

# Detailer Safety



**You never know what is hiding in tight spaces unless you look first!**

Detailer safety is something that is not often considered. After all, its just cleaning cars right? The truth is you need to be aware of [product safety](#) and also that the vehicles themselves can involve risks.

If you are working on a vehicle other than your own, you need to be very cautious. Never dive into an automobile and start cleaning, always inspect it first.

What you are looking for are **used needles, broken glass, razor blades, knives, pins**, and various other sharp objects. These items can be found under the seats, between the seats, in seat pockets, door pockets, glove boxes, center consoles, and so on. The chances of finding sharp and potentially dangerous objects are not as slim as you might think.

An extremely important part of your safety is to look **everywhere** before sticking your hands in **tight spots**. If the area is dark, use a **hand held light** to inspect the area first.



**A hand held light is a necessary detailer safety tool**

Wearing **gloves** is also a must for safety. Not only for protection from **sharp objects and harsh cleaners, but also from bodily fluids.** If you are cleaning a vehicle such as a **POLICE vehicle, an ambulance or a theft recovery vehicle, EXTREME caution is necessary.**



**Many times I have found razor blades in very tight spots. Always inspect your detail project first.**

With **police and theft recovery vehicles**, chances are you will come across **blood, vomit, or other types of bodily fluids**. As unappealing as that sounds, you need to be **protected at all times**. If you aren't comfortable cleaning a vehicle in this condition, **don't be afraid to turn the job down**.

**Slip resistant** and **water proof footwear** are also a necessary safety item. Quite often the floor you are working on will become slippery from moisture, spilled cleaners, or mud. Slip resistant footwear will reduce the risk of unnecessary injury.

**Hearing protection** is a good idea to have. A detail shop can get very noisy. Compressors, vacuums, hot water extractors, power polishers, can cause damage to your hearing if you don't take proper precautions. There are many styles of hearing protection available to suit your needs.

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# Product Safety



Product safety is what all detailers should consider before beginning any detailing project.

There are literally hundreds, maybe thousands of detailing products available. **All purpose cleaners, solvents, soaps, dressings, polishes, waxes**, and the list goes on.

Detailing products today are generally much safer to use than they were years ago. With the current environmental concerns in the world, many cleaners are becoming earth friendly.



That being said, you still need to protect yourself. Safety is about avoiding short term and long term health effects.

Wearing **latex gloves** is a smart habit to get into. Continuous use of cleaners and solvents can and will irritate your skin. They will cause your skin to crack and bleed, allowing for the possibility of infection.



When using solvents for tar removal etc. I strongly recommend using a **respirator**. They are much more effective than a **paper mask**. There are many sizes and styles of respirator available so its important to get one that fits you and your needs correctly

A **respirator, gloves, and hearing protection** is also important when power polishing. Safety isn't always considered when polishing but polishes such as compounds kick up a lot of dust.

If you are working on a paint restoration, there could potentially be dozens of hours of exposure to polishing dust. Waxes also can be harmful if inhaled, a respirator is a wise choice.



**Gloves and even safety glasses** are important when working with polishes or waxes due to their ability to cause skin and eye irritation.

The bottom line is when working with potentially harmful chemicals, your safety needs to be considered. **Gloves, respirators, hearing and eye protection** is essential. Investing a few extra dollars on safety gear is well worth protecting yourself against any short or long term effects.

Always make sure to **wash any exposed skin** thoroughly after any detailing or polishing project.



**Here you can see the skin on my hand is dry and starting to crack. This was from using all purpose cleaner to wipe my work boots without wearing gloves. A few minutes was all it took!**

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