

Applying Zaino Bros' Show Car Polish

<http://www.lazaino.com/>

Whenever you're supposed to use any one of the three Zaino polishes, Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5, I may refer to them as just Polish.

Whenever you're supposed to use either of the two Zaino sprays, Z-6 or Z-8, I may refer to them as just Spray. Remember, any time Z-6 is called for, you may use Z-8 instead.

Helpful hint: use the Zaino products as sparingly as possible.

The first time you use Zaino, follow one of these procedures:

1. Dawn wash – Rinse – Dry? – ClayBar – Z-7 wash – Dry – Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5 with ZFX – Remove polish – Z-6 or Z-8
2. Dawn wash – Rinse – Dry? – ClayBar – Z-7 wash – Dry – Z-1 – Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5 – Wait – Remove polish – Z-6 or Z-8
3. Dawn wash – Rinse – Dry – Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5 with ZFX – Wait – Remove polish – Z-6 or Z-8
4. Dawn wash – Rinse – Dry – Z-1 – Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5 – Wait – Remove polish – Z-6 or Z-8

Helpful hint: You only need to dry before claying if you're worried about water spots.

After that first application, maintaining your Zaino finish will look like one of these:

1. Z-7 wash – Rinse – Dry
2. Z-7 wash – Rinse – Dry – Z-6 or Z-8
3. Z-7 wash – Rinse – Dry – Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5 – Wait – Remove Polish – Z-6 or Z-8
4. Z-7 wash – Rinse – Dry – Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5 with ZFX – Wait – Remove Polish – Z-6 or Z-8
5. Z-7 wash – Rinse – Dry – Z-6 – Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5 – Wait – Remove Polish – Z-6 or Z-8
6. Z-7 wash – Rinse – Dry – Z-6 – Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5 with ZFX – Wait – Remove Polish – Z-6 or Z-8

Remember, you'll need to use Z-1 or ZFX at least once every six months or every tenth coat of polish. If you have a ClayBar, you should use it whenever it seems needed. I clay our Camaro whenever I notice any roughness on the surface, every six to nine months. You must use ZFX on any day you put on more than one coat of polish. You may use ZFX as often as every coat.

Helpful hint: To insure your Zaino lasts a long time, store it in a cool place.

The short version—everything you need to know in a few sentences:

1. Wash your car with original blue Dawn dishwashing detergent, then rinse and dry.
2. Clay your car—Mix ½ a capful of Z-7 with one pint of distilled water in a clean spray bottle. Using the mixture as a lubricant, gently glide the ClayBar over every painted surface of your car. Use only one side of the bar and occasionally rinse, dry, stretch and fold the ClayBar to hide the collected dirt and reveal two clean sides. Hold the ClayBar securely so it doesn't fall.
3. Wash your car with Z-7, then rinse and dry.
4. Z1 or ZFX?
 - Z1 - Use a dry applicator to apply a very thin coat of Z-1. **Do not remove the Z-1!**
 - ZFX – Fill a ZFX mixing bottle half-full of Zaino polish, add four drops of ZFX and shake vigorously until completely mixed. If you have a small car, you should use the included LA Zaino ZFX ruler to measure three drops worth of ZFX and use only three drops of ZFX. This should be enough for two to three coats of polish on your car.
5. Using an applicator slightly dampened with Z-6 or distilled water; apply a very thin coat of Zaino polish (Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5).
6. Wash the applicator immediately or the polish will dry and never come off.
7. Allow the Zaino polish to dry completely and then gently remove with a 100% cotton towel.
8. Spray a light mist of Z-6 or Z-8 on a small area of the car. Using a 100% cotton towel, spread the Z-6 or Z-8 as far as it will go, then turn the towel over and dry completely.
9. If you're using ZFX, go back to step 5 and apply a second and then a third coat.

The long version—everything you need to know in excruciating detail:

1. Using blue "original formula" Liquid Dawn (hand-dishwashing liquid), wash your car thoroughly before applying Zaino. The cleaner your car, the better the results. Dawn removes all traces of carnauba wax, paraffin, silicone oils, etc.

Note: Many people ask us if they can use something else (Palmolive, Joy, etc.). The answer is that we KNOW that

Dawn works and we recommend using only Dawn.

Do not make a habit of washing your car with Dawn! However, you must use it before the first coat of Zaino.

