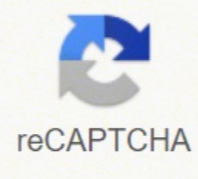




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## What products to use to detail a car interior

A dry afternoon and a few basic cleaning supplies are all you need to detail and clean your car's interior like a pro. Why Detail Your Car Yourself? I used to ignore messes in my car for the most part. After all, I was only in it long enough to do the school run and maybe a few errands on the way. Then one summer morning, I opened my car and nearly gagged at the smell. All of the food wrappers, half-empty cans of pop, and other trash on the floor of my car were unbearable. Why on earth was I starting my day like that?! Professional Detailing is Expensive! So, I took it to an auto detailer. A day later, I'd spent \$200 and, although my car was cleaner, it was not spotless. I felt ripped off because I could've done a better job myself if I'd only done a little research. So, I learned how to clean a car interior better than that professional detailing service. Now I'm going to share my car cleaning checklist and routine with you. How to Detail Your Car Interior at Home It's always best to clean your car interior on an overcast day or in a shady spot, so the cleaning products don't dry too quickly in the heat and leave streaks. Materials and Equipment Empty garbage bags or boxesA vacuum cleaner with attachmentsFoam brush or old toothbrushMicrofiber cleaning clothsA bucket of clean, warm waterRubbing (isopropyl) alcoholWindow cleaner (here's a streak-free homemade glass cleaner)Liquid dish soapScrub brushSqueegee (for pet owners) 1. Empty It Put all garbage in the first bag and throw it away. Use the second bag to gather items that don't belong in your car and set it aside to deal with later. Just be sure you don't put it all back in your car when you're done! 2. Clean the Soft Surfaces Work in this order: Cleaning efficiently involves working from top to bottom, so you're always moving dirt down then out. Using the upholstery attachment, vacuum the floor mats, remove them, and set them aside. Vacuum the ceiling of your car (especially important if you're a smoker), the seats, under the seats, then the rest of the floor. Be sure to move the seats forward and back as far as they'll go, so you're cleaning as much of the floor as possible. Mind the gaps: Using the crevice attachment, clean between the seats and console, under the seats, around the edges of the seat rails, and all other areas where food and dirt hide. Use the foam brush or old toothbrush as needed to dislodge stubborn dirt. 3. Clean the Hard Surfaces Dust. Using the brush attachment, clean the interior of your car by vacuuming the dashboard, the console, the inside of all cup holders, and all other surfaces where dust collects. Wash. Fill the bucket with warm water and add a few drops of liquid dish soap. Use this to wipe the dashboard, steering wheel, console, door handles, and other non-glass surfaces. Switch cloths any time the one you're working with looks dirty, and replace the soapy water if it begins looking grimy, too. Clean the windows. Use the glass cleaner and a clean, dry microfiber cloth to clean fingerprints and haze from the inside of windows. (Using a paper towel will leave traces of lint that become dust.) Polish any chrome surfaces, too. Polish leather and vinyl. If you like using a product to shine your car's vinyl or leather surfaces, now's the time to apply it. To keep overspray from getting windows or chrome messy, spray the polish onto a cloth and wipe it on, then buff to a shine with a separate clean, dry cloth. Seats: A microfiber cloth and a little soapy water can remove most upholstery stains, even on leather seats. Make sure the fabric isn't soaking wet so you aren't saturating the surface. If the stain remains, use some rubbing alcohol on a clean cloth to dab (not rub) the stain until it lifts. Floor: Soapy water also works on most carpet stains. Be sure you don't get the floor too wet, though, or it can lead to mildew. Use a scrub brush on stubborn stains or even a carpet stain treatment if needed. Once the stain is gone, wipe the area with a clean, damp cloth to remove any soap residue, or it will just attract more dirt. Floor mats: Use a garden hose, soapy water, and scrub brush to clean the carpet mats on your driveway. Finish with a blast of plain water to rinse away soap residue. Then move them to dry in a sunny spot. How to Keep Your Car Clean Some people enjoy spending their Saturday afternoons cleaning their car's interior and hand-washing it in the driveway. If that's not your style, here are ways to keep your car interior clean. Don't treat it as storage. The more stuff in your car, the easier it is for messes to go unnoticed. Empty your car when you get home, including the trunk. If you have kids, look under