


Preface


This manual explains details about the matte clear coat applied to your vehicle. Unlike a vehicle with a normal clear coat, special care is necessary to protect the appearance of a vehicle with a matte clear coat.


Read this manual thoroughly before washing or attempting to perform maintenance on the vehicle body in order to be familiar with how to not cause damage to the matte clear coat.

For information about care and protection of parts of the vehicle other than matte clear coated surfaces, refer to the owner's manual.

Reading this manual

 **NOTICE:**
Explains something that, if not obeyed, could cause damage to the matte clear coat of your vehicle.

 Indicates operations or procedures. Follow the steps in numerical order.

 Means "Do not", "Do not do this", or "Do not let this happen".



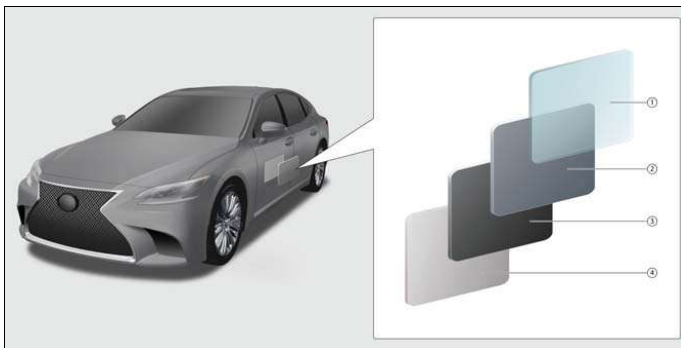
Basic knowledge about matte clear coat

The body of a vehicle is painted with layers of several different coatings to enhance its durability and appearance. The top layer is called a clear coat.

Unlike a normal clear coat, which enhances the glossy appearance of the base paint, matte clear coat gives the base paint a non-glossy finish with a unique texture.

In order to ensure the longevity of the matte clear coat and its texture, special care must be taken when cleaning and storing the vehicle.

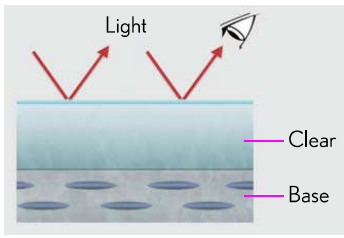

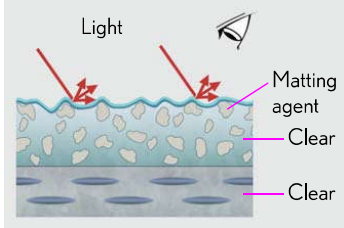
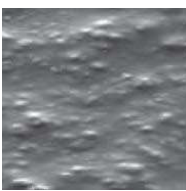
Basic paint structure



Illustrations in this manual are simplified for explanation and may not represent the actual vehicle.

- ① Top coat (clear): A transparent coating which protects the lower layers of paint. Some clear coats enhance the appearance through improved color depth or gloss.
- ② Top coat (base): Paint which gives the vehicle body its color.
- ③ Intermediate coat: Enhances the top coat finish and durability.
- ④ Primer: Enhances the rust resistance of steel parts of the vehicle body. Primer is also applied to the inner side of vehicle body and structural components.

Difference between general clear coat and matte clear coat

	Cross section	Enlarged surface
Normal clear coat	 <p>The diagram shows a smooth, flat surface. Red arrows labeled 'Light' hit the surface and reflect away. Below the surface is a layer labeled 'Clear' and a bottom layer labeled 'Base'.</p>	
Matte clear coat	 <p>The diagram shows a surface with a wavy, textured top layer labeled 'Matting agent'. Below it is a layer labeled 'Clear', and at the bottom is another layer labeled 'Clear'. Red arrows labeled 'Light' hit the uneven surface and are scattered in various directions.</p>	

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Glossiness of a surface is seen by the human eyes by a difference in the amount of light that reflects off the surface.

A surface painted with normal clear coat is flat and smooth. As the amount of light that reflects off the surface is large, the vehicle body will appear glossy.

A surface painted with a matte clear coat is slightly uneven due to the added matting agent. As the light shining on an uneven surface is diffused significantly, the amount of light reflected is small, making the vehicle body look not glossy, with a unique texture.