Once you have a coat of Zaino polish on your car, wash it only with Z-7. The only exception to this is if someone else messes with your car. This might happen if you have bodywork done or if the dealer you told not to touch your car decides to wax it for you while it's in the shop. In this case, you will want to wash the car with Dawn and pretend you're starting from scratch.

Helpful Hint: If the car is dirty, you should rinse the accumulated dirt off the wash mitt before dipping it back in the soapy water. Use a hose and nozzle to rinse the mitt before dipping it back in the soapy water. This will help prevent damaging the paint with dirt you picked up while washing another part of the car. If the bucket of clean water gets dirty, empty and refill it as necessary. Also, we recommend using a 100% cotton wash mitt or towel (we sell both!), as they are least likely to damage your paint.

Another Hint: For really dirty cars, rinse the car first with soap and water using a hose-end garden sprayer. This helps loosen the dirt before you start washing. Mix a tablespoon or two of Z-7 and a small amount of water in the sprayer and then rinse the whole car with the soapy water. Wait a couple of minutes and then rinse the car with a strong stream of water. This will remove all the dirt the car wash mixture loosened. (I got my sprayer from Home Depot for about \$3.)

2. After you've washed the car with Dawn, we highly recommend using the ClayBar to remove all of the embedded contaminants. (Most of the time I've used clay on a car, the paint has changed from feeling like very fine sandpaper to feeling like fine china.) Even on new cars, the ClayBar will very likely remove some contaminants and improve your results. Customers who have used a ClayBar have commented about how much smoother the paint felt after using the clay. The non-abrasive ClayBar removes surface contaminants from the paint finish without hurting the paint. The ClayBar helps remove water spots, bird droppings and bug guts, all of which may damage the paint if left on the car for any length of time.

Warning: The ClayBar will try to jump out of your hand and fall to the ground. If it succeeds, consider throwing it away as it may have picked up some dirt that wants to scratch your car. It is not hard to keep it from falling, but if you don't hang on tight and pay enough attention to the ClayBar, it will jump out of your hand like it jumped out of mine the first time I used it. Always make sure to hold the ClayBar by four sides and use plenty of lubricant. This will make sure the Clay does not stick to the paint, fall out of your grip and leap to the ground. Also be very careful at the edges; it's especially easy to drop the ClayBar when running off the edge of a fender. You'll most likely drop the ClayBar about the time you get really comfortable using it — that's when you start to relax — which lowers your attention level. That tends to also relax your grip on the ClayBar. **A relaxed grip and wandering attention is a sure prescription for a dropped ClayBar!** If you're really worried, you can put down a tarp; just make sure the tarp stays clean.

Helpful hint: Wearing a surgical rubber glove will make it easier to hold on to the ClayBar.

Before using the ClayBar, make sure your car is completely clean. If there are any large particles of dirt on the car, the ClayBar may pick them up and scratch your paint. **Only use the ClayBar right after washing your car.** Because the water in Southern California is hard and the humidity is generally low, you should probably dry the car before claying.

As a lubricant for the ClayBar, **mix 1/2 capful of Z-7 Car Wash and sixteen ounces of water or distilled water** (it helps to prevent water spots from forming) in a clean spray bottle. Spray a small area and, using very light pressure, gently glide the ClayBar over the surface. Make sure to keep the surface well lubricated while using the ClayBar and frequently check the ClayBar for dirt. The ClayBar should always glide on a film of soapy water. If you find the clay sticking to the car, it means you're not using enough lubricant. Depending upon the amount of contaminants, it may take a few passes back and forth to completely clean each area.

Helpful hint: Always work in straight lines, front to back on horizontal surfaces and up and down on vertical surfaces. This will minimize the appearance of swirl marks.

Only use one side of the ClayBar. When that side becomes dirty, rinse the ClayBar with clean water and dry it off. Then squish the clay bar till it's half the thickness it was and fold the dirty side together. Your ClayBar will now have two clean sides and you may continue claying. Eventually, when you fold the ClayBar, you will end up with two dirty sides and then it's time for a new one. If you're careful, you should get 10 to 20 sides out of a ClayBar.

When you're done, wash the car with Z-7 Car Wash and water, rinse it thoroughly and then dry it completely.