the seats to make sure they haven't dropped anything that's rolled underneath. How to get pet hair off of your car's seats: If your pets frequently ride along in your car, your seats and carpeting have probably collected a lot of pet hair. Run a damp squeegee on the soft surfaces to lift most of the hair, so your vacuum can work better. Keep cleaning supplies handy. Tuck a couple of microfiber cloths in your car's center console or glove compartment. You might want to add a couple of hand sanitizer packets (not the bottled stuff), too. Use the cloths to dust your console and dash when you're stuck in traffic. The sanitizer packets are alcohol-based, so they're handy for cleaning up food spills. (Here are more uses for hand sanitizer.) Use a car trash can. Get into the habit of putting things like food wrappers directly into a trash bag in your car. It doesn't have to be fancy — even an empty plastic shopping bag or an old cereal container works. Make cupholders easy to clean. Car cupholders get grimy, and they're not the easiest things to wipe out. Stick cupcake liners in them to make those messes easy to clean. If you use paper liners, you can swap them out or try silicone ones and just wash them. Use the right floor mat. The carpeted floor mats that came with your car aren't very good at actually protecting your car's floor. Swap those floor mats with rubber ones if your family enjoys outdoor activities. They'll protect your car's floor from stains and water, and all you need is a hose to clean them. Car Cleaning Checklist Want a helpful, printable checklist to clean your car's interior? Tap the image below to print or save it. Car and Driver We've all been there. One minute your commute is going smoothly, then in the blink of an eye, some yahoo cuts you off. You react quickly, saving both yourself and the car, but there is one casualty: your coffee. As you swerve to avoid the ne'er-do-well, the cup flies from your hand, causing it to careen into your dashboard, dump its contents, and coat your interior with the latest shade of pumpkin spice.How We Chose the Upholstery Cleaners in This GuideTo aid in the task of interior decontamination, we have assembled a guide to 10 of the best car upholstery cleaners. We tried them on stained upholstery and found that each offers the everyday car owner the ability to clean with the speed and efficiency of a professional detail shop. To be clear, the products on this list are intended to clean cloth and vinyl upholstery; a few here will also clean leather. Upholstery Cleaning Tips & Tricks:Start with a good vacuuming. A dry soft brush before vacuuming will go a long way toward loosening stuck-on and ground-in debris. Use the attachments that came with your car vacuum cleaner to get deep in the creases and crevices of the seats. Expose as much of your seats as possible by folding them forward, laying them ball the way back, and slide them back and forward as far as they will go. Front and back. You never know what might shake loose and besides, why do a half-assed job? Do it right the first time.Treat stains with a special cleaner before cleaning your upholstery, taking care to test any cleaner in an inconspicuous spot first, for colorfastness.If cleaning cloth seats, use any liquids sparingly. You don't want to soak the foam padding underneath, which could lead to mold and mildew.While some of the products on this list claim to clean leather as well as fabric and vinyl, we recommend using a specialized leather cleaner and conditioner in your car. Other Considerations:• Before using any new cleaning product, or trying a familiar one on a new surface, always check for colorfastness. This means testing the product in an inconspicuous area to ensure it won't cause the dyes in the fabric to bleed or run. It says this in the directions, but we're going to take a wild guess that you have been known to ignore those, which brings us to:• All cleaners are different, and it's good practice to read the directions before you start in order to guarantee optimal results. Pay close attention to specific techniques and methods.