

**AUTOBEAD** DETAIL  
LIKE A PRO™

TOP 5  
ISSUES  
**DETAILERS  
OVERCOME**



Autobead

# Top 5 Issues Detailers Overcome

**A professional detailer will fix the issues that bother you the most with how your vehicle appears.**

Learn about the five most common issues car owners have and how your professional detailers will fix them for you, allowing you to enjoy your vehicle to the fullest.

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# Swirl Marks

**Swirl marks are micro-scratches on the surface of the car's paintwork. These can sometimes resemble spiderwebs across the panels when inspected under direct light. Over time these scratches dramatically dull the appearance of your vehicle.**

## How to spot swirl marks

Swirl marks can be challenging to see with the untrained eye, so direct light is critical. Either sunlight or a torch will help you identify these defects as the light will catch the scratches and make them easier to see. Over time you'll notice them simply in daylight as your experience in spotting this defect grows. Once you notice swirl marks, you will see them again and again.

## Why does this occur?

These types of scratches are typically caused by incorrect washing techniques, such as not carrying out a thorough pre-wash stage to help remove as much dirt as possible before a contact wash. Alternatively, swirl marks can occur due to dirty

wash media with contaminants stuck in the fibres, which will be dragged across the paintwork. This is common when using an automatic wash or hand wash where the wash mitts and cloths are used many times, from a single water bucket.

## How can it be fixed?

Professional detailers will address this issue using a machine polisher to remove the swirl marks. Using a polishing compound, your professional detailer can polish the defects, restore clarity and release high gloss levels in the paint. You may also wish to add protection to your newly corrected car, locking in the perfect finish. Be sure to choose a trained, accredited, and insured professional detailer.

BEFORE



AFTER



# Marring

**Marring is small score lines inflicted to the surface, often in the same direction. If left unattended, these could lead to swirl marks and the associated deterioration of the condition of the paintwork.**

## How to spot Marring?

Marring can be harder to see with the naked eye. Take a torch and inspect the panel's surface, holding the light at a slight angle to help it catch against any defects or imperfections that might otherwise be missed. Marring will look like grey hazing on top of the surface.

## Why does this occur?

This is a very common issue after using a clay bar in the decontamination stage, as the abrasive nature of the clay bar causes light scratches as it is moved along the surface of the panels. It can also occur from using low-quality microfibre cloths with a seam or label that can cause damage.

## How can it be fixed?

To remove Marring, a professional detailer will carry out a machine polish process, using a polishing compound to remove these imperfections and reviving the paintwork to its sharp, glossy finish.

“...Marring will look like a grey hazing on top of the surface

BEFORE



AFTER





# Holograms

**Holograms are wispy, rainbow-like marks that appear on the paintwork following the motion of a previous machine or hand polish attempt. This effect can be oily in sunlight, indicating that the product used was not broken down enough, with the residue left to dry on the surface.**

## How to spot Holograms?

You will need direct light to be able to see holograms, either assess the car under direct sunlight or use an inspection light. The hologram lines will appear like buffer trails or sunbeams from the affected area.

## Why does this occur?

Holograms typically occur because of incorrect polishing techniques. The polish has either not worked enough for the product to diminish adequately, or the polisher has not been flat on the panel, causing abrasive marks. This may also be expected if using a rotary polisher and not completing a final pass at a slow speed.

## How can it be fixed?

Your professional detailer will be able to fix holograms by machine polishing these defects with an optimal system for the issue, typically starting with a harder compound and carrying out a final pass using a finishing or cleansing polish.

“

**...The hologram lines will appear like buffer trails or sunbeams from the affected area**

BEFORE



AFTER



# Bird etching

**Bird etching is the impression of a bird dropping that has been left unattended. The acidic properties have deteriorated the integrity of the clear coat, causing the outline to be 'etched' into the paintwork.**

## How to spot Bird Etching?

Depending on the severity of the etching, these defects will be easy to find even with the naked eye. The cloudy outline will be in the area where bird droppings have been sitting for an extended period.