Note: The ClayBar should be used whenever you notice any roughness on your paint. (I use the ClayBar every six to nine months or whenever my fingers notice the paint is not quite as smooth as it should be.) Because removing those particulates may create small imperfections in the existing polish, I recommend only using the ClayBar on days you're going

to apply a coat of polish. Also, remember that it's OK to use the ClayBar on a small part of the car. If I'm washing the car, I notice something stuck in the paint and I'm going to put a coat of polish on that day, I will often just clay the problem panel.

3. Now that your car is clean and dry, you're ready to apply the polish. [Z-2, Z-3 and Z-5 are different types of polish with the same application instructions.]
 - If you use Z-1, you must use it before you apply the polish for the first time and every six months or ten coats thereafter.
 - If you use ZFX, you must use it with the first coat of polish and at least every six months or tenth coat thereafter. You may use ZFX with every coat and must use ZFX on any day you apply multiple coats.

If you're not using ZFX, you must wait six hours when it's warm and twenty-four hours when it's cold before applying the next coat of polish. If you're using ZFX, you do not need to wait between removing one coat and applying the next. With ZFX you may apply up to three coats of Zaino polish in one day. ZFX cuts the drying time of the polish almost in half. (Using Z-2 with ZFX on a dreary LA day, the polish dries in 30 to 40 minutes. On a warm, dry day it takes as little as 5 or 10 minutes.)

Start by choosing the appropriate polish for this coat: Z-5 if there are any swirl marks or fine scratches, Z-3 on non-clear coat paint, or Z-2 for clear coat paint. Two to five coats of Z-5 is usually enough to hide minor swirl marks. When Z-5 has masked the problems, switch to Z-2 or Z-3, as they are more optically perfect and will give your car an even better shine.

Note: it's very important to apply Zaino polish as thinly as possible. This saves money, makes the polish dry faster and also easier to remove. A very common beginner mistake is applying Zaino thicker than necessary. (Now that I use ZFX, I know that I can apply three or more coats of Z-2 on my Camaro using one ounce of polish.) You should be using so little polish you almost can't see it. The secret to thin coats is putting a small amount of polish on the applicator. (I put two to three thin lines across the applicator pad, and then spread it as far as it will go. I usually start with three lines or a big "N," and then on the second or third time I put polish on the applicator, I switch to two lines or a big "V".)

Helpful hint: Z-1 should be applied using a dry applicator. Zaino polish should be applied using an applicator slightly dampened with Z-6 or distilled water. I use a spray bottle of distilled water for this as too much Z-6 can make Zaino polish difficult to remove.

Note: If your car is older or the paint is highly swirled, you may find that the first few coats of polish need to be a bit thicker than subsequent coats. I once helped put the first few coats of Z-5 on a badly swirled five-year-old black Mustang. My extremely thin first coat left a splotchy, half-polished looking surface. I put the second and third coats on a bit thicker than normal and after the third coat, the swirls had mostly filled in and the surface was exhibiting that wonderful Zaino shine.

Note: Immediately after applying a coat of Z-1, Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5, make sure to thoroughly wash the applicator. If you let the product dry on the applicator there is a good chance you'll never get it out.

Z-1. Using a dry applicator, apply a very thin coat of Z-1 Polish Lok. **Do not wipe off the Z-1 Polish Lok.** You may apply Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5 polish immediately; there is no need to wait for the Z-1 to dry. Using an applicator very lightly dampened with Z-6 Gloss Enhancer or distilled water; apply a very thin coat of Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5 polish. After the first application, use Z-1 every six months or before every tenth coat of polish. The rest of the time, just use Z-2, Z-3 or Z-5.

Important note: ZFX has a shelf life of approximately 18 to 24 months or longer. Please store it in a cool dry place and keep it tightly covered. Exposure to high or freezing temperatures, or leaving the lid loose may cause your ZFX to thicken prematurely. The better you take care of your ZFX, the longer it will last. You should also use it: trying to save ZFX to save money commonly turns out to be false economy.