Cleaning and protecting the vehicle exterior



If the painted surfaces of the vehicle are dirty, wash the vehicle immediately. (Washing your vehicle → P. 32)

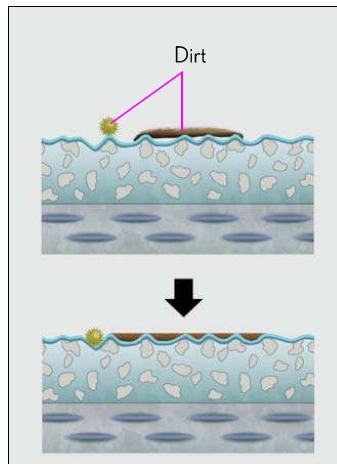
Due to the slight unevenness, matte clear coat surfaces are more likely to trap dirt and other foreign matter compared to normal clear coat surfaces.

If dirt or foreign matter is left on the vehicle, it may settle into the textured surface of the matte clear coat, making it more difficult to remove. Additionally, as the surface of the matte clear coat will become more flat when dirty, the vehicle body will start to look glossy, ruining the textured finish.

Therefore, make sure to clean the vehicle regularly and not allow dirt to remain on the vehicle for extended periods of time.

If dirt or foreign matter is allowed to settle and cannot be cleaned off with normal washing, it will be necessary to remove the dirt with the upper layer of the textured finish and then to repaint the entire part.

Ask your Lexus dealer for details.



■ Materials that may become difficult to remove

The following are likely to settle into the vehicle body and should be cleaned off immediately.

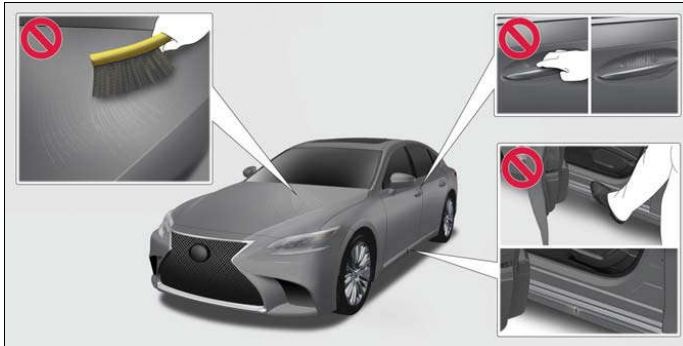
- Rain water, sea water, and other liquids that may cause water stains
- Sand, pollen, volcanic ash, and other particulate matter
- Dead insects, bird droppings, etc.
- Sap, leaves, flowers, etc.
- Mud, snow, anti-freezing agents, and other road debris
- Gasoline, engine oil, asphalt, and other oily materials

■ Do not wax or apply a coating to the vehicle

Do not wax the vehicle or apply a coating to the vehicle body, as they will form a film over the painted surfaces, filling the matte clear coat surface, making it more flat. As a result, it will become more glossy, possibly permanently losing its matte properties.



Repair of paint damage



Take care in order to not damage the painted surfaces.

When minor damage occurs to a vehicle with a normal clear coat, it can be repaired by polishing it or using touch up paint. In contrast, a matte clear coat cannot be repaired using these methods.

If these methods are used the unevenness of the matte clear coat may be removed or filled in. In either case, the surface will become more flat, making it appear more glossy, possibly permanently losing its matte properties.

In order to maintain the matte finish when repairing damage, it will be necessary to repaint the entire part.

Daily vehicle storage

- Vehicle paint can be deteriorated by ultraviolet rays, rain, and other natural factors. In order to ensure the life of the paint, it is recommended that the vehicle be stored in a paved garage which blocks the paint from direct sunlight, rain, wind, and ground moisture.
- If a vehicle cover is to be used, use one with an inner side which is fleece, non-woven, etc. as it is less likely to damage the paint. Even when using a vehicle cover, storing the vehicle in a paved garage is recommended.



■ Using a vehicle cover

- Use an appropriately sized vehicle cover for your vehicle. For details, contact the manufacturer of the vehicle cover.
- Use a vehicle cover suitable for the environment the vehicle is to be stored. For details, contact the manufacturer of the vehicle cover.
- Proper use of a vehicle cover depends on the weather and vehicle condition. If a vehicle cover is used improperly, it may damage the vehicle's paint or body. Follow the instructions included with the vehicle cover and use it properly.

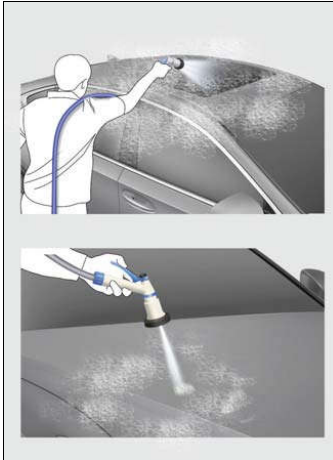
Washing your vehicle

In order to avoid damage to the vehicle's paint, washing the vehicle by hand with only water is recommended.

