

**SECTION 5**

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**CORROSION PREVENTION AND  
APPEARANCE CARE**

Protecting your Toyota from corrosion ..... 146

Washing and waxing your Toyota ..... 147

Cleaning the interior ..... 150

## Protecting your Toyota from corrosion

Toyota, through its diligent research, design and use of the most advanced technology available, has done its part to help prevent corrosion and has provided you with the finest quality vehicle construction. Now, it is up to you. Proper care of your Toyota can help ensure long-term corrosion prevention.

### The most common causes of corrosion to your vehicle are:

- The accumulation of road salt, dirt and moisture in hard-to-reach areas under the vehicle.
- Chipping of paint, or undercoating caused by minor accidents or by stones and gravel.

### Care is especially important if you live in particular areas or operate your vehicle under certain environmental conditions:

- Road salt or dust control chemicals will accelerate corrosion, as will the presence of salt in the air near the sea-coast or in areas of industrial pollution.
- High humidity accelerates corrosion especially when temperatures range just above the freezing point.

- Wetness or dampness to certain parts of your vehicle for an extended period of time, may cause corrosion even though other parts of the vehicle may be dry.
- High ambient temperatures can cause corrosion to those components of the vehicle which are prevented from quick-drying due to lack of proper ventilation.

The above signifies the necessity to keep your vehicle, particularly the underside, as clean as possible and to repair any damage to paint or protective coatings as soon as possible.

### To help prevent corrosion on your Toyota, follow these guidelines:

**Wash your vehicle frequently.** It is, of course, necessary to keep your vehicle clean by regular washing, but to prevent corrosion, the following points should be observed:

- If you drive on salted roads in the winter or if you live near the ocean, you should hose off the undercarriage at least once a month to minimize corrosion.

- High pressure water or steam is effective for cleaning the vehicle's underside and wheel housings. Pay particular attention to these areas as it is difficult to see all the mud and dirt. It will do more harm than good to simply wet the mud and debris without removing them. The lower edge of doors, rocker panels and frame members have drain holes which should not be allowed to clog with dirt as trapped water in these areas can cause corrosion.

- Wash the underside of the vehicle thoroughly when winter is over.

See "Washing and waxing your Toyota" for more tips.

**Check the condition of your vehicle's paint and trim.** If you find any chips or scratches in the paint, touch them up immediately to prevent corrosion from starting. If the chips or scratches have gone through the bare metal, have a qualified body shop make the repair.

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**Check the interior of your vehicle.** Water and dirt can accumulate under the floor mats and could cause corrosion. Occasionally check under the mats to make sure the area is dry. Be particularly careful when transporting chemicals, cleansers, fertilizers, salt, etc.; these should be transported in proper containers. If a spill or leak should occur, immediately clean and dry the area.

**Use mud shields on your wheels.** If you drive on salted or gravel roads, mud shields help protect your vehicle. Full-size shields, which come as near to the ground as possible, are the best. We recommend that the fittings and the area where the shields are installed be treated to resist corrosion. Your Toyota dealer will be happy to assist in supplying and installing the shields if they are recommended for your area.

**Keep your vehicle in a well ventilated garage or a roofed place. Do not park your vehicle in a damp, poorly ventilated garage.** If you wash your vehicle in the garage, or if you drive it in covered with water or snow, your garage may be so damp it will cause corrosion. Even if your garage is heated, a wet vehicle can corrode if the ventilation is poor.

### Washing and waxing your Toyota

#### Washing your Toyota

##### Keep your vehicle clean by regular washing.

The following cases may cause weakness to the paint or corrosion to the body and parts. Wash your vehicle as soon as possible.

- When driving in a coastal area
- When driving on a road sprinkled with antifreeze
- When having stuck of coal tar, tree sap, bird droppings and carcass of an insect
- When driving in the areas where there is a lot of smoke, soot, dust, iron dust and chemical substance
- When the vehicle becomes remarkably dirty with dust and mud

#### Hand-washing your Toyota

Work in the shade and wait until the vehicle body is not hot to the touch.



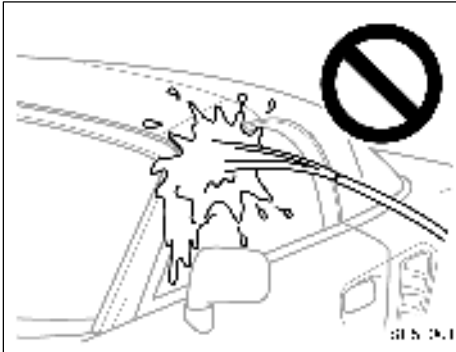
#### CAUTION

**When cleaning under floor or chassis, be careful not to injure your hands.**

For washing instructions for soft top, see "Soft top".

1. Rinse off loose dirt with a hose. Remove any mud or road salt from the underside of the vehicle or in the wheel wells.

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Spray water on the side windows or top seals from above, at a 45° angle to the ground.

### NOTICE

***Do not spray water at side windows and top seals in a way which may cause water to enter the vehicle.***

2. Wash with a mild car-wash soap, mixed according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use a soft cotton mitt and keep it wet by dipping it frequently into the wash water. Do not rub hard—let the soap and water remove the dirt.

Plastic wheel ornaments: The plastic wheel ornaments are damaged easily by organic substances. If any organic substances splash an ornament, be sure to wash it off with water and check if the ornament is damaged.



