

## Washing Your Classic.

Last week you polished your classic or new car to within a micron of its undercoat and it looked magnificent, but this week after a run it needs a wash. I am not going to tell you how to wash your car but rather how not to wash it.

There is always a temptation to use the dishwashing liquid to wash the car because it is always there and it is very cheap. If that's all you have, put off washing the car for another day. The problem with dishwashing liquid is that it is TOO GOOD at removing grease and grime to the extent that it will wash off all the wax or polish you used last week, however that is the least of your problems. The real problem is that one or two people equate more

suds or foam with cleanliness. After you hose off the suds some of the suds or foam remains in unseen places such as inside the doors, in the plenum chamber (between the rear of the bonnet and the windscreen) and inside the mudguards etc. The problem is most of the hidden cavities are coated with wax, older cars might have used a tar type coating or most likely nothing at all. Over time the suds left in these cavities remove the layer of wax just as they remove the grease from dishes, then any remaining suds keep the panels wet for much longer than plain water. The solution, rather than encourage the rust, buy some car wash which has rust inhibitor and often a degree of self waxing. Use the correct quantity rather than say a bit extra can only do a better job.

The other thing that really horrifies me (as a retired science

and chemistry teacher) is people at Fairs and Markets often in the country who are selling bottles of Truck Wash that has been decanted from a large drum to say 1 litre bottles with truck wash written on the bottles with a texta, no indication of the chemicals or dangers that lurk within.

This Truck Wash is even more fantastic at removing grease and grime than dishwashing liquid., It is meant to be used by an operator in a waterproof suit with gloves, gumboots and face mask etc and using an EPA approved washing bay, definitely not on the front lawn wearing shorts and thongs.

Finally Polishes, old school polish might damage the paint on a modern car or a modern repaint on a classic or put more correctly old polish might damage the clear coat of a modern paint finish and as modern car makers battle with pollution rules so the paint on your car is getting thinner and thinner, ie too thin to polish so you simply must look after it rather than try to buff up a shine. If you feel you must polish it do a trial run say under the sills. Bird poo and tree sap stains are two of the worst dangers to modern paint. I can't give advice on polish brands because there are tons and tons of polishes coming out of Asia with unknown polishing abilities. Another irritation is the people who try and acost you in shopping centre car parks

who try to demonstrate some super car polish that they are all too eager to demonstrate on a small patch on your car. This is not a recognisable brand of polish, that is overpriced and I think best avoided.

Russell

