



VALET GUIDE



BARTONS offers full valet training.
Please [contact](#) us for details.

We also offer the following guide to Valeting via our website, which can be downloaded and is printer friendly (top right - Download webpage.pdf). You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader, a small free download which can be obtained by clicking on the link to the right.



General Tips:

- Choose a shady spot, preferably away from trees that are dripping sap or dropping leaves.
- Use professional tools and products, if you want a professional finish.
- Use a clean bucket, and use a sponge instead of a rag.
- Use an animal skin chamois for drying the car.
- Use clean water to wash the body and new water for the tyres – preferably use separate buckets.

Equipment:

- large buckets
- large sponges
- garden hoses
- chamois cloth
- car wash brush
- car wash mitt
- cheesecloth
- liquid fabric softeners
- wax sponges

Products:

- car wash soap
- automobile cleaning and waxing supplies
- automobile wax & polish
- Traffic Film Remover (TFR)



1. Pre-wet all exterior surfaces.

Tips: Close all doors and windows. Wash your car during the evening hours. The surface is cool and you won't have to worry about the car drying with water spots. Hose any excess dirt off the car, beginning at the roof and working down to the tyres.



2. Degrease the engine.

Tips: Dilute the TFR product with water and apply liberally. Do not allow the solution to dry out. Do not dilute HD Degreaser, but apply liberally. Take care to protect all electrical components from splashes of water.



3. Pre-spray the dirtiest areas.

Use an aluminium cleaner or a non-acidic aluminium cleaner. Dilute and apply evenly to wheels and trims, avoiding paintwork. Do not allow solution to dry out. Pre-spray diluted TFR product to any dirty area.



4. Wash the bodywork.

Tips: Start at the top of the vehicle and work your way down. Wash the horizontal surfaces first. Then, wash the top parts of the body panels, then the bottom parts. Soap dries fast, so wash one side at a time to keep the soap from drying on your car's paint. Lather a sponge or terry cloth rag in the bucket of soapy water and sponge the roof of the car. Spray off excess soap when the entire roof has been cleaned. Repeat for all four sides of the car, washing one full side including windows, fenders and tires and rinsing completely before going to the next side.



Wash the windows with a rag soaked in plain water and dry them with a dry rag, or use window cleaner and pieces of balled-up newspaper on both the inside and the outside of the windows. • Finally, when cleaning glass (both inside and out), a neat and economical method is to use newspaper instead of paper towels or cloth. Newsprint paper is soft, absorbent and best of all, lint free and readily available. No, the ink does not run.



5. Rinse the car, engine and wheels with high pressure water.

Rinse the car, engine and wheels with high pressure water.

Tips: Give the car one final rinse with the hose to get rid of any water spots when all four sides have been washed and rinsed. Give any metal or chrome an extra rubdown to get rid of water spots. Wet and wring out your chamois leather before you dry; it will absorb water better.



6. Examine wheels and wheel rims.

Tips: To clean chrome, aluminium, or even aluminium-chrome rims, use window cleaner and an old cloth. Wash with soap and water, then rinse and dry with a chamois. Clean away the dirt caught in your door jams because dirt holds water, which leads to rust.



7. Vacuum and clean the interior.

Tips: Vacuum or wipe debris from the dashboard and doors. Remove the floor mats and shake. Vacuum the seats first, then the floorboards. Use the hose attachment of the vacuum on all seat cushions (including the bottom and back), paying special attention to the crevices. Check beneath seats for coins and trash before vacuuming. Vacuum the floor of the car, including under the seats and the floor mats.

For clearing out dust from the dash air vents and the tiny crevasses around the various dash components, try pressurized canned air (used to clean electronic equipment) or a cotton-tipped swab or a toothpick wrapped in toilet paper.



8. Clean the carpets, seats and door panels.

If any fabric seat cushions or carpets are stained, use a damp towel to apply a small amount of carpet shampoo to the stain. Work the carpet shampoo into a light lather. Sponge away the shampoo with a damp sponge and allow to air dry. Don't use carpet shampoo on leather.

9. Polish the bodywork.

Some waxes contain abrasives, which can damage clear-coat and lacquer finishes, and may be harmful to dark-coloured paint jobs. When in doubt, use a nonabrasive wax.

Park the car in a cool, shady spot. If you don't have access to a shady spot, wax one section at a time so the sun doesn't bake the wax onto your car. Avoid waxing if it's very hot or very cold outside.

Dip a damp wax sponge into the car wax, getting a £2-coin-size dollop on your sponge. Rub the wax onto the car using small circles. If wax gets into the seams or jams, remove with an old soft toothbrush. Work methodically over one section at a time and cover the entire surface. By the time you have finished, the first wax that you put on will be ready to remove.

Use soft terry cloth towels to wipe off the wax in the same order in which it was applied. Shake out the towel or cloth as you work, in order to avoid wax build-up and streaking. Lean as close to the surface of your car as you can, look down the sides and across the front, back and roof to spot any residual wax.

Use a cheesecloth to polish the car's entire surface.

Wash your used towels, cloths and pads with liquid fabric softener to keep them from scratching your car the next time you use them.



10. Apply the tyre dressing.

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11. Apply the engine dressing.

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12. Polish the interior.

Spray a small amount of car interior or vinyl protectant on a towel. With the moistened rag, gently wipe the dashboard, door handles and all vinyl parts. Allow to air dry.



13. Freshen the interior.

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14. Polish exterior vinyl.

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