

Think about it. What can truly be the most important aspect of a properly detailed car? Some may say the tires and wheel. Paint and exterior trim may be priority to some. But if you really think about it, you can have a perfectly detailed exterior and interior of an automobile but the first thing you look through after turning the key, putting the vehicle in gear, and pressing the gas pedal is looking ahead through your windshield. No matter how good of a detail has been done, the glass will make or break the whole experience.

According to the Saint-Gobain Sekurit, the world's premier glassier for Porsche, Mercedes Benz, BMW, Ferrari, Rolls Royce, etc. the invention of glass dates back to the Egyptians. Here's a brief history from the SGS website:

We have been in the glass business for a very long time. So long, in fact, that Saint-Gobain equipped its first "vehicle", the sedan chair of Louis XIV's architect, Jules Hardouin Mansart, in 1699. Of course, glass had been around for centuries before that. It first appeared about 5000 years ago in the form of pearls and jewels in Mesopotamia. The Egyptians also worked with the substance from about 1500 BC.

The production of glass subsequently spread to the Mediterranean basin and the first known window was built on the coasts of that sea, in Pompeii. The composition of the glass used by Romans for their glazing was almost identical to that of glass today. But it would take some time for glass to become a household object.

The process of glassblowing, invented in the 1st Century BC for the production of hollow bodies, helped glassware to make its first forays into medieval homes. Glass was still not a ubiquitous material until its production was industrialized in the 17th and 18th centuries, when it began to be used extensively in buildings and interior decoration. In 1688, the technique of pouring glass onto metal tables contributed to large-scale production. The process was initially better-suited to manufacturing mirrors, but gradually led to the industrial production of sheet glass.

In 1909, an accidental breakthrough led to a key technique in glassmaking. French chemist Edouard Benedictus discovered the process of lamination by dropping a flask that had contained nitrocellulose in his laboratory. The shattered glass held together, instead of breaking apart. At the time, windscreens were already known to be hazardous in car accidents. Benedictus immediately realized the advantages of using such glass, which he named Triplex, in windscreens.

From the 1920s, lamination and continuous rolling advanced glass manufacturing in a spectacular manner. In use for several decades, these processes were replaced in the 1960s by the float process, employed by all major glassmakers today. This technique eliminated the old distinction between plate and sheet glass.

Saint-Gobain Sekurit is proud to have been a part of further innovations that have marked glass manufacturing in the ensuing decades. And we aim to make driving an even safer and more comfortable experience in the decades to come.

Saint-Gobain Sekurit has developed a classification system that uses pictograms to help consumers easily recognize automotive glass products and their distinctive qualities. These pictograms, devised by Saint-Gobain Sekurit and validated by a

panel of 300 motorists have become the industry standard used by all glassmakers.



HYDROPHOBIC GLASS

Hydrophobic glass eases the formation and evacuation of droplets, and repels elements like mud or insects. It improves visual comfort and safety, reduces the use of windscreen wipers and facilitates window cleaning.

Here's a neat simulator of glass with and without Hydrophobic Glass:

<http://www.saint-gobain-sekurit.com/en/index.asp?nav1=PR&id=360>



ANTIREFLECTIVE GLASS

Anti-reflective glass diminishes dashboard reflection, which has intensified over the years with car designs that incorporate increasingly inclined windscreens. This product not only improves safety and comfort, but also gives automobile designers greater freedom in their choice of dashboard colours and materials.

Here's a neat simulator that shows a glass with and without ARG:

<http://www.saint-gobain-sekurit.com/en/index.asp?nav1=PR&id=370>

How To Clean

Getting a crystal clear view of the world doesn't have to require straining your elbow and arm trying reach the rear windshield. If you're use to seeing streaks, It's a combination of the correct towel and cleaner.

For **exterior glass**, cleaning is slightly different than interior. You must remove the contaminants that are bonded similar to what's on the paint. For this, clay is your answer.

Items Needed:

Clay
Lube for Clay
6 Microfiber towels
Glass Cleaner

Step 1: Clean the surface with a glass cleaner to remove dirt. Ideally, you have already washed the car to expedite things. Using the direction given by manufacturer, clay the surface of the glass. Typically, you liberally spray the clay lube and rub the clay in a side-to-side direction. You know when to stop when the surface feels smooth and is quiet.

Step 2: Wipe off the excess clay lube and clay residue with a glass cleaner and towel. Don't worry about leaving smudges or streaks; this step is just to wipe off dirty clay residue.

Step 3: I use a two-towel method to clean glass. Fold the square microfiber towel in half, and then fold again. You now should have a square towel that has been folded twice. This is towel 1. Do the same thing to another towel, this is towel 2. Each towel has two cleaning surfaces, we'll call them A and B for the first towel, C and D for the second towel.

It's a 1-2-3 technique. 1. Using a quality glass cleaner, I like Meguiar's Detailer Line Glass Cleaner, spray towel 1 side A with the glass cleaner. **Most people spray the glass, but then you get overspray on the rest of the car. Usually, glass is the last step in the detail, so you don't want glass cleaner misted on the paint.** Wipe the glass in a side to side pattern and don't press too hard. On a scale of 1-10, you should be pressing at 6 or 7. Take towel 1 side B and wipe off what you just did. To assure we've removed all streaks, smudges, lint, etc. use towel 2 side C to give a final buff.

You know your glass is clean when the last step feels smooth and the towel simply glides over the glass.

For interior glass, the claying step is not necessary and you simply follow the above steps with two fresh microfiber towels.

Hope this long write-up on glass makes things crystal clear....