Ratings *Auto polishes*

The tests behind the Ratings

The **overall score** is based primarily on gloss and durability, as well as cleaning, resistance to scratching or hazing, and ease of use. For most tests, we used metal panels with a finish similar to that on car panels. We applied a quarter-teaspoon of polish and used an equal number of buffing strokes with each sample. To assess **gloss**, three engineers visually compared two products at a time. For our **durability** tests, more than 1,500 measurements tracked how water beaded as the wax wore away. We used a syringe to deposit two consistently sized drops of distilled water in the same two places on each test panel. An optical comparator enlarged each drop and allowed us to gauge the contact angle from the side of the drop to the panel's surface. We weathered the waxed panels outdoors, retesting periodically. The contact angle decreased from 90 degrees or more to 60 degrees or less as the wax wore away. Our **cleaning** and **scratching/hazing** tests were much like those for gloss, with side-by-side comparisons of test panels. For the **ease-of-use** tests, we used cars volunteered by staffers. **Price** is the estimated average for the size tested, based on a national survey.

Overall Ratings

Auto polishes
In performance order

● Excellent ● Very good ○ Good ◐ Fair ● Poor

Product	Price	Overall score	Volume or weight	Type	Gloss	Durability	Cleaning	Ease of use	Scratching /hazing	Comments
Zymöl Cleaner Wax	$16.00		16 oz.	Liquid	◐	○	○	◐	●	—
Prestone Bullet Wax	7.25		16	Liquid	○	●	◐	◐	○	Unique, handy applicator.
Nu Finish Car Polish	6.22		14	Paste	◐	◐	○	◐	○	—
Armor All Car Wax	5.57		16	Liquid	○	●	◐	○	◐	—
3M One Step Cleaner Wax 39006	6.46		16	Liquid	◐	◐	●	○	●	Less prone to staining trim than most.
Turtle Wax Emerald Series Advanced Liquid Wax	8.40		16	Liquid	○	●	○	○	◐	Comes with applicator.
Turtle Wax Super Hard Shell Car Wax	3.06		16	Liquid	○	◐	○	○	●	—
Nu Finish Car Polish	5.98		16	Liquid	○	◐	○	◐	○	Manufacturer recommends a second application after 30 days for maximum protection.
Eagle One Wet Polish and Wax	9.61		16	Liquid	◐	◐	○	◐	●	Comes with applicator.
Blue Coral Cleaner Wax with	6.16		16	Liquid	◐	○	○	◐	◐	—

Swirl
Remover

Product	Price	Rating	Size (oz.)	Form						Comments
Turtle Wax Express Shine Spray Car Wax	4.88	[bar]	16	Spray	◑ (red)	◒	◒	◉ (red)	◉ (red)	Can be used on plastic trim.
Meguiar's Gold Class Clear Coat Liquid Car Wax	9.95	[bar]	16	Liquid	◑ (red)	◒	○	◑ (red)	◉ (red)	Comes with applicator.
Mothers California Gold Original Formula Cleaner Wax	6.07	[bar]	16	Liquid	◑ (red)	◒	◑ (red)	◑ (red)	◒	Less prone to staining trim than most.
Rain-X Ultra Wax	7.51	[bar]	16	Liquid	◑ (red)	○	○	◑ (red)	○	Comes with applicator.
Armor All Spray On Car Polish	4.82	[bar]	17.5	Spray	◑ (red)	●	◒	◉ (red)	◉ (red)	Less prone to staining trim than most.
Meguiar's Cleaner Wax	5.69	[bar]	16	Liquid	○	○	◑ (red)	◑ (red)	◒	—
Turtle Wax Finish 2001	4.25	[bar]	16	Liquid	○	○	○	○	○	Manufacturer recommends a second application after 30 days for maximum protection.
Blue Coral Self Wax No Buff Car Wax	3.87	[bar]	16	Liquid	◑ (red)	●	◒	○	◉ (red)	Less prone to staining trim than most. Discontinued, but may still be available.
Meguiar's Deep Crystal System Step 3 Carnauba Wax	5.35	[bar]	16	Liquid	◑ (red)	●	○	◑ (red)	○	Less prone to staining trim than most.
Mothers California Gold Pure Carnauba Wax Phase 3	8.84	[bar]	16	Liquid	◒	○	○	◑ (red)	◉ (red)	Less prone to staining trim than most.
Turtle Wax Super Hard Shell Car Wax	3.10	[bar]	14	Paste	○	◒	○	◑ (red)	○	Comes with applicator.
Mothers California Gold Original Formula Cleaner Wax	7.62	[bar]	12	Paste	◑ (red)	◒	◒	○	◒	Less prone to staining trim than most.
Meguiar's Quick Wax	7.18	[bar]	16	Spray	○	◒	○	◉ (red)	◒	Can be used on plastic trim.

Brand & model	Price	Score		Type						Comments
The Wax Shop Super Glaze	8.34	[bar]	12	Liquid	○	●	○	◖(red)	◑	Can be used on plastic trim. Requires 10 minutes to dry.
Turtle Wax Emerald Series Advanced Paste Wax	8.28	[bar]	12	Paste	◑	○	●	○	○	Comes with applicator.
Meguiar's Cleaner Wax	5.41	[bar]	11	Paste	○	◑	●	◖(red)	◑	Comes with applicator.