



Interior Detailing Products and Equipment

Hey there,

Thanks for signing up for my newsletter! As promised, here's a list and breakdown of all the products and equipment I used in this video:

<https://youtu.be/b3tFL6UDzQY?si=x0ZXZupclV8qhK5J>

Floor mats

I have a different technique depending on whether I'm working with rubber or fabric floor mats.

Rubber:

These are pretty straight forward. I rinse the loose dirt off with a hose, spray [Simoniz Rubber and Tire cleaner](#) on them, scrub with a brush, and rinse it off. Leave them out in the sun to dry quickly and make sure not to dress them with any slippery products - that's a safety concern!

Fabric:

If I'm just dealing with a regular amount of dirt, I'll usually just vacuum these and call it a day. If they're really dirty or stained, fabric floor mats require a bit more effort to clean.

First, I'll vacuum up any loose dirt. Then I spray them with [Griot's Garage Interior Cleaner](#) and scrub them with a brush. This requires some elbow grease if you're doing it by hand - if you're lazy, you can use a [brush attachment like this](#) for your drill.

Next, I use my new [Bissell Spot Clean Pro carpet extractor](#) to rinse the mats with fresh water while sucking up the dirty water. I follow up with a few suction-only passes to try to pull out as much moisture from them as possible. This tends to get them fairly dry.

To avoid stains in the future, I spray an application of [Gtechniq I1 Fabric Guard](#) on them when I'm done. This is a good idea especially on light grey colored carpet found so commonly in these Toyota trucks.

Cleaning the carpet

I treat the truck's carpet the same way as the fabric floor mats as mentioned above.

Vacuuming and dusting

I've been using the same [Rigid 5HP vacuum](#) for all of my auto detailing needs for years and still have zero complaints. I upgraded to the professional hose since it's longer, more flexible, and much more robust.

Any soft bristle detailing brush will do the trick here and as long as you do these steps in the right order, you can reuse it with your cleaner of choice for the rest of the interior.

Cleaning the seats

I have a different technique depending on if I'm cleaning fabric or leather seats.

Fabric:

Once again, I treat these seats the same as fabric floor mats. Griot's Garage Interior Cleaner is a good choice because it doesn't leave any protection or conditioner behind unlike a 1-step interior cleaner and protectant.

Leather:

For leather seats, I use [Lithium Slather](#). This is their dedicated leather cleaner. I spray it on and agitate it with a soft boar's hair brush to get a lather going. Then I'll wipe them dry with a microfiber towel.

I'm not a fan of traditional leather conditioners. Contrary to their claims, they aren't going to "hydrate" the leather hyde. Your automotive leather is coated with a plastic clear coat that acts as a barrier between your product of choice and the leather itself (if it's even real leather!).

Putting a greasy leather conditioner on top is only going to attract dirt which can actually wear your leather out quicker. Instead, I'll apply [Gtechniq L1 Leather Guard](#) once or twice a year. It's intended to protect the coating itself and does a good job of making the seats easier to clean and harder to stain.

Cleaning plastic and vinyl

For the rest of the interior (dashboard, door panels, console etc) I'll spray [Detail Firm's Interior Lather](#) and agitate it with a soft brush. This is a 1-step cleaner and conditioner that leaves behind some protection on the panel while maintaining an OEM-like matte finish.

For stubborn stains or really dirty panels, I might scrub it with a non-abrasive scrub pad instead of the brush - but be careful, this is more aggressive and if pushed too far, can cause damage to the panel.

If I want to take it a step further to break down some serious grime, I'll add an extra step here and use my [Simoniz steam cleaner](#) before wiping it dry. Hot water molecules move faster, boosting the effectiveness of your cleaner of choice.

Cleaning infotainment screens

I don't use any strong cleaners when dealing with touch screens because they can leave a residue behind that will cause the screen to not pick up your touch. An aggressive cleaner can even damage the coating on the screen so it's important to be gentle here.

The product that I've found to work best for this is [Optimum No Rinse](#) diluted to its quick detailer format. This is powerful enough to remove finger prints, but it won't leave a film behind or cause any damage. It also helps that it's easier to get a streak-free finish.

Cleaning window glass

I save my glass cleaning for the final step of a detail because I'm bound to get overspray or sling from cleaners on it. My process for this is to spray it with [Detail Firm Glass Cleaner](#) and wipe it with a 1st towel, then switch to a [2nd waffle weave towel](#) to buff it to a streak-free finish.

If I'm having a hard time with smudges or streaks, I'll spray a bit of my Optimum No Rinse solution on the 2nd towel and that will usually do the trick.

Bonus: Interior Scent

Interior scents or "new car smell" isn't for everyone but I find it's a nice cherry on top of an otherwise exhausting interior detail. [Chemical Guys Leather scent](#) is my favorite product so far since it basically smells like, you guessed it, fresh leather seats.

This stuff doesn't last very long (typically the next 2 or 3 drives) but to make it as effective as possible, I turn the AC on into recirculation mode and spray it in the passenger floor. This will suck it up into the HVAC system and allow it to come out the vents in the future.

There you have it folks, that's a rundown of all the products and strategies I used in that detailing video. For more of my favorite detailing products, make sure to head over to the [Canadian Gearhead website!](#) Thanks for watching and we'll talk soon!