



Napa Modern Auto & Truck Parts

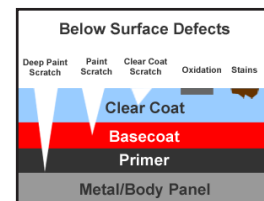
Repairing Car Scratches

The paint on your car does more than just enhancing the appeal. Paint protects your car's metal from corrosion and rust. So not only will scratches lessen the appeal, but they can eventually turn costly when the elements take their toll and destroy panels. Driving your car on a normal basis is inevitably going to cause scratches.

Scratches can be caused from any of the following:

- Stones kicked up from passing vehicles
- Careless door dings in a parking lot
- Rust spot breaking through the paint
- People keying your car
- Non-touchless car washes

Types of Paint Scratches	
Chip the clear coat only	Rarely happens as the clear coat bonds well to the paint surface. When only the clear coat chips, the damage is almost unnoticeable.
Chip through the clear coat and the paint	When a paint chip takes off a spot of the clear coat and the paint, there is a visible blemish on the car. The primed metal surface in the chip will be a different color, usually a light gray.
Chip down to the metal	A paint chip down to the metal removes the clear coat, paint, and primer in that spot. Usually this happens with an impact from a hard piece of debris like a stone, and at a high velocity. A dent can result from this impact as well.



How to Eliminate Scratches:

Determine how deep the scratch is.

Light Scratches

If you have determined a scratch has not penetrated the clear coat of your vehicle, toothpaste will actually work well to erase the scuff on your vehicle. If you can feel the scratch with your fingernail, it is likely too deep for toothpaste to erase. Toothpaste is essentially a lighter, softer form of sandpaper. As you spread toothpaste over an area, the toothpaste works to grab small imperfections and gently remove them.

1. Begin by cleaning the affected area, as you do not want to smear dirt on your car and cause more scratches.
2. Using a damp, soft cloth and a dab of toothpaste, rub the scratch in a small circular motion. As you move the cloth around, you should see the scratch disappear. Once you can't see the scratch anymore, you are finished!

Toothpaste also works well for cleaning shoes, headlights, and water rings on furniture!

Clear Coat Scratches

If toothpaste does not work but the scratch has only penetrated the clear coat, a few more steps are needed.

1. Use a piece of wet 2,000-grit sandpaper to smooth out the area around the scratch. You will want to make the area as even as possible, without going deeper than the scratch. You'll want to rinse the sandpaper and area of the scratch to ensure that you're on the right track.
2. Spreading rubbing compound and using a terrycloth in quick round motions around the area will work to remove the scrapes left from the sandpaper. When the scratch is gone, you will want to use a foam polishing compound pad and very fine compound to go over the dull area to regain the shine.
3. Wax the area to protect your work.

For deep scratches that have gone through the clearcoat and paint, it is best to contact your local body and paint shop for an estimate. If you can clearly see the scratch has penetrated the color coat or primer or the scratch feels deeper than the thickness of two pieces of paper, the scratch will be difficult to repair on your own.



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