



**Did You Know?**

# How to Safely Clean Volcanic Ash from Your Car

Volcanic ash can not only pose potential health risks but also affect motor vehicles, particularly cars. Ash and debris carried by volcanic eruptions can settle on the vehicle's body, windows, undercarriage, and other components.

Volcanic ash contains abrasive particles that can increase the risk of damage to vehicle surfaces. If left unattended for too long, it may lead to corrosion, damage the paintwork, and cause scratches on the vehicle's glass surfaces. Therefore, vehicle owners whose cars have been exposed to volcanic ash should ensure that proper cleaning procedures are followed.

## Recommended Steps for Safely Removing Volcanic Ash from Your Vehicle



- 1 Avoid Wiping Off Volcanic Ash Immediately**  
One of the most common mistakes is wiping ash directly from the vehicle using a cloth or duster. Volcanic ash particles remaining on the surface can rub against the paint and cause scratches to the vehicle's body.
- 2 Do Not Use the Windshield Wipers While the Glass is Dry**  
Lift the windshield wipers before rinsing the vehicle. Never operate the wipers when the windshield is dry or still covered with volcanic ash, as the particles can scratch the glass surface. Clean the wiper blades thoroughly with clean water before using them again.
- 3 Rinse the Vehicle Thoroughly with Running Water**  
The safest first step is to remove the ash by rinsing the vehicle with a continuous flow of water. Start from the roof and work your way downward so that the ash particles can be safely washed away. Ensure that the ash is completely rinsed off rather than simply being wetted.

- 4 Wash the Vehicle Using Car Shampoo**  
After the initial rinse, wash the vehicle using a suitable car shampoo. Rinse thoroughly and dry the surface with a clean, soft microfiber towel.
- 5 Check the Engine Air Filter and Cabin Air Filter**  
Volcanic ash can accumulate in the engine air filter and cabin air filter. Inspect and clean these filters regularly to prevent interference with the vehicle's performance. Replace them if they are excessively dirty or no longer serviceable.
- 6 Special Attention for Electric Vehicles (EVs)**  
For electric vehicles, pay particular attention to cleaning the following areas:
  - Cabin air filter
  - Charging port
  - Externally visible connectors
  - Cooling system
  - Brake system and undercarriage

Avoid opening or attempting to disassemble the high-voltage battery system yourself. If further inspection is required, please use the services of an authorized workshop or service center.
- 7 Use a Vehicle Cover When the Car Is Not in Use**  
When the vehicle is not being used, it is advisable to use a car cover to help protect it from exposure to volcanic ash. However, make sure the vehicle surface is already clean before installing the cover. Never place a cover over a vehicle that is still covered in ash, as friction between the cover and ash particles may scratch the paintwork. Whenever possible, park the vehicle in a garage or a covered structure for additional protection.



#### If Volcanic Ash Has Accumulated Heavily

If a thick layer of volcanic ash covers your vehicle, it is advisable not to drive it until it has been thoroughly cleaned. If necessary, take the vehicle to an authorized service center for a comprehensive inspection.

Hopefully, the above information enriches your knowledge about how to safely clean volcanic ash from your car. For more information about insurance products offered by MSIG Indonesia, please visit the official website at [www.msig.co.id](http://www.msig.co.id) or contact the customer service center at **1500 674 (MSI)** for comprehensive information and interactive assistance.



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