- 1 Apply a large amount of water to the vehicle body from the top to the bottom to remove sand and dust.

If the tires or chassis parts are excessively dirty, make sure to wash them first, otherwise dirt be sprayed onto the washed vehicle body.

If dirt is not easily washed off, bring the hose or sprayer nozzle closer to the vehicle body to slightly increase the water pressure.



- 2 Using a soft chamois cloth, wipe the vehicle body gently while applying plenty of water.

Wipe the vehicle body from top to bottom.

If dirt persists (→P. 33)



- 3 Using another soft chamois cloth, dry the vehicle while taking care to not rub the vehicle body.

Make sure to remove any standing water before it evaporates.

Do not use the same chamois cloth that was used to wash the vehicle (step [2]).



■ If dirt cannot be washed off with water alone**● Water stains**

If liquid, such as rain water or tap water, evaporates on a painted surface, dirt or minerals in the liquid may be left behind. If not cleaned off, the contaminants may settle into the textured surface of the matte clear coat, making it difficult to clean off with water alone.

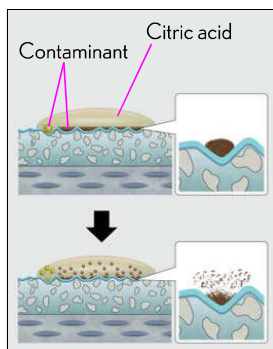
In this case, to remove the contaminants, use dilute citric acid.

Dissolve citric acid powder in distilled water at the following ratio:

Citric acid powder: 0.01 to 0.02 lb. (5 to 10 g) (1 to 2 teaspoons)

Distilled water: 0.2 qt. (0.2 L, 0.2 Imp. qt.)

Thoroughly soak a soft chamois cloth in the citric acid and place the chamois cloth over the dirty area. Wait for the contaminants to be dissolved by the acid. Then, gently wipe the area several times with the chamois cloth, taking care to not rub the vehicle body. After that, apply plenty of water to the area to wash off the contaminants and acid.

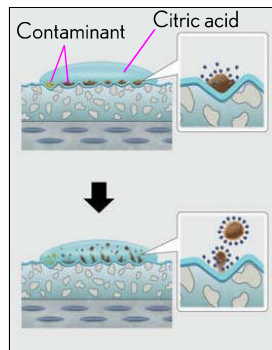


- Dead insects, bird droppings, and oil stains

If these materials are not cleaned off, contaminants, such as proteins and oil, may settle into the textured surface of the matte clear coat, making it difficult to clean off with water alone.

Create a thick lather with the solution.

Thoroughly soak a soft chamois cloth in the neutral detergent solution, covering it in the lather, and place the chamois cloth over the dirty area. Wait for the contaminants to be dissolved by the solution. Then, gently wipe the area several times with the chamois cloth, taking care to not rub the vehicle body. After that, apply plenty of water to the area wash off the dirt and detergent solution.



 NOTICE**■ Avoiding damage to the painted surfaces**

Observe the following precautions.
Otherwise, the painted surfaces of your vehicle may be damaged and permanently lose their matte properties.

- Do not use an automatic car wash, including those which do not have brushes.



- When washing the vehicle, do not use a high-pressure pressure washer.



- When washing the vehicle, do not use a brush or sponge.



- Do not use rubbing or polishing compounds (ex. scratch remover).
- Do not rub the vehicle body.
- When washing the vehicle, do not use alkaline (including weakly basic) detergents.
- Do not attach a stickers to or vinyl wrap the vehicle body.
- Before attaching a magnet (sign, etc.) to the vehicle body, make sure to wash and thoroughly dry the area of the vehicle body where the magnet is to be attached.

Frequently Asked Questions

The following are frequently asked questions about the matte clear coat and their answers:

Washing the vehicle

■ **General washing tips (→P. 32)**

Question	Answer
Can the vehicle be washed?	Yes. The vehicle should be washed immediately if it is dirty.
Can the vehicle be washed frequently?	
What is the proper method for washing the vehicle?	The vehicle should be washed by hand, using only water and a chamois cloth.
Is there anything I should be careful about when washing the vehicle?	Make sure to start by rinsing the entire vehicle with plenty of water from top to bottom.
Can I wash the vehicle in an automatic car wash?	No.
Can I use a high-pressure pressure washer to wash the vehicle?	

