

Maximize your shop's refinish hours from the start.



Spending the **time upfront** can help **save time in the end.**

Let's talk about scratches.

Sanding imperfections that could lead to visible repairs. No, thank you.



Deep inline scratches while sanding filler.

Blocking with a coarse grade abrasive can leave deep scratches on a surface that resemble semi-straight lines put in from each pass. Identifying these scratches on a panel can not only help visually show us what the scratch profile looks like, but it can also tell us that we still have some work to do.



An inconsistent scratch profile during blend panel prep.

While it may be difficult to see these inconsistent scratches with the naked eye, following sanding best practices and using the correct tools can help bring these issues to light before it's too late. Any visible bumps or shiny edges left, will need to be removed for an even, flat finish.



Unwanted pigtails during surface prep.

Pigtails are fortunately fairly easy to identify. Unwanted swirl-like marks or scratches that resemble "pigtails" may appear on surfaces and should prompt technicians to course correct before spraying.

Take the time to prevent rework and defects caused by these imperfections that may appear during the sanding process or after the repair is complete. When every minute matters, getting the job done right the first time is key.

Spoiler alert: There are no shortcuts in refinishing.



How these imperfections are **caused:**



How these imperfections can be **avoided:**

Smooth surfaces, sharper results.

Quality paint jobs start with quality body and prep work.

Every sand scratch matters.

The gritty details behind better paint jobs.



80 and 180 grit scratches should be non-existent.

At the start of the sanding process, the use of coarse grade abrasives are required (typically 80 grade, working upwards through the grades) to sand down and feather out filler and glaze. As a result, deep inline scratches are left on the panel.



Apply guide coat before each sanding step or grit change to easily identify and remove scratches along the way



IMPERFECTION INSPECTION POINT:

Before applying primer, some tech sheets require prepping with no coarser than 320, sometimes even 400. You should not move onto the primer step without removing these coarse grade scratches.



Adapting your process for today's ultrafine metallics.

Basecoat metallics are finer than they've ever been, requiring a finer and very consistent scratch profile. Technicians today are having to sand finer than they ever have before. Too deep of a scratch, improper removal of paint build up, or even inadequate removal of dust on the panel could all impact the quality of the job.



Strive for a uniform, flat finish with even scratches



Hand sand with a flexible abrasive and apply light pressure around curves, body lines, and arches



Double check paint company recommendations for exact abrasive grade before DA sanding (typically 800-1000 or finer)



The risks of "covering up" vs. avoiding all together.

Pigtails may start to appear on a surface during the sanding process as result of a variety of factors. Sandpaper loading, incorrect grit selection, and inconsistent sanding techniques (uneven pressure or sanding pattern) are some of the main reasons why imperfections may result.



Do not use abrasive past the life of the disc, avoid loading or clogging



Dust extraction solutions can help remove dust and contaminants that contribute to loading



Use the correct grit sequence before transitioning to finer grades too quickly

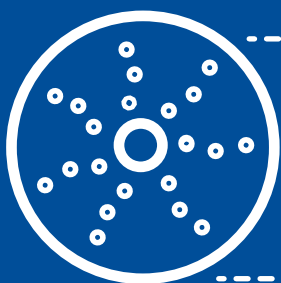
Failure to address or avoid these types of sand scratches, could lead to possible rework or a complete repaint of the panel.

Why you should care about the abrasives you use.

Sometimes, it isn't as simple as "scratchy-side down." Whether it's the process or the tools you use, there's more to consider than you may think.

Smooth your way to success by choosing the right abrasive for the job.

Consider whether your abrasive offers:



Speed to get the job done faster

A consistent cut for the even scratch profile needed for blend prep

Longer life to defer loading

Dust extraction capabilities



Conformability for curves, body lines, and arches

Control over pressure and speed