

Jeffrey Alman's Tried and True Approach to Cleaning an Engine Bay*

Step One: Start the cold car and let it idle for 2-3 minutes. The idea is to warm it, NOT TO HEAT IT UP COMPLETELY.

Step Two: Cover the distributor and coil with a plastic bag.

Step Three: Mist the motor and tops of fenders with water. Use just enough to dampen, not soak, the engine and engine compartment. Spray liberally with orange or citrus cleaner. Jeff used to get his at Advance but they stopped carrying it. Any orange or citrus-based cleaner will work.



Step Four: Let everything sit for five minutes. Loosen any areas of heavy grime with a brush or scrubbing pad. But, the cleaner does a great job and it's much easier to let the products do the work.

Step Five: Rinse thoroughly with a hose, being careful not to direct hard spray against electric connections. After, remove the plastic bags.



Step Six: DRIVE! Blow it dry by driving a mile or two. Park and wipe leftover water drops with Pledge wipes. These wipes work great on damp surfaces, and they dry without leaving spots.

Step Seven: For hard to reach places, squirt a little WD-40 to eliminate water. This can is nice because it lets you use either a spray or a stream.



Step Eight: Amaze your friends by opening the hood at your next cruise-in!



* This assumes you start with a relatively clean engine. Heavy gunk and grease will require some work with degreasers and a scraper before this procedure!