay is needed.
Place hand into a plastic sandwich bag & gently rub over the surface. Rough? Clay it! Smooth? Skip it!

- A. Remove Adam's Detailing Clay from the storage jar and plastic wrapper.
- B. Tear off approx. half of the bar, return one half to the jar and store for later use.
- C. Stretch and fold clay several times then press flat.
- D. Spray a panel with Detail Spray.
- E. Rub Clay with medium pressure on finish until smooth. Work in straight lines from multiple directions.
- F. Finish one panel at a time and repeat.
- G. Stretch & fold clay multiple times after each panel.
- H. Clay glass as well to remove water spots and other road contamination.
- I. Always clay the lowest sections of the vehicle last.
- J. Discard clay if it is dropped and switch to a new piece.
- K. Store clay in the provided jar. Add a single squirt of Detail Spray before sealing lid to keep clay moist.
- L. Leave residue on the finish if only light contamination was removed. Rewash and dry if more significant contamination was removed.



8. Paint Correction

Use the list below to determine your next steps and which will suit your individual needs. For more information on each process refer to our instructional videos at www.AdamsPolishes.com

POLISHING BY HAND: (Proceed to Step 8HP)

- Safe, easy, and ideal for paint already in near flawless condition.
- Limited results, requires significant work for anything less than minor improvement.
- Best for those detailers looking for less than complete paint correction.

PORTER CABLE POLISHING: (Proceed to Step 8PC)

- Ideal for light to moderate swirl & scratch removal or paint in average shape.
- Safe for novice detailers and machine polishing newcomers.
- Best for beginners or serious hobbyists.

FLEX MACHINE POLISHING: (Proceed to Step 8FX)

- Faster correction of neglected or heavily damaged finishes.
- Recommended for people with prior machine polishing experience.
- Best for serious enthusiasts or detailers seeking faster results and restoration of more seriously damaged paint.

7. Dress Exterior Trim

- A. Apply a squirt of Adam's Super VRT to a foam block applicator sponge.
- B. Apply to all rubber moldings, plastic trim, etc.
- C. Use Adam's In & Out Spray to treat hard to reach areas. Don't worry about excess on paint or glass.
- D. Wipe any uneven looking trim with a dry, plush microfiber towel.



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8HP. Hand Polishing

Hand polishing is limited in the amount of improvement that can be achieved. The process will improve, but not perfect your paint. If you're looking to achieve perfection proceed to the machine polishing sections.

- A. For significant hazing, swirls, and other imperfections start with Adam's Swirl & Haze Remover otherwise proceed to 'G' in this section
- B. Apply a small amount of **Swirl & Haze Remover** to the **Orange Hex Grip Applicator** and work into the paint.
- C. Address the areas around door handles where there tends to be more significant damage.
- D. Proceed to polish one panel at a time, adding more polish to the applicator as needed. Use caution near trim and avoid getting polish into unwanted areas.
- F. Do not remove the residue at this time.
- G. Apply a small amount of **Revive Polish** to the **Blue Hex Grip Applicator** and work into the paint directly over the previous product residue.
- H. Proceed to polish one panel at a time, adding more polish to the applicator as needed. Use caution near trim and avoid getting polish into unwanted areas.
- I. Finish the vehicle, then remove the residue with an Adam's plush microfiber towel. Use Detail Spray to aid in removal of stubborn residue.
- J. When complete proceed to step 9.



8PC. Porter Cable

Refer to the instructional videos for more detailed information on the Porter Cable polishing process.

- A. Always inspect the tool prior to starting any machine polishing process. Check backing plate, pad, cord, and housing condition for any unusual wear.
- B. Select an area approximately 2ft x 2ft to serve as the 'test area'. Choose a section that represents the average condition of the paint on the entire vehicle.
- C. Attach the **Orange PC Polishing Pad** to the backing plate, making sure its centered.
- D. Apply a large "X" of **Swirl & Haze Remover** to the face of the polishing pad.
- E. Prime the pad with a single squirt of Detail Spray.
- F. Set the machine at speed 1 and place the pad in flush contact with the paint before starting.
- G. Turn the machine to the on position and spread the polish over the 2ft x 2ft test area.
- H. Shut the machine off, increase the speed setting to 5 or 6 depending on your comfort level.
- I. Switch the machine on again, and using medium pressure, move the machine in a slow methodical pattern over the test area.
- J. Overlap each pass of the machine by about 50% and make sure to work in both north-south and east-west patterns.
- K. Continue to work the polish until only a semi-transparent, greasy residue remains. This is known as "flashing" and indicates the polish has been broken down completely.
- L. Do not remove the residue at this point.
- M. Remove the orange pad and install the **White PC Polishing Pad**. Make sure its centered.
- N. Apply a large "X" of Fine Machine Polish to the face of the polishing pad.
- O. Repeat the steps "E" thru "K" with the new products.
- P. Remove the residue using an Adam's Single or Double soft towel depending on your preference. Use Detail Spray if residue is difficult to remove.
- Q. Inspect the finish. Satisfied? Proceed in the same manner around the entire vehicle adding only 3-4 pea sized drops of polish to the pad with each new panel.
- R. If desired result is not achieved begin process again, starting with the **Green PC Polishing Pad** and **Severe Swirl Remover** and repeat the steps from the beginning.
- S. Continue to step progressively down thru each product combo using the same process - green, orange, then white. Remove the residue and inspect the finish.
- T. Once the entire vehicle is polished proceed to step 9.

