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# **SCRATCH REPAIR**

*Why you should **repair scratches** and how to **do-it-yourself!***

## **What you will need -**

- Sandpaper (400 or finer wet/dry)
- Wax remover
- Primer
- Correct body color paint
- Cotton or terry cloth
- Rubbing compound
- Wax

## **Do-It-Yourself difficulty guide -**

EASY   AVERAGE   **ADVANCED**

## **Estimated time required -**

3 - 6 Hours

## **Estimated cost savings -**

\$195 - \$400

*Unless your driving habits keep you away from the public at large, sooner or later your pride and joy will acquire scratches. Face it, we're obsessed with appearance. Still, many people choose to live with scratches. Big mistake. The vehicle body is no different from human skin. When it's exposed to the elements and left unprotected, it will start to deteriorate (except for fiberglass or plastic panels which will just look bad). Prompt repair can restore appearance and reduce restoration expense.*

*Advance Auto Parts carries a full line of touch up paint and scratch repair kits.*

*For hundreds of other do-it-yourself projects and tips visit [www.AdvanceAutoParts.com](http://www.AdvanceAutoParts.com)*

Standard and accepted safety procedures and precautions (including use of safety goggles and proper tools and equipment) should be followed when making repairs to eliminate the possibility of personal injury or improper service which could damage the vehicle or compromise its safety. Although this material has been prepared with the intent to provide reliable information, no warranties, express or implied including the warranties of fitness for a particular purpose or merchantability, are made as to its accuracy or completeness. Neither is any liability assumed for loss or damage resulting from reliance on this material. In no event will Advance Stores Company, Incorporated or its parent or affiliates be liable for any damages, direct or indirect, consequential or compensatory, arising out of the use of this material.

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**Step-By-Step Instructions**

**Equipment You'll Need**

**Parts You'll Need**



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# why you should repair scratches on your vehicle.



Today, a myriad of new products promise easy and low-cost scratch repair, and some may be the perfect solution to your problem. The irony is that if you repair a scratch right away, it's comparatively no big deal, as far as time and expense goes. If you leave this opportunity open for oxidization to form on your sheet metal for any length of time, you'll be astounded how quickly surface rust turns to body rot and how pricey it can be to repair.

Be sure to pick up an Advance Auto Parts **Service Maintenance Schedule** for information on other important car care projects.



# how to repair minor scratches *do-it-yourself & save!*

Minor scratches should be promptly repaired to reduce both cost and vehicle damage. Keeping up your vehicle's appearance enhances its value.



1

Minor paint scratches like this one shown in the picture, can be repaired by completing the following steps.



2

Check your owner's manual for your vehicle's color code. Then get the correct color touch up paint (usually a base/clear two-part system). You'll also need wet/dry sandpaper, polishing compound, and a terry cloth towel.



3

Wash the damaged area. Use wax remover if necessary. Then sand the scratch or nick, feathering the edges to smooth transitions to the undamaged paint.



4

If the nick goes to the bare metal, apply primer and wet-sand once the primer dries. Otherwise, dab on the color-matched paint as smoothly as possible.



5

If the paint is a base/clear, apply the clear topcoat once the base has completely dried.



6

When the clearcoat has cured, wet-sand the repair smooth with the undamaged areas.



7

Use a fine-grit polishing compound to smooth out any imperfections. Finally, wax the car to add a layer of protection.