



Car Care Articles

Vehicle Myth #2: Paint chips and nicks don't affect my warranty

To keep your new vehicle paint and corrosion warranty valid, have dents, scratches and collision damaged panels inspected and repaired. When the exterior finish is "broken" through damage to the body panel, the integrity of the bond between the metal and its protective "skin" is compromised. This can easily lead to moisture "creeping" under the paint and primer surface, causing rust to start to form. Left to the elements over time, the rust will spread. New cars have a minimum five-year rust perforation warranty. Unprotected panels that cause rust will not be covered by the manufacturers' warranty.



The rust caused by nicks and chips can also impact lease returns. You must minimize the damage by chips and nicks to maintain your lease agreement.

Most chip and nick repairs cost less money than most people imagine. Cover paint chips as quickly as possible. For a quick fix until you can get some touch-up supplies, dab a little clear nail polish on the scratch.

Touch-up paint can be found for virtually every vehicle ever built, including antiques. Use the paint code number shown on the identification plate which is likely located on the door jamb, in the glove box, under the hood or in the trunk next to the spare. The owner's manual will tell you where to find it.