

# PHILLIPS

## Qwik Tech Tips

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### FEATURED PRODUCT

#### STA-DRY® Heat Shrink Connector Shake Jar Display

- Contains 9 of our most popular STA-DRY® heat shrink connectors in easy to sell shake jars
- Increase profits through impulse sales
- Comes pre-assembled
- Available with or without replacement jars
- Also available in Spanish and French



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FOR ALL  
PAST ISSUES

### Can Washing Your Truck Cause Damage?

Washing your truck is a good thing, but when done improperly it could actually cause damage to your vehicle.

There are many benefits to keeping your truck clean in addition to just looking good. From preventing corrosion to avoiding CSA violations, keeping your truck washed and clean can be more beneficial than you realize.

#### Effects of Dirt

Washing your vehicle regularly reduces buildup of road grime, mud, grease and de-icing chemicals, which when left on a vehicle can cause the onset of corrosion over time. Not only does washing your truck regularly help prevent corrosion, but it also may help you avoid CSA violations. In the case of reflective lenses, heavy buildup will impede their ability to reflect light properly, running the risk of a CSA violation.

Simply washing your truck regularly can help you avoid trouble down the road, but there's a catch 22. Cleaning your truck could end up causing damage as well. How could this happen? Well, washing your truck the wrong way and with the wrong type of cleaning agents can also cause damage and corrosion.

#### How to Prevent Damage

To prevent damage and corrosion from occurring you need to first make sure that your electrical system and components are protected, especially when using a power washer. Before washing, disconnect electrical cables and cover exposed sensitive electrical connections with plastic and tape down securely, making sure nothing is exposed. You might be thinking moisture from the

road sprays your electrical connections all the time. Road spray can't be compared with the force of a power washer. Power washers can operate at 1500 to 4000+ PSI (pounds per square inch). That is enough force to take the paint off of a vehicle or the skin off of your hand if it is used incorrectly. This can force water deep into the crevices of your vehicle and your electrical system, causing corrosion and possibly a short. Using an air compressor to dry the vehicle also presents the same problem, so don't use near electrical connections.

Avoid washing vehicles with harsh detergents, chemical degreasers and products that contain acids of any kind. This can cause cable jackets and air hoses to dry out and crack and plastic lenses to cloud which obscures light going through the lens, all of which pose a CSA violation risk. Washing with harsh chemicals can also cause etching in windows and fade paint, so choose mild products to avoid damage.

#### Cleaning the 7-Way Connection

When cleaning the components of a 7-way connection use a good quality plug and socket brush with water only (NO SOAP). After cleaning, apply lithium dielectric grease to plug and socket pins to fill voids and prevent moisture collection that can cause corrosion. Always make sure plugs and sockets are completely dry before applying dielectric grease to avoid trapping any residual moisture.

Try these tips to help prevent damage from occurring the next time you decide to wash your vehicle. Getting the grime off your vehicle the right way can make the difference between a clean ride and a corroded one.



- Prevent moisture intrusion by disconnecting electrical cables and securely covering sensitive electrical connections with plastic before washing.
- Clean plugs and sockets with a plug and socket brush and water only (NO SOAP).
- Avoid washing with harsh detergents, chemical degreasers and products that contain acids of any kind.

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