



AUCKLAND AUTO DETAILING

ACADEMY / TRAIN WITH PURPOSE

PROFESSIONAL DETAILER STARTER GUIDE

A practical introduction to safer work, better wash technique and the professional detailing workflow.

INSIDE THIS FREE GUIDE

- The professional detailing workflow
- Workspace and PPE essentials
- A safer wash sequence
- Starter equipment checklist

Professional work follows a sequence.

Every advanced result depends on the quality of the preparation before it. Do not rush ahead to polishing or protection.

01

Inspect & record

Photograph condition, identify risk and agree on a realistic outcome.

02

Wheels & pre-wash

Remove the dirtiest contamination before touching the bodywork.

03

Contact wash

Use clean, lubricated media and control grit throughout the wash.

04

Decontaminate

Remove iron, tar and bonded contamination before correction.

05

Assess paint

Use lighting, paint readings and a test spot to choose the process.

06

Correct & refine

Remove defects safely, then finish to a clear, hologram-free result.

07

Protect

Apply the selected wax, sealant, coating, tint or film correctly.

08

Inspect & hand over

Check the result, document the job and explain aftercare.

THE PROFESSIONAL HABIT

If the condition, risk or expected result is not written down, it is easy for the customer and detailer to remember the job differently.

Set up safely before the vehicle arrives.

Professional detailing combines chemicals, electricity, rotating tools, heat and slippery surfaces. PPE must match the task.

Workspace essentials

- Shade or an enclosed bay, protected from wind and airborne dust
- Strong overhead lighting plus handheld inspection lights
- Safe power distribution, protected leads and dry connections
- Clean water, drainage and a plan for compliant wastewater handling
- Ventilation for coatings, solvents and aerosols
- A clean zone for towels, pads, coatings and customer belongings

Task-based PPE

Washing / decon

Gloves, eye protection, non-slip footwear and apron

Machine polishing

Eye protection, hearing protection and suitable dust control

Coatings / solvents

Chemical-resistant gloves, eye protection and ventilation

Tint / PPF cutting

Cut-resistant practice, controlled blades and a clear bench

STOP AND CHECK

Read the Safety Data Sheet and product instructions before use. Do not assume products with similar names have the same dilution, hazards or cure requirements.

A safer wash removes dirt before contact.

Most wash marring happens when grit is dragged across paint. The goal is to remove and suspend contamination before a mitt touches the vehicle.

1

Wheels first

Use dedicated buckets, brushes and chemicals so brake dust never contaminates bodywork tools.

2

Initial rinse

Flush loose grit from panel gaps and the surface, working methodically.

3

Pre-wash

Apply a suitable snow foam or pre-cleaner. Allow the labelled dwell time; never let it dry.

4

Rinse again

Remove the loosened contamination before beginning the contact wash.

5

Contact wash

Use clean, lubricated wash media. Work from cleaner upper panels to dirtier lower areas.

6

Final rinse

Check badges, handles, mirrors and panel gaps for remaining foam or dirt.

7

Dry safely

Use filtered air where practical and a clean, plush drying towel with minimal pressure.

Buy for the process, not the shelf.

A smaller set of reliable tools is better than a workshop full of products you do not understand. Keep wash, wheel and interior tools separated.

Wash & decontamination

- Pressure washer or free-flowing hose
- Foam cannon and suitable pre-wash
- Wash, rinse and wheel buckets with grit guards
- Plush wash mitts and dedicated wheel brushes
- Iron remover, tar remover, clay and clay lubricant
- Plush drying towels and filtered air blower

Inspection & correction

- Paint thickness gauge
- Focused and broad inspection lighting
- Dual-action polisher for learning
- Cutting, polishing and finishing pads
- Compound, finishing polish and panel wipe
- Paint-safe masking tape and clean microfibres

Safety & records

- Task-appropriate PPE
- Current Safety Data Sheets
- Extension lead and electrical protection
- First-aid and spill-response supplies
- Vehicle condition and customer approval form
- Before, during and after photographs

Tip: practise with your own equipment between training sessions so correct technique becomes repeatable.

Turn knowledge into supervised practice.

This starter guide is an introduction. Professional competence comes from practising on real panels and vehicles while an experienced trainer observes, corrects and signs off your work.

01 Foundation

3 practical days

NZ\$2,295 incl. GST

02 Paint Correction

4 practical days

NZ\$2,895 incl. GST

03 Ceramic Coating

3 practical days

NZ\$2,295 incl. GST

COMPLETE PROFESSIONAL DETAILER PATHWAY

10 practical days / Complete 42-page student manual / Ongoing skills support

NZ\$6,899 including GST

AAD Academy / Auckland Auto Detailing

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Safety note: Always follow the current Safety Data Sheet, manufacturer instructions and applicable New Zealand requirements. This guide does not replace supervised training or professional judgement.