

MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTIONS FOR A HARDTOP WITH GEL COAT SURFACE

Our recommendation is to wax the hardtop when new, mounted on the vehicle, and then annually to avoid discoloration.

If discoloration seen on an old hardtop, follow below instructions

1. Polish the hardtop with polishing compound e g „OSKARS M-50“ (but more or less any polishing compound for boats is suitable).
2. **After polishing, it's very important to wax the surface for protecting it (any wax for boats will be suitable).**

After the polishing and waxing is done, an annual waxing must be done to keep a glassy surface of the hardtop.

See more info on next page about different treatments depending of the condition of the surface.

Wax

Keeping gelcoat coated with wax—starting when the hardtop is new — is the best way to prolong its life. Regularly waxed gelcoat can retain its gloss for 15 years or more. The real purpose of a coat of wax is to protect, but wax also has restorative properties if the gelcoat is not too badly weathered.

Application instructions vary among brands, but in general you apply the wax with a cloth or foam pad using a circular motion. Let the wax dry to a haze, then buff away the excess with a soft cloth, such as an old bath towel. The remaining wax fills microscopic pitting in the gelcoat and provides a new, smooth, reflective surface.

Polishing

Polish is not a coating, but rather an abrasive — like extremely fine sandpaper. Polishing removes the pitted surface rather than coating it. Use a soft cloth to apply polish to a small area at a time, rubbing with a circular motion until the surface becomes glassy. After polishing, you should apply a coat of wax to protect the surface and improve the gloss. Some polish products include wax in their formulations.

Using Rubbing Compound

If the gelcoat is weathered so badly that polish fails to restore its shine, you will need the stronger abrasives rubbing compound contains. Wax on the surface can cause the compound to cut unevenly, so first remove all wax by "sweeping" the surface in one direction — not back and forth — with rags saturated with dewax solvent or toluene.

Select a rubbing compound formulated for fiberglass and use it exactly like polish, rubbing it with a circular motion until the surface turns glassy. The gelcoat on the hardtop is about 10 times as thick as the paint on your car, so compound shouldn't cut all the way through it as long as you are careful not to rub in one place too long. If the gelcoat starts to look transparent, stop.

After the surface has been compounded, polish it, then coat it with wax and buff it. Providing the gelcoat has an adequate thickness — the hardtop might have been compounded previously — this process will restore the shine to fiberglass in almost any condition.