



Painting Headlamps

The following is the procedure to paint your chrome OEM headlights to achieve a dark 'smoked' effect without purchasing the expensive ones Lexus and Toyota have to offer.

Many of our current cars come with chrome headlights. While some of us may like this look, others may prefer a dark chrome, smoked effect on the headlights. The best way to see the difference is to compare the 2 styles side by side.



The yellow one has the dark chrome while the silver has the OEM chrome look.

First, you will need to remove your front bumper completely.

- Lift your bonnet and look for clips that hold the grill to the bumper. Remove these clips.
- Now remove all the screws that fasten the bumper to the rest of the undercarriage of the car. (To access the ones on the extremities, turn your steering wheel full lock to either side for easier access).
- Unclip the foglights and bumper lights and the bumper should be easily removable.



- Our headlights are only held together by glue. So you need to soften the glue with heat.
- To do this, use the oven. Ensure your oven is large enough to support one headlight. Make sure the sides DO NOT touch any part of the oven!
- Pre-Heat the oven for 15 minutes, set at 200 degrees, then, place the headlights in for 10 minutes - check it all the time.
- The glue should have a gum like consistency. Try as much as you can to loosen the shell off with your hands. When it starts to get hard use a flathead screw driver to carefully pry it off.

Once you have taken the cover off, the housing of the headlights are separate pieces and are easy to take off. Just take it apart carefully.

Also, the housing of the headlights are separate pieces from the reflectors so there are no real problems about over spraying.



Now, to paint the chrome parts there are 2 ways to go about it.

The first one is to paint it with high temperature paint, this will require wetsanding the chrome parts before painting.

The other way is to use several layers of semi transparent black paint and the level of tint may be adjusted to your liking.

1. Using High Temperate Paint

This will consist of wetsanding the chrome areas first. This means as the name suggests, sandpapering the area with fine sandpaper while it is wet. The reason for this is that normal paint will be very hard to paint on chrome due to the finish it has on its surface.

Once done, you may start spraying it black. A few light layers have proven more successful than one heavy layer. Spray and leave for about 20-30 minutes to dry (as paint pack suggests) and repeat 2-3 times. When satisfied with the result you can start putting the headlight housing back together.

2. Using Semi Transparent Black Paint

This method does not require you to wetsand the chrome area but may take several more layers to achieve the smoked effect. With a semi transparent black paint just apply it until the level of darkness is to your preference. When this is done and dry, you can start putting the headlight housing back together

Putting the Headlights Back Together

- First clip the clear lens back on to the housing.
- Place the housing back in the headlight.
- Slide the clear cover back in and line it all up to the headlight.
- Put the headlights back into the oven, using the same temps/times as above.
- Once taken out, use pliers and a bit of force to tighten the cover back together.
- This has been done without using sealer at the end, if you think it is necessary to seal the joints, then any wet-use sealer will be appropriate

Now repeat on the other headlight, the end result should look something like this:



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