

DETAILING GUIDE:

Interior

IT MAY NOT CARRY THE ADMIRATION OF A DEEP GLOSS PAINT FINISH, BUT TAKING CARE OF AN INTERIOR WILL ONLY MAKE YOUR BMW A NICER PLACE TO BE AND IMPROVE THE RESALE VALUE. SO WE GOT TO WORK, KIM AND AGGIE STYLE...

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Interior detailing maybe considering less satisfying than standing back and admiring the freshly waxed lines of a BMW, but suffice to say, there are perks to be had from a spotless interior – after all, it's the place we spend the most time in.

The processes aren't as complex as the exterior, so fewer products are required but it's a good idea to store all of the interior products in a separate container, along with the related cloths/brushes. A fabric marker is handy to differentiate interior cloths, 'I' being the most obvious to mark to make.

We spoke to the Ultimate Finish and its extensive stock of detailing goodies had the interior well covered. Before we go into the hands-on element, we're going to discuss the core products that will make the transformation.

The first one, and something that deserves credit is Meguiar's All Purpose Cleaner. It's a product that *TBMW* has used over the years because at just £19.99 from UF's online shop, it comes in a 3.78-litre container that can be diluted for extra longevity and it really does last for ages. Ideally you will need a chemical-resistant trigger spray and bottle for dilution, but these are only a few quid.

Its ability to clean all interior surfaces, including carpet, vinyl and leather makes APC the most universal tool you will probably use. Furthermore, it can be used in the engine bay, to clean plastics for example, and we also used it to clean the door shuts with the aid of a brush – we used Valet PRO's Large Sash Brush. However, despite APC covering all areas, we used something specifically designed for leather – Zaino's Z-9 Leather Soft Spray Cleaner (£9.95).

As most BMWs have leather seats, products such as Z-9 will be of interest because it's designed to be gentle, contains no detergents and it actually smells like leather, plus the mink oils and synthetic lanolin prevent the leather from

THANKS

To **Ultimate Finish** for its help in compiling this feature. To book your car in for a detail or to purchase detailing products seen in this guide, just visit the website or give the team a call.

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drying out. There's nothing worse than cracked bolsters or damaged leather, and maintaining it now will serve to keep it that way. To top things off, GTechniq's Leather Guard gives the surface a repellent layer and protects against UV rays.

Read on and you will discover that we have used various other products but, once the hard work has been done after this initial interior detail, it won't take anything more than a weekly vacuum and a going-over with something like Meguiar's Natural Shine Protectant. For the leather, it all depends on the climate, but a bi-monthly condition won't do any harm. Hot climates naturally dry out leather at a faster rate, or if it's a convertible, then pay extra care...

KARCHER WD3.300M

A hand-me-down vacuum cleaner that's considered unworthy for household

chores usually means it will be useless at extracting the debris embedded in the footwells of your BMW, so it's worth investing in something more industrial, a 'man up' version of the conventional upright cleaner.

Something that's on wheels, preferably bagless with a powerful motor is ideal. Following our pressure washer/snow foam review of last month, we also had use of Karcher's new multi-purpose vacuum cleaner, the WD3.300M which has an RRP of £109.99. The plus point of this model is that it's capable of getting rid of liquid spills too. All the gadgetry is stowed away in the top section and any debris is sucked into the large metal lower section, making cleaning it out really simple. It can even be used to unblock sinks and the blow function is handy for blasting debris out of crevices.



01

The Meguiar's APC can be diluted with water to reduce its strength and prolong its lifespan. This handy UF Alpha trigger spray bottle holds one litre of APC. Get the windows down or open the doors to keep the interior well-ventilated because vapours soon fill the cabin. Start by removing the mats – our carpets had been protected by them so there weren't any stains lurking beneath.



02

The door shuts can be overlooked but gubby apertures offer a poor first impression. Dose the area in APC and use a brush, we used Valet PRO's Large Sash Brush, to agitate all surfaces, including the catch plates and hinges that a cloth couldn't access.



03

Dried using a Dodo Juice 'Basics of Bling' Drying Towel, the results were fantastic. The paintwork and plastics look like new – just remember to re-grease any moving parts. Treating the plastic and rubbers to something like Meguiar's Natural Shine Protectant will finish the job off.



04

This handy attachment on the Karcher WD3.300M worked a treat in the footwells. It's angled perfectly and the width of its mouth made quick work of vacuuming the footwell debris, not to mention the otherwise tricky to access parcel shelf.



05

APC was sprayed liberally in the footwells and the surface was then scrubbed with an upholstery brush. The Karcher was drafted in again to lift excess liquid from the carpet.



06

The same process was repeated on the mats. APC has optical brighteners which gave the dull grey carpets a noticeable lift.



07

Don't forget the headlining. This can be a hotspot for stains and bad odours. Don't apply such a liberal amount (to prevent sagging) of APC but while you are there clean the sun visors and grab handles.



08

As a point of constant contact, the door cards can look weary over time, as these were. We used APC on the plastics and Zaino's Z-9 Leather Soft Spray Cleaner to take care of the inserts.



09

Gently agitated with a horsehair brush and dried off, this was the result. Some shades of leather are obviously more prone to show the dirt than others, but the result was something that looked like new.



10

Unfortunately the driver's seat needed more than a general clean to revive its bolsters, but we used the Karcher to lift any dirt away from the leather before treating it, because any pieces of stray grit could damage the surface.



11

The Z-9 took really good care of lifting the dirt when using the same horsehair brush. It's only a small bottle, but a little goes a long way and afterwards the leather felt supple.



12

We have used GTechniq's products before, namely its rain repellent which outlasts Rain-X by a long stretch, but this L1 Leather Guard gives an otherwise vulnerable surface a durable barrier against UV rays and dye transfer. It's also water repellent.



13

Valet PRO's Dash Brush makes quick work of the dust build up inside the vents – neglecting these will let down the work you are about to do with the other surfaces.



14

Meguiar's Natural Shine Protectant is great because it doesn't leave that tacky Arthur Daley sheen on any surfaces.



15

Never short of a comical name, Dodo Juice's 'Mr Pink' took care of the application. It's a handy mitt that separates your fingers inside the lining so you don't lose your grip. The Natural Shine Protectant simply wipes on.



16

Autoglym's Hyper Fresh is a worthy replacement for a conventional 'hanging', and often useless, air freshener. It emits a ballistic amount of product at the touch of a button and the fragrance is 'clean linen', which is nice and fresh, although we think it should reintroduce 'coconut'.



17

Dodo Juice's Clearly Menthol Glass cleaner could be passed off as mouthwash (not that it would do your insides much good) but this alcohol-based cleaner refused to smear, especially when used in conjunction with its Basics of Bling glass cloth.



18

This was the end result. The vulnerable lighter shades of this interior provided more noticeable 'before' and 'after' contrasts but the stale smell has been removed and it's been replaced with something a lot fresher. The leather will benefit from regular treatments in the long-term as well.

