

KEEPING YOUR VEHICLES CLEAN

Do You Believe in Touchless Washing?



BY JACK JACKSON

I would say one of the most common questions today is, "do your brushes scratch paint?" We have been washing vehicles for over 23 years and the technology of brushes has only gotten better. Of course, you get what you pay for, but, no, we don't scratch paint with our brushes. We are washing some of the most expensive paint and advertising wraps in the market on buses, trucks and trains - all with no issues.

The technology of the proper brush with the proper chemical will far outperform any other method and will be the least expensive for any ROI out there.

I could go into the various brushes, materials and mechanics, but not only would it be overwhelming, the answers would also depend on the desired outcome, throughput and budget. You can always contact us and get advice, just as we did recently with the following story.

I recently visited a large urban transportation facility that spent over \$1 million on an automatic, drive through wash system. This was only a 3 year old facility and their issue was the vehicles (trains) did not meet the cleanliness expectation of the customer. The chemical company was working diligently with the customer to come up with every scenario,

including additional wash arches, chemicals, soaps and acids to increase washing force allowed by the limited space of the building. Of course, more chemicals adds more costs and sometimes can actually do damage to the vehicle or paint. In this case, damage to the rivets resulted.

When we did the inspection it was determined that it would be impossible to add any more chemicals to do the job, but what came to light was the brushes were of the most inexpensive on the market. Individual brush strands were round and hollow. In comparison it would be like cleaning your car with a bunch of cocktail size straws whipping against your vehicle.

A round brush is not going to hold any chemical or water on it to ensure lubricity and eliminate abrasion at the same time.

Today's brushes can ensure there are no issues with scratching, yet there is some scrubbing. Your best method to clean, as I am sure all your grandmothers would attest to, is a little soap and a good scrubbing. That holds true to today's technology in cruciform polyethylene or polypropylene brushes.

Once we added in some of the proper brushing technology the problem was solved. Even the nooks and crannies got a thorough clean.

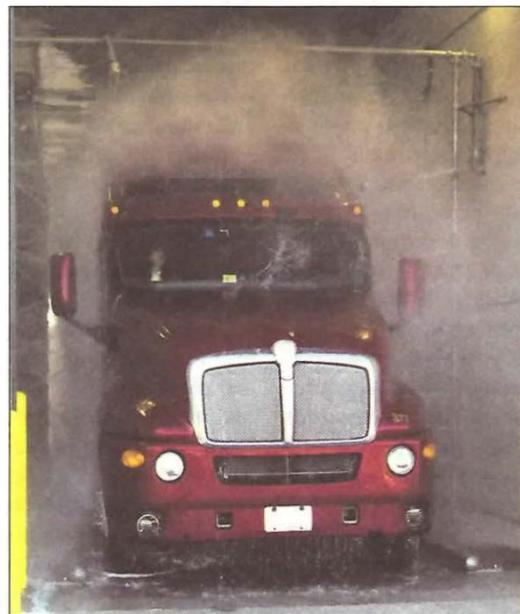
There are numerous videos available online to discuss today's brush technology and the myths of touchless versus soft touch washing. If you would like to learn more, we are always available to discuss your requirements and recommend your best options.

For those who want to know, there is cloth, lamb-skin, foam, polyethylene

and polypropylene brushes to mention a few, each with their advantages and disadvantages.

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