8FX. Flex Polisher

Refer to the instructional videos for more detailed information on the Flex polishing process.

- A. Always inspect the tool prior to starting any machine polishing process. Check backing plate, pad, cord, and housing condition for any unusual wear.
- B. Select an area approximately 2ft x 2ft to serve as the 'test area'. Choose a section that represents the average condition of the paint on the entire vehicle.
- C. Attach the **Orange Flex Polishing Pad** to the backing plate, making sure its centered. The Flex pads have an approx. 1/8" gap around the edge by design. Make sure to visually center the pad as best you can.
- D. Apply a large "X" of **Swirl & Haze Remover** to the face of the polishing pad.
- E. Prime the pad with a single squirt of Detail Spray.
- F. Set the machine at speed 5 or 6 depending on your comfort level.
- G. Place the pad flat on the paint, pull the trigger lightly and use low speed to spread the polish over the test area.
- H. Gradually increase the speed by pulling the trigger slightly more until eventually working at full speed.
- I. Using medium pressure, move the machine in a slow methodical pattern over the test area.
- J. Overlap each pass of the machine by about 50% and make sure to work in north-south and east-west patterns.
- K. Continue to work the polish until only a semi-transparent, greasy residue remains. This is known as "flashing" and indicates the polish has been broken down completely.
- L. Do not remove the residue at this point.
- M. Remove the orange pad and install the **White Flex Polishing Pad**. Make sure its centered.
- N. Apply a large "X" of **Fine Machine Polish** to the face of the polishing pad.
- O. Repeat the steps "E" thru "K" with the new products.
- P. Remove the residue using an Adam's Single or Double soft towel depending on your preference. Use Detail Spray if residue is difficult to remove.
- Q. Inspect the finish. Satisfied? Proceed in the same manner around the entire vehicle adding only 3-4 pea sized drops of polish to the pad with each new panel.
- R. If desired result is not achieved begin process again, starting with the **Green Flex Polishing Pad** and **Severe Swirl Remover** and repeat the process.
- S. Continue to step progressively down thru each product combo using the same process - green, orange, then white. Remove the residue and inspect the finish.
- T. Once the entire vehicle is polished proceed to step 9.

ADAM'S MACHINE POLISHING TIPS:

Avoid polishing on hard edges. The paint in these areas is thin and could be damaged by aggressive polishing.

Badges and emblems can have sharp edges which will ruin your pads. Stay clear of these areas.

Painters tape can be used to mask off vinyl graphics, trim, or anything else you want to avoid hitting with the polisher.

Never use a more aggressive method than needed to get the job done.

Always work a test area to figure out the process first. Don't do the entire car and realize you didn't get the result you wanted.

Once the pad is primed with polish, only add a few pea sized drops with each new section.

Polishes are always easier to work with in moderate temperature, work in shade whenever possible.

Be patient! Machine polishing takes time to master and practice makes perfect!

9. Machine Super Sealant

Machine Super Sealant is a product designed to be applied using Porter Cable 7424xp only. For hand applied options proceed to the next step.

- A. Install the **Gray PC Waxing Pad** onto the Porter Cable 7424xp.
- B. Make sure the pad is centered on the backing plate before beginning.
- C. Set the machine speed control to 3.
- D. Apply a large "X" of **Machine Super Sealant** to the pad face.
- E. Put the pad flat on the paint and turn the machine on to begin spreading the sealant over the finish.
- F. Use very light pressure, just enough to keep the pad in contact and spread the product evenly over the finish, add more sealant to the pad as needed.
- G. Allow 30-45 minutes for the product to cure.
- H. Buff away the residue using a clean Adam's Single or Double Soft microfiber towel, use Detail Spray to aid in removal if needed.
- I. Wait 12-24 hours before applying any other products to the surface. If any clouding or hazing is present the next day remove with Detail Spray and a clean microfiber towel.

10. Brilliant Glaze

Glazes are used for appearance reasons only and do not provide protection for the paint. Use Brilliant Glaze as a supplement after sealant or before waxing for more depth and shine.

