



AUTOSMART
INTERNATIONAL

Technical Guide
WHEEL
CLEANING



PRODUCT SELECTION

1. Check Manufacturers' advice:

Manufacturers often specify the type of cleaning products that should be used on a particular vehicle. This information is usually found in the owners' handbook. Products should be selected in accordance with these instructions. Failure to do so may invalidate the vehicle warranty.

2. Check for existing damage, corrosion or wear & tear:

Check for:

- Scuffs and kerb damage
- Corrosion
- Blisters
- Peeling paint or lacquer
- Faded paint

Also check brakes, wheel nuts and centre badges.

Do not use acidic or strong alkaline products on corroded or damaged finishes.



3. Wheel type:



OKAY



TEST BEFORE
USE



DO NOT USE

WHEEL		CLEANING PROCESS			
		ACID	ALKALINE		NEUTRAL
WHEEL TYPE (Features)	COMMON ISSUES	Ali Ali Shine Treble X	Smart Wheels TFR G101	Hazsafe Prestige Smartbike	Autowash Duet Brushwash Car Shampoo
FACTORY FITTED – PAINTED • Usually smooth, consistent light silver finish.		OKAY	OKAY	OKAY	OKAY
FACTORY FITTED – TRIM • Plastic wheel trim		OKAY	OKAY	OKAY	OKAY
AFTERMARKET – PAINT INCL. POWDER COAT • Rough to touch. • Speckled or uneven finish • Non-typical colour i.e. Dark Grey	• Paint quality can vary. • Low specification finishes can fade or start to lift.	TEST BEFORE USE	TEST BEFORE USE	OKAY	OKAY
AFTERMARKET – POLISHED “CHROME LOOK” • Check for presence of lacquer by applying a small amount of cutting polish. If cloth turns black and the surface becomes shiny then the wheel is not lacquered.	• Susceptible to corrosion / lacquer peel. • Check for damage before cleaning	LACQUER	LACQUER	OKAY	OKAY
		NO LACQUER	NO LACQUER	OKAY	OKAY
DIAMOND CUT – DARK WITH POLISHED FACE • Check that polished face is lacquered (see above)	• Susceptible to corrosion. • Check for damage before cleaning	LACQUER	LACQUER	OKAY	OKAY
		NO LACQUER	NO LACQUER	OKAY	OKAY
SPLIT RIM • Bolts around wheel rim	• Susceptible to corrosion around rim bolts. • Check for damage before cleaning	TEST BEFORE USE	TEST BEFORE USE	OKAY	OKAY
UNFINISHED • Rare and usually only found on older vehicles • Usually dull with white corrosion spots	• Will dull /corrode in use. • Require polishing with PEEK to restore shine.	DO NOT USE	DO NOT USE	OKAY	OKAY
CHROME • Now rare and usually only found on classic cars.	• Acid can dissolve chrome. • Prone to rusting and flaking.	DO NOT USE	OKAY	OKAY	OKAY
DIY (AEROSOL) – PAINT • Rough to touch. • Speckled or uneven finish • Non-typical colour i.e. Dark Grey	• Paint quality can vary. • Low specification finishes can fade or start to lift.	DO NOT USE	TEST BEFORE USE	TEST BEFORE USE	OKAY

ALSO CONSIDER



OKAY



TEST BEFORE USE



DO NOT USE

	ISSUES	CLEANING PRODUCT TYPE			
		ACID	ALKALINE		NEUTRAL
		Ali Ali Shine Treble X	Smart Wheels TFR G101	Hazsafe Prestige Smartbike	Autowash Duet Brushwash Car Shampoo
CONCRETE / BLOCK PAVING (DRIVEWAY)	Hydrochloric acid will dissolve / discolour concrete and stone surfaces.	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
BRAKE DISCS	Washing with acids can cause surface rust.	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
BRAKE CALIPERS - STANDARD FINISH		Green	Green	Green	Green
BRAKE CALIPERS - PAINTED	Can fade in use so check before cleaning	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green
BRAKE CALIPERS - POLISHED	Can dull in use. Check before cleaning.	Red	Red	Green	Green
WHEEL NUTS – STEEL / CHROME	Repeated washing with acids can cause corrosion	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
WHEELS NUTS – ALLOY	Repeated washing with acids and alkaline products can cause corrosion	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green

PRODUCT USAGE

- Always read label and MSDS before using product for the first time.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, such as gloves and goggles.
- Do not use acids with pressurised sprayers.
- Ensure that appropriate first aid facilities are available.
- Ensure the wheel, brakes and surrounding bodywork are cool before applying product.
- Dilute and apply the product in accordance with the label.
- Avoid or minimise over-spray onto surrounding bodywork. Do not allow acid or strong alkaline products to come into contact with brightwork or polished trim.
- **DO NOT ALLOW PRODUCT TO DRY ON UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**
- Rinse with plenty of water.

Special precautions for damaged wheels or DIY finishes:

- Do not brush corrosion blisters or damaged areas.
- Do not apply high-pressure water from close range, as this may cause the paint / lacquer to flake off.