

water base

1. Pros with Auto Painting Careers Know Water-Based Paint Is More Eco-Friendly

Waterborne paints are unique because they use water as the paint delivery agent rather than a solvent. This means that paint pigments attach to particles of water, rather than solvents, that are sprayed into the air and onto a vehicle. Using water to deliver paint to a vehicle's surface is much healthier for the environment.

Traditional solvent-based paints are known to wreak havoc on the environment. In fact, the auto industry is responsible for releasing of 210,000 tons of solvents into the Earth's atmosphere each year. Furthermore, solvent-based paints can put painters at risk for health issues like kidney damage, throat irritation, and more if they don't wear proper safety equipment. Waterborne paints help combat these issues and are much better for the environment, as well as the health of professionals with auto painting careers ➞.

2. Grads of Car Painting Courses Know Water-Based Paint Looks Great

Opting for a waterborne paint doesn't mean you have to sacrifice the quality of your paint job. In fact, waterborne paints produce fantastic results. Because they are water-based, waterborne paints go on in much thinner layers than traditional solvent-based paint, leaving a smooth, bright, and even finish.

Sometimes solvent-based paints will develop bubbles as the gases in the paint are released well after the paint job. This isn't an issue with waterborne paints because there are no gasses contained within the paint. As long as waterborne paints have ample time to dry in a climate with relatively low humidity, the paint will look great for months after you've completed the job.



Waterborne paints create a beautiful, bright finish

3. Pros with Auto Painting Careers Know Water-Based Paint May Require Extra Preparation

Although the fact that waterborne paints go on thinly is a good thing, using them can require a little extra preparation in order to ensure a perfect paint job. Because the paint is so thin, it's much more likely to reveal imperfections in the preparation work.

When painting with waterborne paints, it's essential that the prep work is perfect. This means that every auto refinishing prep technician ➡ who uses waterborne paint must thoroughly sand and clean the surface of the vehicle being painted in order to ensure there are no uneven spots or dust left behind.



Waterborne paints may require extra preparation to ensure a smooth finish

4. Grads of Car Painting Courses Know There are Plenty of Water-Based Paint Options

Up until recently, there weren't that many waterborne paint options on the market. Many professional painters would avoid using waterborne paints because there were such limited colours available. However, that's all changed since several states in the USA started banning solvent-based paints in an effort to protect the Earth's atmosphere. As a result, there are now plenty of different waterborne paint options to choose from. Auto painting professionals no longer have to compromise between choosing the perfect paint colour and using water-based paint!

Are you interested in enrolling in car painting courses ➞?

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Waterborne Car Paint

Water-based paint is the most widely used type of automotive paint today. Its acrylic polyurethane enamel base is considered environmentally friendly, and it currently makes up the colorcoats and clearcoats on most vehicles. Waterborne paint has considerably fewer odors but still produces bright, clean colors. You also need less clearcoat with water-based paint. It even requires less clearcoat to even out the car's surface over multiple layers.

Solvent-Based Car Paint

Solvent-based paint remains another option for your vehicle. Unlike waterborne paint, solvent is more durable and less sensitive to the base underneath. Also, it spreads out thicker, which makes it easier to hide the imperfections below. Solvent-based paint holds up better against humidity too. Humidity makes waterborne paint dry faster, which affects the overall result.

Which Is Right for You?

Still, with the pros and cons of each, you're probably wondering which is better for you: waterborne or solvent car paint? The answer depends on your personal preferences, but waterborne stands out as the top contender. Waterborne paints contain less volatile organic compounds than solvents, which is safer in terms of air quality. When solvent paints dry, their VOCs release and contribute to climate warming. Waterborne paints also offer better color quality. Shades come out brighter and richer, and there are more color options available. You also don't need to spend as much time mixing primers, paints, and clearcoats to reach the desired result with waterborne paints as you do with solvent-based ones.

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