

Procedure for Removing Paint from your Vehicle

Do not! try to remove paint by scrubbing the vehicle's finish with a solvent or scouring cleanser as doing so will cause damage to the finish.

Step 1

If waterborne traffic paint comes into contact with your vehicle, it is recommended that you try pressure-washing your car as soon as possible. This will loosen and remove most of the paint unless it has dried for more than one day.

Step 2

If the pressure washer does not remove the paint, allow the water to dry off the vehicle. spray the remaining paint with water-displacing spray (such as WD-40). Keep the water-displacing spray on the vehicle for 1-2 hours before washing it off. Please note that this spray will not damage the vehicle's finish. Repeat this procedure if necessary.

Step 3

For heavy concentrations of paint or paint that has dried for several days, apply a generous amount of petroleum jelly (such as Vaseline) to the paint and allow it to remain overnight. The following day try pressure-washing your vehicle. Repeat this procedure if necessary.

Step 4

Once the paint has been removed from the vehicle, apply a quality car wax to the finish. This should remove any lasting paint residue from the finish.

Wheel Wells

Step 1

Removing paint from wheel wells may be more challenging. Try applying a generous amount of petroleum jelly to the wheel wells and allow it to remain for several days. Then, pressure-wash the paint from this area.

Step 2

Following this procedure, apply rubbing alcohol to the area to help loosen any residue left from the petroleum jelly. **Do not!** scrub the vehicle's surface. Instead, use a wetted rag or sponge.

Disclaimer: The Region of Durham Traffic Department provides these instructions as a guide only and assumes no liability in the use of them