### CAUTION

**Do not attach the heavily damaged plastic wheel ornament. It may fly off the wheel and cause accidents while the vehicle is moving.**

Aluminum wheels: Use only a mild soap or neutral detergent.

Plastic bumpers: Wash carefully. Do not scrub with abrasive cleaners. The bumper faces are soft.

Road tar: Remove with turpentine or cleaners that are marked safe for painted surfaces.

### NOTICE

***Do not use organic substances (gasoline, kerosene, benzine or strong solvents) which may be toxic or cause damage.***

3. Rinse thoroughly—dried soap can cause streaking. In hot weather you may need to rinse each section right after you wash it.
4. To prevent water spots, dry the vehicle using a clean soft cotton towel. Do not rub or press hard—you might scratch the paint.

### Automatic car wash

### NOTICE

***Do not run your Toyota through automatic car washes or possible damage to the soft top may result.***

### Waxing your Toyota

**Polishing and waxing is recommended to maintain the original beauty of your Toyota's finish.**

Once a month or if the vehicle surface does not repel water well, apply wax.

1. Always wash and dry the vehicle before you begin waxing, even if you are using a combined cleaner and wax.
2. Use a good quality polish and wax. If the finish has become extremely weathered, use a car-cleaning polish, followed by a separate wax. Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions and precautions. Be sure to polish and wax the chrome trim as well as the paint.
3. Wax the vehicle again when water does not bead but remains on the surface in large patches.

#### NOTICE

- ◆ *Always remove the plastic bumpers if your vehicle is re-painted and placed in a high heat paint waxing booth. High temperatures could damage the bumpers.*
- ◆ *Do not apply wax on the soft top. It may damage the soft top.*

### Touch-up paint

**Touch-up paint may be used to cover small chips or scratches.**

Apply the paint soon after the damage occurs or corrosion may set in. To do a good job, use a small artist's brush and stir the paint well. Make sure the area is clean and dry. To apply the touch-up paint so it is hardly noticeable, the trick is to apply it only to the bare spots. Apply only the smallest amount possible and do not paint the surface around the scratch or chip.

### Soft top

Wash using mild soap suds, lukewarm water and a sponge.

#### NOTICE

***Do not use harsh or abrasive cleaners or bleaching agents on the top material or damage may result.***

If further cleaning is required after using soap and water, a mild foaming cleaner can be used. First, rinse the top, then use a mild foaming cleaner on the entire top. Scrub with a small soft bristle hand-brush. Add water as needed until the cleaner gets soapy. Use a cloth or sponge to remove dirt so it will not be ground into the top. Be careful to keep any cleaner from drying on the body paint as it may cause streaks.

After the top has been cleaned, rinse vehicle with clean water to remove all traces of cleaner.

After cleaning, always make sure the top is completely dry before your lowered it. Lowering the top while wet or damp may cause interior water damage, water stains or mildew of the top material.

## Cleaning the interior



### CAUTION

Do not wash the vehicle floor with water, or allow water to get onto the floor when cleaning the vehicle interior or exterior. Water may get into audio components or other electrical components above or under the floor carpet (or mat) and cause a malfunction; and it may cause body corrosion.

### Vinyl interior

The vinyl upholstery may be easily cleaned with a mild soap or detergent and water.

First vacuum over the upholstery to remove loose dirt. Then, using a sponge or soft cloth, apply the soap solution to the vinyl. After allowing it to soak in for a few minutes to loosen the dirt, remove the dirt and wipe off the soap with a clean damp cloth. If all the dirt do not come off, repeat the procedure. Commercial foaming-type vinyl cleaners are also available which work well. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

### NOTICE

*Do not use solvent, thinner, gasoline or window cleaner on the interior.*

### Carpets

Use a good foam-type shampoo to clean the carpets.

Begin by vacuuming thoroughly to remove as much dirt as possible. Several types of foam cleaners are available; some are in aerosol cans and others are powders or liquids which you mix with water to produce a foam. To shampoo the carpets, use a sponge or brush to apply the foam. Rub in overlapping circles.

Do not apply water—the best results are obtained by keeping the carpet as dry as possible. Read the shampoo instructions and follow them closely.

### Seat belts

**The seat belts may be cleaned with mild soap and water or with lukewarm water.**

Use a cloth or sponge. As you are cleaning, check the belts for excessive wear, fraying, or cuts.

### NOTICE

- ◆ *Do not use dye or bleach on the belts—it may weaken them.*
- ◆ *Do not use the belts until they become dry.*

### Windows

The windows may be cleaned with any household window cleaner.

### NOTICE

*When cleaning the inside of the windows, be careful not to scratch or damage the heater wires on the rear window.*

**Air conditioning control panel, car audio, instrument panel, console panel, and switches**

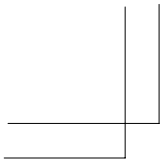
**Use a soft damp cloth for cleaning.**

Soak a clean soft cloth in water or lukewarm water then lightly wipe off any dirt.

**NOTICE**

- ◆ *Do not use organic substances (solvents, kerosene, alcohol, gasoline, etc.) or alkaline or acidic solutions. These chemicals can cause discoloring, staining or peeling of the surface.*
- ◆ *If you use cleaners or polishing agents, make sure their ingredients do not include the substances mentioned above.*
- ◆ *If you use a liquid car freshener, do not spill the liquid onto the vehicle's interior surfaces. It may contain the ingredients mentioned above. Immediately clean any spill using the method mentioned above.*

If you have any questions about the cleaning of your Toyota, your local Toyota dealer will be pleased to answer them.



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