ZFX. Place a small amount of polish in one of the two-ounce ZFX mixing bottles. One coat of polish on my Camaro requires I add polish to the two-drop line on our LA Zaino ZFX Ruler. For two coats, I use the three-drop line and for three coats I use the four-drop line. Use our ZFX Ruler to measure the amount of polish you wish to use today and add the matching number of drops of ZFX; one drop of ZFX for each line on the ruler. Place the cover on the mixing bottle and shake until the ZFX and polish are completely mixed, up to two minutes. Wait 5 to 10 minutes, then use an applicator lightly misted with Z-6 Gloss Enhancer or distilled water to apply a very thin coat of the mixture. Wash the applicator immediately after applying each coat of polish or the polish may dry and never come off. You must use the ZFX/polish mixture within six hours of mixing and if you don't clean the mixing bottle out as soon as you're done using it, you will have to throw it away. As soon as you're done using the polish, rinse the bottle out with dish soap and water until clean. I find it takes four or five tries to get the bottle clean. If you mix a bit too much, use the extra for a second coat on the hood, your wheels or even your toolbox. I also keep a coat of Zaino polish on the writing surface of my Palm Pilot and on the front of

my dishwasher. It makes writing on the Palm much more pleasant and the front of the dishwasher just wipes clean with a damp sponge. Once you've mixed it, you have to use it, so be creative with any leftovers; it works wonders on most any shiny non-porous surface.

Helpful hint: Mixing ZFX in a 30 to 60cc syringe makes your Zaino go further and makes cleaning the mixing bottle ever so much easier. When using a syringe, add one drop of ZFX to very 7ccs of polish you put in the syringe.

Important note: ZFX decreases the drying time of the Zaino polish, making it extra important that you clean the applicator immediately after applying each coat of polish. If you don't, the polish will dry and the applicator will be ruined. Wash the applicator thoroughly in dish soap or laundry detergent and water. Also make sure to clean the mixing bottle as soon as you're finished using it. The sooner you clean it, the easier it will be. If you don't get it clean you shouldn't use it again.

Cleanup hint: Castrol "Super Clean Degreaser" dissolves liquid Zaino Polish on contact. One or two squirts and a few shakes will get a mixing bottle or syringe almost completely clean. Two or three squirts on an applicator rubbed in with your fingers and rinsed off with a hose on full blast will almost completely clean your applicator. After this, make sure to clean the applicator really, really well as you don't want whatever is in the "Super Clean" anywhere near your car. I found Castrol "Super Clean Degreaser" at Pep Boys.

An application of Zaino Polish every month (or even every four months or more) will keep the shine looking like new, though some people apply it as often as weekly. Be aware that while three coats per week may sound like a great idea, you will probably find that after a few months of that you'll have reached some limit and that backing off to a coat a week will work better.

Helpful hint: Keep a coat of Zaino polish on your wheels and the brake dust will come off really easily. If you feel really industrious, jack up your car and remove the wheels, then clean, clay and Zaino every surface of the wheels. In six months when you decide to thoroughly clean the wheels again, you'll be amazed at how much easier they come clean.

4. Let the polish dry completely. Please note: Zaino Show Car Polish works best when it's warm out, though it can be applied in temperatures as low as 45 degrees. It will just take much longer to dry. On hot summer days it will dry in as little as 5 or 10 minutes. Do not try to remove the polish until it has completely dried. All you will accomplish is moving it around. One of the attributes of ZFX is that it accelerates the drying time making it much easier to use on cold and dreary days. The first time I used ZFX it was 50 degrees and raining and the polish dried in 30 minutes or so. Drying time is also affected by the amount of polish you use; I use about 1/3 of an ounce for one coat on my Camaro, which helps minimize the drying time.

To test if the polish is dry and ready to be removed, wipe your finger on a hazed section. The polish should come right off and leave a crystal-clear finish. If not, it's still wet. You can leave Zaino polish on for hours or even overnight without causing any problems. Use one or more white 100% cotton towels to remove the polish. Polish the whole car turning the towel as necessary to get clean surfaces. If you try to remove the polish before it has thoroughly dried and it smears, wait another 15 minutes and try again, if you still have smears you probably applied the polish too thick and you'll need to wipe the car down with a damp cotton towel. This will remove the smears. Don't use Z-6 or apply another coat of polish until after you've removed any smears.

5. If you are not using ZFX - after removing one coat of polish and before applying the next coat of polish you should wait 24 hours if the outside temperature is under 70 degrees and six hours if over 70 degrees. If you've used ZFX with this coat, you don't need to wait at all and may go ahead and apply another coat of the polish/ZFX combination immediately. If you are using ZFX you may apply up to three coats of Zaino polish per day.

