

How to Remove Water Spots



Dealing with water spots the easy way!

The same water you use to wash your car can also damage the paint. When water evaporates off of your car's paint, it leaves behind trace elements which create spots and other damage.

Calcium and metals are the most damaging ingredients in your tap water. Rainwater may also contain harmful elements such as acids from air pollutants.



Sprinklers showered this car with hard water. It then sat in the sun for several days, causing the hard-water deposits to harden. Vinegar will remove the spots from the aluminum bumper, plastic taillights and rubber trim. But the paint will need to be polished and buffed with a buffer.

Getting rid of water spots is easy if you chase after them. A good conventional solution is to use a [quick detailing spray](#) after you wash, or as soon as you discover the spots (i.e., when your neighbor's sprinkler gets you).

If the spots are allowed to dry and bake on, they will attach to and harden on your paint. When this happens, you need to use a mild acid to get them loose.

Believe it or not, the best acid is also the least expensive and most available: **a gallon jug of distilled white vinegar.**

Expert car detailers have known this secret for years. If you take your car to a pro, they will charge you for the pleasure of smelling like a pickle. Save your money, put on some gloves and get to it.

To give your car the magic acid bath, first wash with your normal car shampoo, rinse, and then use the distilled vinegar. Just wipe it on with a sponge, and rub it in. Do one section at a time. Let it sit 30 to 60 seconds, and then rinse.

When you're done, wash the car again with shampoo, and then rinse. By the way, vinegar will remove your wax. So be prepared to re-wax your car after the vinegar treatment.