

How to Eliminate the Most Common Mistake When Sanding Body Filler After Collision Repair

Sanding body filler is a critical step in the collision repair process, and it's essential to do it correctly to achieve a smooth, professional-looking finish. However, there is one common mistake that many technicians make when sanding body filler, which can lead to costly rework or even complete failure of the repair.

The Mistake: Sanding Too Soon

The most common mistake when sanding body filler is sanding too soon. Body filler needs time to cure before it can be sanded. If you sand too soon, the filler will be soft and gummy, and it will be difficult to achieve a smooth finish. In addition, sanding too soon can damage the filler and create divots or gouges that will need to be repaired.



Body Filler: How To Eliminate The Most Common Mistake When Sanding Body Filler (Collision Blast Basic Auto Body and Paint Training Book 4) by Donnie Smith

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 6148 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Print length : 79 pages



The Solution: Allow Adequate Curing Time

The key to avoiding this mistake is to allow the body filler to cure completely before sanding. The curing time will vary depending on the type of filler you are using. Check the manufacturer's specifications for the recommended curing time.

Once the filler has cured, you can begin sanding. Start with a coarse-grit sandpaper, such as 80-grit, and gradually work your way up to a finer grit, such as 220-grit or 320-grit. Be sure to sand in long, even strokes, and avoid applying too much pressure.

Additional Tips for Sanding Body Filler

In addition to allowing adequate curing time, there are a few other things you can do to ensure a successful sanding job:

- **Use a sanding block.** A sanding block will help you to achieve a more even finish and prevent the formation of divots or gouges.
- **Keep your sandpaper clean.** As you sand, the sandpaper will become clogged with dust and debris. This can make it less effective and can lead to scratches in the finish. Be sure to clean your sandpaper regularly with a tack cloth or compressed air.
- **Avoid sanding too aggressively.** Sanding too aggressively can damage the filler and create divots or gouges. Be sure to apply only light to moderate pressure when sanding.

- **Check your progress regularly.** As you sand, be sure to check your progress regularly. This will help you to avoid sanding too much or too little in any one area.

Sanding body filler is a critical step in the collision repair process, and it's essential to do it correctly to achieve a smooth, professional-looking finish. By following the tips in this article, you can avoid the most common mistake when sanding body filler and ensure a successful repair.



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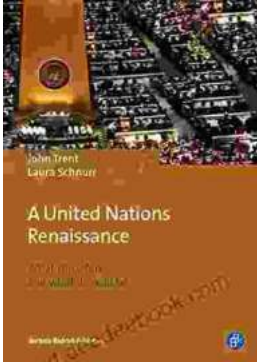
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