

Wet Sanding

In the past wet sanding was the only way to take out paint imperfections prior to buffing. Now a days, dry sanding with finer grit papers saves more time, money and effort. Trying to wet sand out orange peel on the side of a 1960 Cadillac will take all day. However, wet sanding is still needed to sand along edges, sharp curves, into corners, drip rails, etc.

When wet sanding we like to use as fine of paper as possible. That way we have less sandscratches to take out later. Take a bucket of water, add a capful of dishwashig soap to it for lubrication. Then the sand paper should be added to the water for 10-15 minutes before using to allow it to soak up the water and lubricator.

Never wet sand with just your fingers.

This will leave heavier impression where your fingers are pressing.

Always use a pad.

Taking your 9" X 11" paper, rip it into thirds, and wrap it around your sponge foam pad. The pad will retain water hile you are using it. Sand only in straight lines and along the body lines.

Sanding the panel with 1200 grit first, rinsing with water to keep the surface wet and lubricated to pull away the residue. Then look for imperfections, using a 2 3/4" X 4" rubber body squeegee to remove the water from the surface. The paint film will now look dull where you have sanded, but shiny where you have missed or there are imperfections that need to be removed.



You can now switch to coarser grits if you are doing these by hand. Using 600 or 1000 grit to remove orange peel or runs and sags. With these imperfections you should be using a stiffer pad, block, or a Meguiars sanding block. This way you sand directly on the high spots and not on the low ones. We are trying to level out the surface.

Now you can switch back to 1200 grit paper. Once the whole surface has been completed with 1200 grit, we can now switch to 2000 grit paper and complete our sanding.



As you can see wet sanding tend to be very labor intensive.



3M Stikit™ Soft Hand Pad, 05530, 2-3/4 in x 5-1/2 in x 3/8 in



3M™ Wetordry™ 2 3/4 in x 4 1/4 in Rubber Squeegee



3M™ Wetordry™ 2 in x 3 in Rubber Squeegee



3M Stikit™ Hand Pad, 05586, 6 in