

# WASH AND GO

George Hinton tries out a selection of products designed to bring a sparkling finish to your alloys

## 1. Comma Advanced Alloy Wheel Cleaner

This premium product is ideal if you don't have any special soft brushes for your wheel cleaning, as you get one in the pack. A 60-second soak is advised before brushing/agitating the dirt loose and it does exactly what is claimed, removing all traces of brake dust to leave an as-new finish. The AA-branded alloy wheel cleaner is also made by Comma, comes without the extras, but in a larger 1-litre bottle, and there's no detectable difference in performance. Components include NTA (nitrilotriacetic acid).

GIVES AS-NEW FINISH

### AT A GLANCE

RRP: £6.99  
Pack: 750ml spray, brush and gloves  
Contact: 01474 564311; commaoil.com

## 2. Halfords Advanced Kit

This non-spray product comes in a bottle with a plastic dispensing cup, a soft application brush and protective latex gloves. The packaging warns not to use it on bare metal or wheels with damaged/lifting paint or lacquer. It is a thick liquid rather than a gel, but super-effective, apart from needing a bit of help to flush the dirt off with a soft brush when rinsing. It was so good, we used it to finish off where another product (not reviewed) left some grime in the corners.

VERY EFFECTIVE

### AT A GLANCE

RRP: £11.99  
Pack: 1-litre bottle, brush, cup, gloves  
Contact: 08450 579000; halfords.com

## 3. Armor All Wheel Cleaner

This forms a thick white foam as it is sprayed, which helps it cling to the wheel and soak in for the recommended minute before you agitate it with a cloth or soft brush and rinse off. Cold water alone doesn't flush the grime away unless using a hose jet, but a light wipe with a sponge does the job. You are advised to leather the wheel dry 'to avoid water spotting', though we didn't find that a problem. It lifted off some impossible-looking caked brake dust. Impressive performer.

POWERFUL FOAM

### AT A GLANCE

RRP: £4.49  
Pack: 710ml spray  
Contact: 0845 602 1995; armorall.eu/uk

## 4. Lucas Metal Polish

This US-manufactured product is designed for unlacquered aluminium alloy and also works well on stainless steel, chrome and other alloys. It is a white liquid, rather like a fluid version of a well-known German cleaner/polisher/protector. Fast-acting, it contains no acid or ammonia. Its claim of "maximum lustre with minimum effort" was borne out in practice, but its shine lasts longer if you follow-up with a coat of wax. The fluid is easy to buy online.

FAST-ACTING

### AT A GLANCE

RRP: £12.34  
Pack: 480ml/16fl oz (US) bottle  
Contact: 01248 723666; lucasoil.co.uk

## OTHER SUITABLE PRODUCTS...

## 5. Fenwick's FS-10 Bike Cleaner

Why a bike cleaner? Because Fenwick's claims its cleaners will clean anything. It didn't work quite as well as the Armor All – it doesn't foam up and cling so well for one thing and left some really ancient, caked brake dirt behind – but if you don't neglect your wheels as badly as our test subjects, it will probably do you fine. The big bonus is that it won't harm anything and comes in a really good re-usable spray bottle.

VERSATILE AND SAFE

### AT A GLANCE

RRP: £6.99  
Pack: 1-litre spray  
Contact: 01270 524111; fenwicks.info



## 6. S Doc 100 Motorcycle Total Cleaner Power Gel

This is a motorbike cleaner from Germany's bizarrely named Dr O K Wack Chemie, which we were recommended to try on wheels. The instructions say you should leave to soak for between five to 30 minutes, but we began brushing after a minute, as it was beginning to dry, and the results were quite amazing – every trace of tar and dust disappeared and the wheels came up like new. It also contains anti-corrosion agents plus UV inhibitors and claims to build protection with use.

CLEANS AND PROTECTS

### AT A GLANCE

RRP: £16.20 (refills £13.45)  
Pack: 1-litre spray plus sponge  
Contact: 01256 704909; motohaus.com



Alloys supplied by Kia Motors

**NEXT MONTH**  
We test caravan upholstery cleaners