What does hygroscopic mean anyway, and why should I care?

I want to share an article that tackles some concerns about airborne contaminates and vehicles. There always seems to be a construction project somewhere. This article talks about a construction project that puts residents of a condominium campus at risk of not only vehicle contamination, but health concerns as well. The author of the article does a great job of explaining the damage this procedure can cause to a vehicles finish.

In the article the author talks about using a sandwich bag to test a vehicle’s finish. I would like to come to you at your convenience so we can do the “bag test” together. We can then evaluate your finish and determine if any action is required to gently remove any surface contaminates before they can etch into your finish.

Because, Every Car Loves To Shine!

Is Your Car's Paint Finish OK?

by Gary Sieger - 28 July 2016

Concrete Restoration Project

Concrete restoration projects are notorious for creating a mess. Sure there is the hammering, chipping, jack-hammering, sawing, sanding, closed parking areas, entry and exit detours, pedestrian re-routing - and then - there is the dust! Most people can live with the inconvenience because the finished result is a better looking and more desirable property.   
But what about the dust? Dust covered garage floors, upper deck parking areas, entrance ways, catwalks - even getting into the lobbies and the apartments. Just an inconvenience, right? Well guess what! It is downright dangerous and damaging stuff.

The Trouble With Concrete

Concrete consists of several ingredients that on their own are very damaging to an automobile paint finish: gravel or crushed stone, cement and sand, and crystalline silica. The concrete restoration process requires the chipping, jack-hammering, sawing and sanding of concrete (building walls, parking deck surfaces) creating cement dust which contains crystalline silica. The dust becomes airborne and settles on the all surfaces especially the paint surface of your automobile. Concrete dust is hygroscopic - Dust gets on the surface, it absorbs the humidity from the air, the reaction takes place and now the dust is embedded in the paint finish. 

Paint Contamination?

Paint contamination consists of any airborne chemical compounds, ferrous (iron containing) particles, crystalline silica etc. either on or embedded in the paint surface. Some contaminants, particularly fresh contaminants, may come off the paint surface with the initial washing. Some other contaminants, however, will actually penetrate and/or bond to the paint and, over time, eat into the clear coat thereby causing pitting, premature clear coat failure, and/or overall accelerated degradation of the paint. 

What Do I Do?

I take my car to the carwash and it looks shiny, how can I tell if my paint finish is contaminated? After washing and drying the car, the absolute simplest way to determine if the paint is contaminated is to perform a “bag test”. Take a sandwich, or Ziploc bag, and place it over your hand. Now rub very lightly across the freshly washed car’s paint surface – if you feel any little snags or bumps then contaminants are bonded to the surface or embedded in the paint. 

How Do I Remove the Contamination?

The most cost effective and safe method is achieved through the use of ‘detailing clay’ through a process known as ‘claying’. Detailing clay is designed to remove above surface bonded contaminants on paint, glass, fiberglass, and metal. Take your car to a professional detailer and request this service. 