- A. Brilliant Glaze is a very liquid product, shake well before and during application to keep mixture consistent.
- B. Pour a liberal amount of Glaze onto an Americana Hex Grip applicator, Yellow Hex Grip applicator, or microfiber applicator pad.
- C. Spread evenly over the paint, glass, chrome, and any other smooth surfaces.
- D. Brilliant Glaze cures quickly and will haze when it's ready to remove. If hazing takes more than a few moments application is too thick or ambient humidity is too high. Try using less product or spreading the same amount over a larger area to thin it out.
- E. Add more Brilliant Glaze to the applicator as needed to treat the rest of the vehicle.
- F. Remove the residue using a clean Adam's Single or Double Soft microfiber towel depending on your preference.
- G. **OPTIONAL** - Brilliant Glaze can also be applied using the Gray PC Waxing pad and Porter Cable polisher. Make sure to use a clean pad and apply at speed 3 or lower with light pressure. Spread evenly for best results.

Sealant, Glaze, or Wax: Which is Right for You?

Choosing the right product or products for your car depends on a lot of factors.

Sealants offer the best protection and longevity, but sacrifice some of the deep show car look in the process.

Glazes are easy to apply and give intense gloss and shine in a hurry, but lack the ability to protect the finish.

Waxes provide a deep, wet, show car look and good protection from the elements.

If you can't decide on which product or combo of products will best suit your needs join our free online forums at www.AdamsForums.com!

Get feedback from other customers just like you on what they prefer. Plus tips from detailing pros to help you make the best decision!



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11. Waxing

Adam's offers 2 types of carnuba wax - Buttery Wax & Americana Premium Paste Wax. Proceed to the steps for the product you'll be using.

ADAM'S BUTTERY WAX

- A. Shake the wax well before beginning application.
- B. Pour a liberal amount onto a Yellow Hex Grip applicator, or microfiber applicator pad.
- C. Spread the product thinly over one panel at a time.
- D. Add more wax to the applicator pad as needed, repeating the process on each panel, being careful not to cross panel gaps or cake product into badges.
- E. Once entire vehicle has been treated remove the wax residue using an Adam's Single or Double Soft microfiber towel depending on your preference.
- F. Remove any stubborn residue using a squirt of Adam's Detail Spray.

ADAM'S AMERICANA PREMIUM PASTE WAX

- A. Before first use open the lid and remove the applicator and the shipping insert.
- B. Allow a few moments for the applicator to decompress and discard the shipping insert.
- C. Using the applicator lightly agitate the surface of the wax until the face of the pad has a very thin coating.
- D. Use the edge of the pot to scrape any loose wax flakes from the pad before beginning application.
- E. Spread the wax thinly over 1 panel, making sure not to cross any panel gaps or get product into crevices.
- F. Refresh the applicator with more wax as needed and apply to a second panel.
- G. Remove the residue from the first 2 panels using a clean Adam's Single or Double Soft microfiber towel depending on preference.
- H. Repeat the process, applying wax 2 panels at a time then removing until the entire vehicle has been treated.
- I. Apply a 2nd coat of Americana to the paint if desired, but do not exceed more than 2 coats as it may cause a haze to form on the finish.
- J. Avoid using Detail Spray or any other products over the Americana for approximately 1 hour after the application is completed.



12. Clean Up & Caring For Your Accessories

Proper care and maintenance of your detailing accessories will ensure a long useful life. Take the time to clean them after use and store them accordingly.

WASH PADS

- A. Using a strong stream from the hose rinse from the middle outward to dislodge any particles.
- B. Flip the pad and repeat the process.
- C. After rinsing wring out by hand, comb thru the fibers with your fingers and inspect.
- D. If any debris remains repeat the process.
- E. When rinsing is complete hang dry in a clean area out of direct sunlight. If fibers become matted or tangled use a hair brush to refresh the material.

FOAM POLISHING & WAXING PADS

- A. Saturate the pad with Adam's All Purpose Cleaner to break up residues.
- B. Agitate the cleaner with your fingers.
- C. Using a strong stream from the hose rinse until the water runs clear. Repeat as needed.
- D. Squeeze excess water from the pad.
- E. Set out to dry on a wire rack or similar surface, in a clean area, out of direct sunlight.
- F. DO NOT store foam pads or applicators in an air tight container or bag.

MICROFIBER TOWELS

- A. Pre-treat any heavily soiled towels with Adam's All Purpose Cleaner.
- B. Machine Wash on a cold or warm water setting with extra rinse cycle if the machine is equipped.
- C. Keep microfiber separated from other materials like cotton. Wash dark or very dirty towels separately.
- D. Use only liquid laundry detergent, no granulated. If available use an allergen free detergent.
- E. Machine dry on a low heat setting.
- F. DO NOT use any fabric softeners.

CLEANERS, POLISHES, & WAXES

- A. Do not store any detailing chemicals in an area where the temps will be below 40°F or above 85°F.
- B. Always make sure lids are tight and closed before storing. Turn spray nozzles to "off" position.
- C. If storing products for a prolonged period remove sprayers and replace with the red shipping cap inserts and lids.

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