6. Using Z-6 "Gloss Enhancer" or Z-8 "Spray Sealant" before and after every coat of Zaino polish really helps give a three-dimensional look. Their antistatic properties will reduce dust and dirt pickup. Z-6 or Z-8 may be used before the first coat of polish, between each coat of polish and after the last coat of polish.

Apply the spray very sparingly. Lightly mist a small area and immediately wipe with a 100% cotton towel, spreading it as far as you can. When you can't spread it any farther, turn the towel and dry it off. Repeat until the entire vehicle is done. Do not let Z-6 or Z8 dry on your car without wiping it off. If it dries before wiping, reapply and repeat the drying procedure. Less than one ounce will do an average size vehicle. Z-6 and Z8 also work great on glass, rims, chrome, trim and shiny plastic.

Helpful hint: Use as little Z-6 and Z-8 as possible, a little works just as well as a lot and the bottle will last much longer.

Very helpful hint: On a hot dry day or if the surface of the car is hot you will likely have better results if you apply the Z-6 or Z-8 to the towel and use the towel to apply the spray to the car or just wait till it cools off.

Note: Hot day or not, it is OK to apply the Z-6 or Z-8 to the towel instead of the car. Use it whichever way works best for you. I generally apply Z-8 directly to the car, but when applying it to my motorcycle I mist the towel.

7. Multiple coats of Zaino polish will achieve an even deeper, wetter-looking, ultra high gloss, plus higher paint protection. The number of coats of Zaino Polish is up to you. You be the judge...

When you reach the level of enhancement you like, normal maintenance with Z-7 Car Wash and the Z-6 or Z-8 spray is all that's necessary. Beyond that, apply a coat of Zaino Polish whenever you feel it is required. Somewhere between weekly and three times a year is about right, it depends upon you.

8. After finishing the paint you should think about the rest of the car. Zaino's Z-16 Tire Gloss is easy to apply, doesn't fly off and leaves a really nice long-lasting dark black finish. Our two-pack of foam applicators makes applying Z-16 a snap and costs only \$3.50. If you have any leather in your car, consider cleaning it with our Z-9 leather cleaner followed with a light application of the Zaino Z-10 leather conditioner.

The rest of this document contains helpful hints on detailing your car.

The first and most important rule is: If at the end of the day, you're happy with the results, then whatever methods and materials you used work for you. We make the recommendations we do because we know that cotton is more forgiving than many other products. If you're not happy then you need to figure out why. If you see marks that appear in the directions you wiped, you need to use a process of elimination to figure out what item or process is causing the problem.

Always wipe horizontal surfaces using a front to back motion and vertical surfaces using an up and down motion. Wiping in straight lines minimizes the visibility of the inevitable minor marks.

Always start working on the most visible surface and finish on the least visible surface. For cars that generally means top to bottom, on trucks and SUVs it's less clear as the top may be the least visible surface. That would make it easy except for the second half of the rule, always start with the cleanest part of the vehicle and end with the dirtiest. On tall vehicles this is an issue as the least visible and the dirtiest may be completely different parts of the car.

To help avoid water spots, wash your wheels first; then rinse out the bucket to get rid of the brake dust and wash your car with fresh car wash and water. This avoids leaving water on the car to dry while you're washing the wheels. It also lets you do a better job of cleaning your wheels because you won't feel so rushed.

You know you've used the correct amount of car wash if you almost run out of suds as you finish washing the car. If you have lots of suds left at the end you probably could have used less car wash and if you run out of suds half way through you should probably dump the water and make a fresh bucket of car wash and water.

Do not use the same wash mitt on the car that you used on the wheels or other extremely dirty parts of the car.

Always clean the spout on polish bottles so you don't get a lump of dried polish on your applicator.

If you're in an area with hard water there are a few things you can do to avoid water spots.

- If you have a water softener, put a hose bib after the water softener so you can wash your car with soft water.
- Install a water softener and use the soft water for washing your car.
- Buy a two or three-gallon pump garden sprayer and fill it with distilled or de-ionized water at a 25¢ water machine. Use that for the wash water and for a final rinse right before you dry the car. The distilled water will dilute the tap water so it leaves no or very minor spots.

Consider keeping a towel and a bottle of distilled water in your trunk so you can remove potentially damaging residue as soon as you see it. After that, a second towel and a bottle of Z-6 will put it back to perfect in a jiffy.