■ **If the vehicle body is dirty (→P. 28)**

Question: What should I do if any of the following have attached to the vehicle?

Item	Answer
Leaves, flowers, branches, etc.	Remove immediately. They may scratch the matte clear coat and if they are allowed to remain on the vehicle, dirt may settle into the matte clear coat, making it more flat. As a result, it will become more glossy, possibly permanently losing its matte properties.
Dead insects, bird droppings, etc.	Remove immediately. They may scratch the matte clear coat and if they are allowed to remain on the vehicle, dirt may settle into the matte clear coat, making it more flat. As a result, it will become more glossy, possibly permanently losing its matte properties.

Item	Answer
Sand, pollen, and other particulate matter	Wash off with water immediately. If the contaminants cannot be removed with water alone, use a neutral detergent solution. If the contaminants are allowed to remain on the vehicle, they may settle into the matte clear coat, making it more flat. As a result, it will become more glossy, possibly permanently losing its matte properties.
Oil stains	
Asphalt (tar)	
Water stains	Use dilute citric acid (citric acid powder dissolved in distilled water) to remove the water stains.
Water repellent glass coating	Remove immediately. Even if removed, depending on the contaminant, the matte clear coat may be damaged, possibly permanently losing its matte properties.
Glass treatment remover	
Tire cleaner	
Gasoline	
Oil	
Washer fluid	

■ Vehicle washing products (→P. 33)

Question	Answer
Can I use car wash shampoo/soap?	Only use a neutral detergent which is approved for car wash use and water. Make sure to rinse the vehicle with plenty of water after using detergent. Do not use alkaline (including weakly basic) detergents, as they may damage the matte clear coat.
Can I use a general household neutral detergent?	Only use a neutral detergent which is approved for car wash use and water. Make sure to rinse the vehicle with plenty of water after using detergent.
What should I use to wipe off dirt?	Use a soft chamois cloth.
What should I use to dry the vehicle?	
Can I use a water stain remover?	Lexus does not recommend the use of water stain removers, as they may damage the matte clear coat. Do not use alkaline detergents or products containing abrasives.
Can the vehicle be waxed? Can a coating be applied to the vehicle body?	No. Do not wax the vehicle or apply a coating to the vehicle body, as they may cause the matte clear coat to lose its matte texture.
Can I use an iron remover?	No, as it may cause the matte clear coat to lose its matte texture.

Question	Answer
Can I use tar and pitch remover?	No, as they may damage the matte clear coat.
Can I use a matte paint cleaner/wax?	Lexus does not recommend the use of matte paint cleaners or waxes, as they may cause the matte clear coat to lose its matte texture.
Are there genuine Lexus vehicle washing products available for matte paint?	No. Use a soft chamois cloth for cleaning the vehicle body. Use a neutral detergent which is approved for car wash use or dilute citric acid when necessary.
Are there any vehicle washing product brands that Lexus recommends?	No. Use a soft chamois cloth for cleaning the vehicle body. Use a neutral detergent which is approved for car wash use or dilute citric acid when necessary.

■ **Body coatings**

Question	Answer
Can a body coating available at a Lexus dealer be applied?	No, as it may cause the matte clear coat to lose its matte texture.
Can an aftermarket body coating be applied?	Lexus does not recommend applying a coating to the vehicle body, as it may cause the matte clear coat to lose its matte texture.
Can an aftermarket body coating designed for matte paint be applied?	Lexus does not recommend applying a coating to the vehicle body, as it may cause the matte clear coat to lose its matte texture.

■ Repairing the vehicle body (→P. 30)

Question	Answer
Can damage to the paint be repaired?	In order to maintain the matte finish when repairing paint damage, it is necessary to repaint the entire part. Consult your Lexus dealer for details.
Can I use rubbing or polishing compound (ex. scratch remover)?	No. Using a rubbing or polishing compound or touch up paint may damage the matte clear coat. In order to maintain the matte finish when repairing paint damage, it is necessary to repaint the entire part. Consult your Lexus dealer for details.
Can I use touch up paint?	

■ Attaching accessories and other objects to the vehicle

Question	Answer
Can a sticker or vinyl wrap be attached to the vehicle body?	No. They may damage matte clear coat when they are installed and may cause the matte clear coat to lose its matte texture when they are removed.
Can a magnet be attached to the vehicle body?	Yes. Make sure to wash and thoroughly dry the area around where the magnet is to be attached before attaching it.