• If simply applying product and wiping it away isn't working, consider purchasing a detail brush. The detail brush helps to agitate the cleaner, working up a lather and offering deeper penetration into the target area. Advertisement - Continue Reading Below Meguiar's Carpet & Upholstery Cleaner Car and Driver has a long history of using Meguiar's products. In that time, we've grown fond of their exceptional quality, and this carpet and upholstery cleaner holds true to those expectations. Its best features include an ergonomic spray-nozzle design, a pleasant citrus scent, and a dual-action trigger (offering a wide-angle spray for large areas or a precise stream for spot cleaning).BUY at WALMART CarGuys is a new brand to the world of automotive detailing, offering uncompromising quality. Though it claims to be more affordable than competitors, the Super Cleaner checks in as the most expensive on this list. However, this premium isn't an arbitrary one. Super Cleaner is both biodegradable and eco-friendly and is safe for cleaning leather as well. With no need to rinse or vacuum, a neutral smell, and no residue left behind, Super Cleaner is truly an all-in-one product.BUY at WALMART Mothers Carpet & Upholstery Cleaner Starting off from humble beginnings with only aluminum wheel polish, Mothers now offers the car community a comprehensive lineup of detailing products. Mothers Carpet and Upholstery Cleaner offers a gentle, pH-balanced formula that greatly aids in preventing colors from running. In our sampling of this product, we found a like-new finish and no trace of residue. We should also note that this product works well around the house, so take advantage of its massive 24-ounce capacity.BUY at WALMART With "tuff" in its name, we expected great things from this multipurpose cleaner, and it didn't disappoint. Since it's more utilitarian than others in this roundup, we decided to test this product on a large 10-year-old coffee stain on a chair in a staffer's cubicle. We were shocked to find zero trace of said stain after scrubbing with Tuff Stuff, although we did need a vacuum to assist with the drying process. In addition to cleaning car upholstery and furniture, Tuff Stuff can be used around the house as a bathroom, carpet, and appliance cleaner. Armor All Oxi Magic Carpet & Upholstery Cleaner With the help of Oxi Magic, Armor All's Carpet and Upholstery Cleaner is a more narrowly focused cleaner than some of the others on our list, specializing in fabric, vinyl, carpet, and non-clear plastics. It leaves behind a bright clean-linen scent and zero residue. It's easy to use, too: just spray it on, let it sit, and blot it dry. Chemical Guys Nonsense Cleaner In recent years, Chemical Guys has elevated itself to one of the premier automotive-detailing companies on the market. The Nonsense cleaner is odorless, pH balanced, safe on all surfaces (minus infotainment and gauge clusters), and dries with zero residue. The combination of these traits, in tandem with its high-power stain lifting, makes this cleaner the most versatile and arguably the best all-around product on the list.BUY at WALMART 3D Upholstery & Carpet Shampoo Some people prefer value and quantity over quality. Thankfully, with 3D's carpet and upholstery cleaner, you won't have to make that compromise. The shampoo comes concentrated in a 16-ounce bottle and requires that you dilute it: one part shampoo to 16 parts water. It also means that you aren't buying the water that is typically mixed into cleaning sprays, just the shampoo.BUY at WALMART Chemical Guys Foaming Citrus Fabric Clean A concentrated shampoo from the vaunted Chemical Guys lineup. Using naturally occurring microbes, Fabric Clean breaks down stains and odors at a microscopic level without using harsh chemicals such as bleach and ammonia, thanks to its eco-friendly biodegradable formula. After use we found no trace of residue or stains, just the scent of a freshly squeezed lemon.BUY at WALMART Ultima Interior Shampoo Gel Another great comprehensive detailing product, Ultima's gel stands out among its peers on this list. Rather than a liquid or foam cleaning base, Ultima uses a gel-like liquid imbued with a solution that coats treated areas with an antibacterial shield dubbed Active Defense. Additionally, Ultima works on nearly all surfaces, including leather. We found that the formula easily dissolved stains, allowing them to be wiped away with no rinsing or vacuuming necessary.BUY at WALMART Turtle Wax Power Out Upholstery Cleaner Turtle Wax is known for the affordability of its products, and Power Out is indeed the cheapest on this list. The 18-ounce Power Out can is fitted with a removable plastic brush attachment, making it easy to work the cleaner into target areas for better penetration and coverage. This product does have two negatives offsetting its low cost: It was the only cleaner that left a greasy coating on treated areas, and the cheap-feeling brush attachment showed that it could cause abrasive damage if used too aggressively.BUY at WALMART Relentless Drive Ultimate Carpet and Upholstery Brush A cleaning brush that's designed for upholstery is a great thing to have on hand when the spirit moves you to attack the dirt and stains that inevitably accumulate in your car's interior over time. There are many good brushes available on the market, and this is a good example. BUY at eBay This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content at piano.io







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