Distilled water is also good for cleaning windows and the interior. I always use it first as it works most of the time, leaves no residue or smell and the overspray won't hurt anything except leather. If that doesn't work I will break out something stronger. I know cleaning windows with water sounds funny, but a bit of distilled water and a reasonable quality microfiber towel (we sell those, too!) will get almost any window clean. For the interior, if it works, it leaves no smell and no potentially damaging deposits; if it doesn't work you can follow with something just a bit stronger.

Microfiber towels are wonderful for dusting the interior and washing windows. Microfiber towels must be washed separately as they will pick up lint and loose fibers from anything they are washed with. It is especially bad to wash them with cotton towels! It's extremely important to store Microfiber towels in a clean container, as it's very difficult to dislodge dirt and dust from Microfiber. While storing towels in Zip-Lock bags might sound odd for cotton towels, for Microfiber it's almost mandatory.

For polishing your car, use ONLY high quality made in the USA 100% Cotton towels. Zaino recommends large, white bath towels. **Always wash new towels before using them for the first time.** If you watch the Macys, Bloomingdale's and Robinson's/May sales you will find suitable towels for between \$10 and \$20 each. Personally, I find them easier to handle after cutting them into halves or quarters. **You should wash your towels using liquid laundry detergent, no bleach, no fabric softener and no dryer sheets and always dry on low.** It is rumored that if you use powdered detergent a granule of the detergent may not dissolve, get stuck in the nap of the towel and scratch your car's paint. The towels you use to wash your car should be stored in a clean, dust free place. If the towels collect dust from sitting around, that dust may put tiny scratches in your paint. Store your clean dry towels in large zip-lock bags or dust proof plastic boxes.

Always dry your car from top to bottom so that the grime from the fender wells and kick panels does not accidentally get on a towel used to dry a more visible section of the car. And watch to make sure that your towels do not touch the ground while drying the car. I find it easier to have six or eight small towels so that if something happens I have no qualms about putting that towel aside and getting another. My favorite method of drying is an electric leaf blower (my wife bought it as a present specifically for this purpose) to remove most of the water, followed by a small cotton towel to pick up the few spots it missed. The leaf blower is a great solution as it is completely non-contact. It's not without problems: if you have bad water spot problems or if you work near loose dirt you might be much better off with towels. I always make sure to water down the pavement near the car to prevent blowing dust into the air.

Things commonly used for drying a car are cotton towels, the Absorber, large micro-fiber towels, a California Water Blade, an electric leaf blower or a leather chamois—all of these methods work just fine in perfect conditions, but some are less forgiving of that random spec of dust. If the car is just wet and there is nothing but water to remove you should have no problem using any of these methods, but always pay close attention to what's going on. It only takes one spec of dust to ruin your day.

For washing the car we recommend only 100% cotton wash mitts or towels. We do not recommend using sponges, lamb's wool or synthetic materials, as they are more likely to scratch the paint or hold onto dirt that will scratch the paint. Use the same caution as for drying. Lots of things work just fine if everything is going well, if not, some are less forgiving than others.

If you're using anything that has attached labels we recommend you remove the labels before using them on your car. Even the softest towels have labels that will leave bad swirls if you accidentally wipe the car with the label. Always remove the labels from towels by cutting the stitching that attaches them. Even better, also remove all of the selvages, decoration and edging from the towels. This will cause the edges of the towels to fray but it seems to slow soon enough and not be a big problem.

The same worries pertain to the stitching on anything used on the paint. You can buy the finest cotton or micro fiber towels that are as soft as anything, but there is a possibility that the thread used to bind the towels is nylon or polyester.

I don't want to scare you, but I want you to be aware of what to pay attention to if you're looking for the finest finish possible.

Buy a big bag of inexpensive "100% cotton" towels at some discount place. Use these for the rims, under the hood, the trunk, inside the doors, under the doorsills and anywhere else you need to dry or wash that you're not so concerned about. This means you'll always have enough cheap towels that you never have to use your good towels for anything dirty.

A California Car Duster or equivalent can help you keep your car perfect more of the time. They are great at getting rid of loose surface dust. They look like a brush with long soft threads. When you use a duster you want to barely touch the end of the threads to the surface of the car. Glide it just close enough to allow the dust to stick to the tips of the threads, making sure you don't put any weight on the car or the dust you're removing may scratch.