



Recommendations for Blending Clearcoat

Applying clearcoat to the entire panel is the traditional industry practice to restore a late model vehicle to its pre-accident condition and it is a requirement for warranted systems supplied by Axalta Coating Systems.

Collision repair centers receive requests to blend clearcoat within a panel versus applying the clearcoat to the entire panel. The blend approach can produce a finish that appears acceptable to the customer at the time of delivery though the repair industry is aware the blend edge can become apparent within the remaining service life of the vehicle. One reason for increased visibility of the blend edge is the potential for weaker adhesion of the clearcoat in the blend area and another reason is the potential for poor weathering characteristics of the thin clearcoat edge in the blend area. The result is the blend edge will look cloudy or dull with continued exposure to the sun and the elements. The practice of applying clearcoat to a back taped or a back masked body line can generate similar failures as blending the clearcoat within the panel.

It is also important to note that most vehicle manufacturers do not recognize clearcoat blending or back taping / back masking on body lines as an accepted method for the execution of OEM warranty repairs.

Axalta Coating Systems offers products with approved and specified repair processes that are together designed specifically for automotive refinishing. It is critical to the quality of the repair to use the recommended products following the approved processes outlined in Axalta's Technical Data Sheets. Please visit the Axalta Coating Systems website for full details regarding warranted systems and their related procedures. In the event there are additional questions or additional information needs, please do not hesitate to contact your local Axalta Coatings Systems representative or call us at +1-855-6-AXALTA (1-855-629-2582).

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