

# 5 Inexpensive Ways to Keep Your Car Looking Like New

## 1. Keep Headlights Clear With Toothpaste

### What You'll Need

- Masking tape
- Tube of toothpaste
- Soft cloth
- Bucket of water

### What To Do

1. Wash the car and remove obvious debris (e.g. dead bugs, bird droppings). If the lights are still hazy continue with steps 2-4.
2. Apply tape around the perimeter of the lenses to protect the car's paint.
3. Wet the cloth, rub in some toothpaste, and polish the lights with gentle circular motions. The toothpaste's mild abrasives clean and smooth the lenses' rough surface, resulting in better light output and less discoloration.
4. Rinse the lights with water and let them air dry.

## 2. Buff Away Scuffs (Also With Toothpaste)

### What You'll Need

- Tube of toothpaste
- Clean cloths
- Bucket of water

### What To Do

1. Gently wash and dry the area around the scuff. This keeps you from grinding dirt and other debris into the surface, making the problem worse. It'll also give you a clearer view of the area.
2. Spread a small amount of toothpaste on a clean cloth and use gentle circular motions to polish the surface. Stop when the scuff is no longer visible.
3. Rinse the area and let it dry.

## 3. Get Rid of Bugs With Dryer Sheets

### What You'll Need

- Dryer sheet
- Water (in a spray bottle or a bucket and sponge)

### What To Do

1. Wet the bug stains and moisten the dryer sheet to avoid scratching the paint.
2. Use gentle pressure to scrub off the bug stains with the dryer sheet, making sure everything stays damp while you're working.
3. Add another dryer sheet to the bucket of water for extra cleaning power. This is a great hack to try right before washing the car.

## 4. Air Out the Funk With Help From the Kitchen

### What You'll Need

- Baking soda or coffee grounds
- Vinegar

### What To Do

1. Fill a open plastic container with baking soda (or coffee grounds) and leave it in your car for a few days.
2. Place a dish of diluted white vinegar on the floor of your car for a day or so for general freshness.
3. Spritz or dab diluted vinegar directly on smelly stains for concentrated cleaning.

## 5. Wipe Up with Wipes

### What You'll Need

- Baby wipes

### What To Do

1. Scrub any sticky messes or spills in your car by gently scrubbing them away with baby wipes.