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Wheel cleaners tested



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We name the four best wheel cleaners on the market

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Let the brake dust and road grime get a grip on your wheels, and your car doesn't only look rough; the rims could also be damaged, throwing up some eye-watering repair bills.

Frequent washing will tackle light marks, but a specialist cleaner, together with a pressure washer, will shift baked-on grime, leaving only the faintest film to be removed with a sponge or mitt.

We've toughened up our wheel cleaner test to assess how much road dirt our 14 products shifted without a brush, using only light water pressure. We combined this with our brush tests, plus rated price, to name our top four.

Bilt-Hamber auto-wheel

Price: £12.95
 Size: 1 litre
 Contact: 01277 658899 bilthamber.com
 Rating: ★★★★★

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Wheel cleaner mini test

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Best buy: Test debutant is safe on all wheels. Spray, wait a few minutes for it to turn dark red, then wash off. Left faint marks for the pressure washer or mitt. Smelly, but big pack offsets price.

Comma Alloy Wheel Clean Kit

Price: £7.29
Size: 500ml
Contact: 01474 564311, commaoil.com
Rating: ★★★★★

Recommended: Former champ has gloves, cup and brush, and is only for sealed wheels. It takes only a minute to penetrate before you brush. Effective, but left more filth after hose test than our winner.

Wonder Wheels Hot Wheels

Price: £6.99
Size: 500ml
Contact: 0161 764 5981, tetrosyl.com
Rating: ★★★★★

Works on all rims, but not the fastest. Hot Wheels also turns dark red when ready to be washed off. Not as effective as auto-wheel, and pricier, plus has same bad egg smell.

Angelwax Original Formula Bilberry Wheel Cleaner

Price: £4.90
Size: 500ml
Contact: angelwax.co.uk
Rating: ★★★★★

Angelwax has a pleasant bilberry aroma. It cleaned well, especially in the hose test, plus is diluted two to one. Boosting its value is the fact our kit has a spare bottle for diluted cleaner, a trigger and wheel brush.

Verdict

In recent years we've split our test between cleaners that can be used on delicate surfaces like chrome and those which can't. The results have got closer and now our champion works on all surfaces. Bilt-Hamber takes the title from past winner Comma. Universal Wonder Wheels Hot Wheels is third ahead of Angelwax, with past champ Wonder Wheels just outside the top four.

1. Bilt-Hamber auto-wheel
2. Comma Alloy Wheel Clean Kit
3. Wonder Wheels Hot Wheels

Also tested...

- Wonder Wheels ★★★★★
- Muc-Off Frequent ★★★★★
- Meguiar's Hot Rims All Wheel Cleaner ★★★★★
- Sonax Wheel Cleaner ★★★★★
- Autoglym Custom Wheel Cleaner ★★★★★
- Black Diamond Alloy Shine ★★★★★
- Mantis Perfect Wheels ★★★★★
- Scholl Rim Seven ★★★★★
- Simoniz Protection Wheel Cleaner ★★★★★
- Autoglym Clean Wheels ★★★★★
- Mer Alloy Wheel Cleaner ★★★★★
- Simoniz Brake Dust Repellent Alloy Cleaner ★★★★★
- Dodo Juice Mellow Yellow Wheel Cleaner ★★★★★
- Halfords Alloy Wheel Cleaner ★★★★★
- Race Glaze Signature Safe Wheel Cleaner ★★★★★
- Muc-Off Performance Wheel Cleaner ★★★★★

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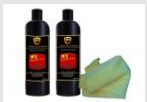
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