

Chassis clean and wax - Cleaning without damaging the delicate wax surfaces

Two days work spread over two weekends.

Muck builds up on the parts of the chassis where it is in close proximity to the body. This muck is made up mainly of fine road dust, soil and probably some horse manure for good measure. These parts of the chassis are also the most awkward to get to. Built up muck will have two effects. It will contain small stones that will grind away at the chassis paint coating exposing steel to the elements. It also traps moisture giving rise to corrosion where steel is exposed. Cleaning this road muck away using pressure wash or scrubbing brushes will damage the wax coating and is not very effective where muck is trapped between chassis and body.

Park the car on a well drained area and place a lawn sprinkler under the chassis rails. Gentle sprinkling will slowly soften and loosen the muck. The flow of water will then simply rinse the muck away. This is long job but takes very little effort. If done once per year the area of chassis being sprinkled should be clean within a couple of hours. Then simply move the sprinkler along to rinse the next section.

Once the chassis is completely rinsed you should examine the rails and dislodge any stones that are trapped between chassis and body.

Give the chassis a week to dry thoroughly.

For the more enthusiastic you should then recoat with brush on waxoil paying particular attention to the tops of the chassis rails and body mounting points and you should take the opportunity to check the suspension wishbones for major corrosion.

It is worth checking where chassis and exhaust come into close proximity. The hot exhaust will melt wax off the chassis leaving it unprotected. This isn't a problem provided the paint surface is complete and free from cracks. If there is damage you should chip off any loose coating and apply Hammerite Smooth to remake the seal. There is no harm in applying a coat of rust remover first but you must let this cure prior to application of Hammerite.