

CAR CARE GUIDE

How to Maintain Your Ceramic Coating

Keep your coating glossy, slick and protective for years.

“The single biggest factor in how long your coating lasts is how you wash the car.”

A ceramic coating typically lasts 1 to 5 years, depending on the product and how the car is cared for. The good news: most of that lifespan is in your hands. Most coatings wear down slowly, usually from washing mistakes, contamination and sun exposure, so a few simple habits make a big difference.

1–5 yrs	2–3	2× / yr
typical coating lifespan	washes between toppers	iron decontamination

01 Wash the Right Way

- **Two buckets.** One for soapy water, one for rinsing your mitt.
- **Gentle soap.** Use a pH-neutral car shampoo. Skip degreasers and strong all-purpose cleaners.
- **Soft touch.** Use a clean microfiber mitt and work from the top of the car down.
- **Dry well.** Rinse thoroughly and dry with a clean microfiber towel.

> **TIP** Washing often is good for your coating. Frequent washing with correct technique stops contamination from building up.

02 Avoid These Mistakes

Most coating damage comes from a short list of habits:

- Automatic brush car washes, which leave micro-scratches that wear the coating down.
- Abrasive sponges, scrub pads and stiff brushes.
- Harsh chemicals, such as strong degreasers and high-concentration citrus fallout removers.
- Leaving bird droppings or tree sap on the paint.

03 Top Up Between Washes

Apply a ceramic spray topper every 2 to 3 washes, either during the rinse stage or on a clean, dry panel followed by a gentle wipe. It restores slickness and water beading, and it acts as a sacrificial layer that takes the wear in place of the main coating.

> **WHY IT WORKS** Think of the topper as a shield. It gets scratched and worn so that the coating underneath doesn't have to.

04 Decontaminate Twice a Year

Brake dust and industrial fallout bond to the coating surface and slowly dull its gloss and water beading. Use an iron remover about twice a year. If the paint still feels rough after washing, use a detailing clay bar with plenty of lubricant.

05 Remove Droppings and Sap Fast

Bird droppings and tree sap are acidic. If the sun bakes them on, they can etch through the coating and into the paint.

> **ACT FAST** Mist the spot with a detailing spray, let it soften, then gently wipe it away. Clean it within a day, and sooner in hot weather.

06 Protect the Car from the Environment

- **Garage is best.** Park under cover when possible. It cuts UV exposure, sap, droppings and fallout.
- **Sunny climates.** Expect faster wear in high-UV areas and top up more often.
- **Winter roads.** Where road salt is used, rinse regularly and decontaminate more often.

07 Your Maintenance Schedule

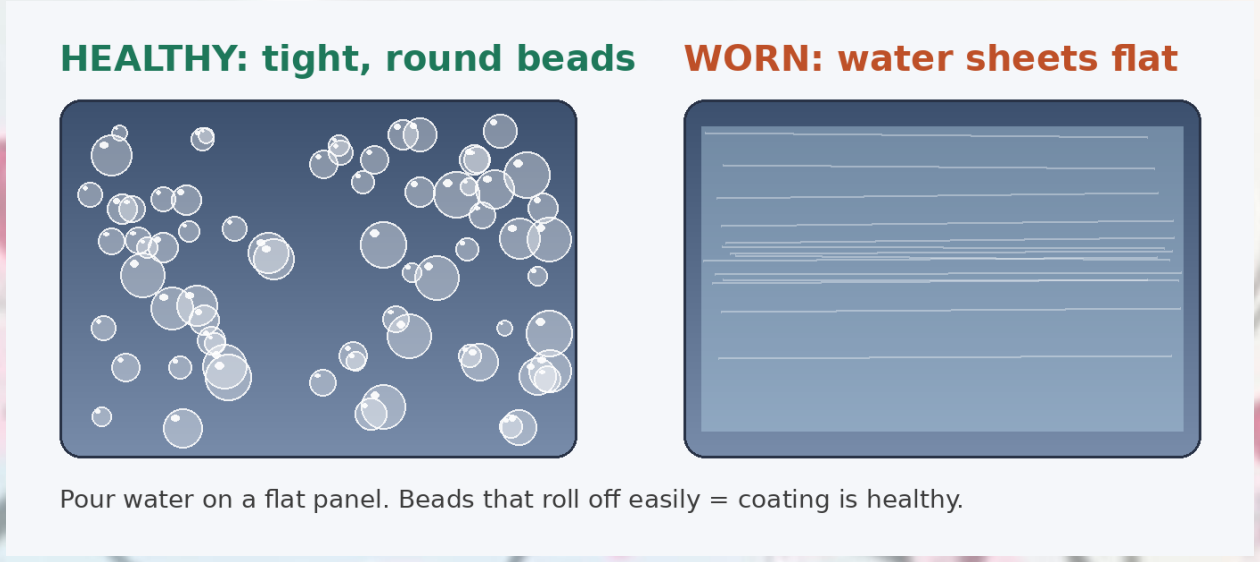


Task	How often	Notes
Wash	Every 1–2 weeks, or as needed	Two-bucket method, pH-neutral shampoo
Topper spray	Every 2–3 washes	Restores slickness and water beading
Iron decontamination	Twice a year	Removes brake dust and fallout

Task	How often	Notes
Clay bar	As needed	When the paint feels rough after washing
Remove droppings and sap	Right away	Don't let them bake in the sun
Water beading check	Every few months	See the water test below

08 Check Your Coating's Health

Pour a small amount of water onto a flat panel. If it forms tight, round beads that roll off easily, the coating is performing well. If the water spreads into wide sheets, it is wearing out.



Pour water on a flat panel. Beads that roll off easily = coating is healthy.

- **Coating 2 to 3 years old,** beading weaker, paint still smooth: apply a topper and keep it topped up for another 6 to 12 months.
- **Coating 4 to 5 years old,** water no longer beads and light marring appears: decontaminate, polish if needed, wipe with a prep product, then recoat.

09 A Final Word

> **REMEMBER** Always follow the care instructions from your coating manufacturer, since product recommendations can vary.

Source: Gyeon Quartz USA, "How Long Does Ceramic Coating Last?" (June 17, 2026), adapted into a simplified guide. Illustrations are original.