

Rain, Rain, Go Away

By Rick Morris (Mr. Detail)

One of the best things you can do to enhance your rain driving experience is to have a good coat of Rain-X on your windshield, headlights and side windows. I've had people say that they have tried Rain-X, but have ended up with streaks, spots or it just doesn't work as well as they had hoped. It's one of those things that just takes a little practice. Once you get the hang of it, it's easy to do and makes keeping your windows clean a whole lot easier.

You will need a bottle of the liquid Rain-X (I haven't tried the wipes), some conventional window cleaner, a few hand towels, a piece of an old T-shirt and either a diaper or another T-shirt for the final buffing.

The first step is to get your windows and headlights as clean as you can. If you've never thoroughly cleaned your windows, you might want to use either rubbing alcohol or one of the heavy-duty window cleaners to get all of the accumulated crud off your windows and headlights. You will be amazed at how much stuff has accumulated.

After the windows are clean and dry, take the small piece of T-shirt and dampen it with the Rain-X, being careful to not get the Rain-X on your paint. Apply Rain-X to the entire windshield using a very small, about 3 inches in diameter, circular pattern. Keep putting enough Rain-X on the cloth to keep the cloth damp, but not wet. Be sure to press down firmly, as this step does some cleaning as well as applying the first coat.

Let the Rain-X dry until you can see a haze, but make sure to let it dry for at least fifteen or twenty minutes. After the first coat has dried, apply another coat of Rain-X over the first coat. Don't take off the first coat. This coat goes on top of the first coat. Let the second coat dry for fifteen or twenty minutes.

After the second coat has dried, get a hand towel and dampen it with warm

water. Use this towel to remove the Rain-X. You will need to turn the towel frequently. Rub firmly during this step to make sure you remove all the excess Rain-X. After you are done with this step. Your windshield should look clean and be streak-free.

The final step is to buff the windshield using the T-shirt or diaper. You will notice that the windshield feels very slick, just like your car does after it's just been waxed. Make sure to buff it thoroughly.

That's all there is to it. The first thing you will notice is that looking through your windshield is a lot like having a new windshield, as it's probably never been this clean before. The real treat comes when you get caught in the rain. If you are driving over 35- 40mph, you won't need your windshield wipers, as all they will do is get in the way of the Rain-X. Honest.

You should reapply Rain-X on a regular basis, at least once a month. If your car is a daily driver and you have to scrape the windshield during the winter, Rain-X makes that job a lot easier, too.

Questions? Ask Mr. Detail! E-mail him at rick@dustbunny.com.

Can't See the Forest For the Trees Rally

Join us on August 18th exploring the roads of Morgan and Monroe counties ending with a fine dining experience at the world famous Gray Brothers' in Mooresville. You'll wander through state forests while searching the scenery for the answers to the easy questions your Rally Master and his cohorts will provide.

We'll meet at the Burger King in Martinsville (SR37 and Ohio St.) at 9:00AM. The entry fee is \$7.00 for those that prepay, \$10.00 day of event.

Questions? Call Chuck at 317-291-5563. Mail your entry form and check (made out to Indy Miata Club) to: Chuck Wills, 8609 Woodbluff Ct., Indianapolis, IN 46234.

Please print!

Driver: _____ Date _____

I understand that this not a speed contest and agree to participate at my own risk. I agree to hold the Indy Miata Club, their officers, and event organizers harmless from any claim arising from my participation in this event. All entries must be signed and dated. Thank you.

Driver's Signature _____ Date _____

CSTFFTR 8/01