## Why does this occur?

This is caused by the warming and cooling of the car's paintwork. The clear coat will expand under the heat of the bird strike and mould around the bird dropping as it cools and contracts again to its original state, capturing and bonding to the grit present in the bird strike.

## How can it be fixed?

A professional detailer will rectify these defects using one of two methods.

- **Heat** - If the etching has been detected early, then your detailer can use a heat source to manipulate the clear coat to remove the etching marks.
- **Polishing** - If the etching is significant, your detailer may need to machine polish the panel to remove the deeper etching impression. This will be done using polishing compound and finishing polish.

BEFORE



AFTER





# Headlight Oxidation

**Headlights faded over time because of being exposed to the elements; subjected to oxidation and UV damage. Over time it will affect the brightness of your lights and is essential for getting your vehicle through MOT.**

## How to spot Faded Headlights?

Faded Headlights will affect the brightness of your lights, and the lamps themselves will appear dull, discoloured (yellow/cloudy white) and can be rough to the touch depending on the extent of the damage.

## Why does this occur?

Headlights will cloud and fade because of oxidation and UV damage caused by exposure to the Sun and elements, which turns the outer layer yellow and hazy. The extent of this effect will depend on the severity of the oxidation.

## How can it be fixed?

Rescuing headlights is an extensive job. Your detailer will carry out a (wet) sanding process to remove the cloudy oxidation. A machine polish followed them to remove sanding marks and restore clarity. Finishing with a ceramic coating is recommended to protect the headlights from future damage and fading.

“**...Faded Headlights will affect the brightness of your lights and the lamps themselves will appear dull**

BEFORE



AFTER



# Avoiding Issues

The three wash methods to avoid, to reduce the risk of these issues.

## 1. Incorrect home wash processes and tools

As a culture, we pride ourselves on doing things right. We have never been shown the right way regarding car care. Common misconceptions include the use of:

**A single bucket** - where grit and dirt gather, contaminating your wash media

**A sponge** - dirt and grit sits on the surface and scratches the paint on every pass

**No pre-wash** - a vital stage for removing dirt and grit before making contact with the surfaces

## 2. Local hand wash

The “convenient” local handwash can sometimes lose its appeal when you become aware of the poor practices some will adopt. This includes:

**Single wash barrel** - all wash mitts are kept in a single barrel, which gathers the dirt from every car that day. These contaminated mitts can cause severe micro scratches like Swirl Marks from a single wash.

**Aggressive chemicals** - what they spray on your car at the beginning of the wash is so strong that it will strip most products of the surface to protect the paint.

**Used microfibres** - to finish your service, microfibres carrying grit are wiped over your delicate paint to apply products which will hide the damage that's been done for a few days.

## 3. Automated car wash

The Automated (mechanical) Wash is one of the most destructive car care options on the market, with multiple causes of damage. This includes:

**Contaminated cloths** - those giant microfibre cloths or “rotating toothbrushes” house countless particles that will damage your vehicle's surface.

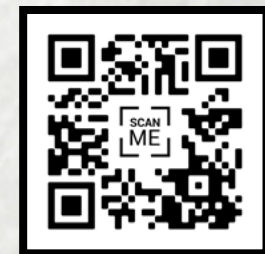
**Aggressive brushes** - the brushes used are too aggressive for the delicate clear coats applied to most cars. They will cause swirl marks over time if not in a single wash.

**Incomplete drying** - water is the carrier of contamination. The jumbo blow dryer will leave multiple water spots on your vehicle, which can be challenging to remove.

You can avoid all these issues by employing your local professional detailer to maintain your vehicle.

If you enjoy cleaning your car, avoid causing these issues by downloading our **Detail Like a Pro eBook**.

It guides you through the process and products to maintain your vehicle without causing damage to its surfaces.





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