

# Care and Protection of New Vehicle Paint Finishes

M-801-001

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## Valid for

All CXU, CHU, GU, MRU, LEU, TD Models

## Case description

The paint finish on a new vehicle provides beauty, depth of color, gloss retention and durability. The best protection against environmental influences that can harm the finish of a new vehicle is frequent washing and waxing as required. How often washing and waxing is required depends upon how much the vehicle is used, where it is parked, environmental and weather conditions. Frequent washing removes oils, dirt and grime that can stain and oxidize the painted and polished surfaces of the vehicle. The following simple precautions are recommended during the first few months of service to protect and maintain the painted and polished surfaces of the vehicle.

## During the first 30 days –

- Do not use a commercial truck wash. Stiff brushes or sponges can mar the finish and damage the surface. Wash the vehicle by hand with cool water and a mild car wash solution. Be sure to use a soft cloth or sponge.
- Wash the vehicle in a shaded area; never in direct sunlight.
- Never dry-wipe the surface of the vehicle, as dry-wiping could scratch the finish. Always use clean water.
- Avoid parking the vehicle in areas of heavy industrial fallout, as such fallout can mar or spot freshly painted surfaces.
- Bird droppings are high in acid content and can damage freshly painted surfaces. These droppings should be removed as soon as possible.
- Do not spill gasoline, oil, antifreeze, transmission fluid or windshield washer solvent on the new finish. If this happens, immediately rinse the surface with water. DO NOT WIPE.
- Do not scrape ice or snow from the surface with a scraper, shovel or other similar tool. Brush loose material off the vehicle with a soft snow brush.

## During the first 90 days –

- Do not wax or polish the vehicle during the first 90 days. This will allow the paint finish to dry and harden completely. (When the vehicle is waxed or polished, do not use waxes or polishes that contain silicone.)

## Washing the Exterior

*Note: Vehicles should be washed only in special wash bays to protect the environment from cleaning agent contamination.*



**Danger**

Vehicle cleaning products must be handled carefully, as these products may be poisonous. Keep all cleaning products out of the reach of children.

*Note: Do not wash the vehicle in direct sunlight.*



### Warning

Do not clean the underside of the fenders, cab, chassis, etc., without protecting the hands and arms, as injuries may result when scraping against sharp edges.



### Danger

Test the service brakes after washing the vehicle. Moisture and/or ice on the brakes can affect braking efficiency.

*Note: When washing the vehicle in cold/freezing weather, avoid direct water spray into the door lock cylinders, as the water may freeze in the lock mechanisms.*



### Caution

To ensure durability, proper care of the paint finish is important. Chemicals used to wash the vehicle should have a neutral pH (range between 6 and 8), and detergents containing butyl cello solve or potassium hydroxide should not be used.



### Caution

For chassis used in concrete operations, do not use muriatic acid or similar types of products to clean concrete from the cab or frame surfaces. Use of these types of products will damage the paint finish and void the vehicle warranty. Mack Trucks, Inc. has approved EL-ReadyMix Truck Wash and Wax for removing concrete from the vehicle surfaces. This product is available on a direct ship basis from EMS®. For additional information, contact EMS® at 800-510-8812, or visit their web site at [www.enviromfg.com](http://www.enviromfg.com).

- Cab and Hood

- Soften the dirt on the cab first with plenty of water, and then rinse.
- Clean the surfaces of the cab and hood with a soft sponge or brush, starting at the roof and working down. Use slight pressure on the sponge or brush.
- Use mild detergent. Never use strong soaps or chemical detergents. Any commercially available cleaner designed specifically for automotive finishes may be used for cleaning the cab and hood surfaces. PPG Industries, Inc., 3M company and Mequair's® have a complete line of automotive cleaning products available that are approved for use on MACK vehicles.
- Rinse the sponge or brush often to keep it clean.
- Clean the wheels and dirtier areas of the chassis with a different sponge if possible. This helps avoid scratching the paint finish with grit transferred to the sponge from the dirtier areas.
- After washing, rinse the vehicle thoroughly with water, and then wipe dry with a clean, soft chamois or all cotton towels to avoid surface scratches and spotting.

- Chassis

- Wash excess dirt and grime from the chassis with water from a hose.

- Use a mild detergent and soft brush to remove road grime and road salts that can collect on the frame.
- Rinse the chassis thoroughly with a hose.

*Note: Cleaning the chassis on a regular basis will help deter corrosion on the frame and other components. Chemicals used on roads for ice and snow removal, as well as for dust control, can collect on the frame. If these chemicals are not removed, accelerated corrosion can occur on fuel lines, frame rails and other components, even though they all have corrosion protection applied.*

## Exterior Waxing

A good coating of wax helps protect the painted surfaces against adverse environmental influences, and can even protect against light scratches.

- Always use waxes (and polishes) that are non-abrasive. Do not use waxes or polishes that contain silicone.
- When water no longer forms small drops and rolls off the surface of clean paint, apply a coat of high-quality, hard wax. Even if a liquid wax solution is used on a regular basis, it is advisable to protect the finish by applying a hard paste wax at least twice per year.
- Vehicle finishes may have a basecoat plus a clear coat. Use a basecoat/clearcoat wax on the paint finishes.

## Exterior Polishing

Polishing the vehicle is only necessary if the paint has lost its shine and the gloss cannot be brought back with normal waxing. It is recommended that the vehicle be professionally polished to avoid swirl marks or other types of damage to the painted surfaces. Mequiar's® has a complete line of waxes, polishes and other cleaning and care products that are approved for use on MACK cabs, hoods and sleeper surfaces.

## Issued by

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