

New paint to say goodbye to car washes

5th May, 2014



The Japanese automobile manufacturer Nissan has unveiled a prototype of a self-cleaning paint that means cars may no longer

need washing. The new nanotechnology paint repels water, oil and other dirt the environment can throw at a car. The paint is called Ultra-Ever Dry and uses a process called nanopatterning. This coats the surface of something with tiny bumps and grooves that stop water and oil from sticking to it. Nissan said the paint has "responded well" to many weather conditions, including frost, rain, sleet and snow. The carmaker added that its engineers will continue testing the paint in the near future to see how close they can get to a product ready for market.

Nissan's website says: "Washing a car can be a chore – and a costly one at that." However, it has no immediate plans to use the new paint as standard on its cars. It may offer it as an option in the future. Company spokeswoman Geraldine Ingham said the new paint is currently only being tested on the company's Note family car. She said: "The Nissan Note has been carefully engineered to take the stress out of customer driving, and Nissan's engineers are constantly thinking of new ways to make families' lives easier." She added: "We are committed to addressing everyday problems our customers face and will always consider testing exciting, cutting-edge technology like this incredible coating application."

Sources: Nissan News / Extreme Tech / Mashable

Writing

Compare and contrast washing a car by hand and using the self-cleaning paint.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

automobile / manufacturer / environment / nanopatterning / weather conditions / chore / immediate plans / standard / carefully engineered / everyday problems

True / False

- The new paint is currently at the prototype stage of development. T / F
- The paint keeps oil and water away from the surface of the car. T / F
- The technology coats the car with a totally smooth layer of paint. T / F
- The paint will be on sale from next month. T / F
- Nissan said washing a car is cheap but boring. T / F
- The new paint will come as standard on all new Nissan cars. T / F
- Nissan wants to make family life easier. T / F
- Nissan said it will always test cutting-edge technologies. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. automobile | a. prepared |
| 2. repels | b. strain |
| 3. coats | c. cuts |
| 4. grooves | d. layers |
| 5. ready | e. choice |
| 6. chore | f. car |
| 7. option | g. devoted |
| 8. stress | h. keeps away |
| 9. committed | i. unbelievable |
| 10. incredible | j. burden |

Discussion – Student A

- What household chores do you like and dislike?
- Should the paint be standard on all cars?
- How much extra would you pay to have this paint on a car?
- How would self-cleaning plates, cups and cutlery help you?
- What stresses are there in driving?
- What everyday problems do car owners face?
- What cutting-edge technology excites you at the moment?
- What questions would you like to ask Nissan?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Nissan has unveiled a | a. families' lives easier |
| 2. tiny bumps | b. sticking to it |
| 3. stop water and oil from | c. they can get |
| 4. responded well to many | d. plans |
| 5. to see how close | e. prototype |
| 6. Washing a car can | f. edge technology |
| 7. it has no immediate | g. and grooves |
| 8. new ways to make | h. everyday problems |
| 9. committed to addressing | i. weather conditions |
| 10. cutting- | j. be a chore |

Discussion – Student B

- What need do you have for paint?
- What do you think of the new self-cleaning paint?
- How could this paint improve your life?
- How bad is this news for car was businesses?
- What do you think of the idea of self-cleaning clothes?
- What do you think of nanotechnology?
- What else could the paint be used for?
- Would this paint make you buy a Nissan?

Spelling

- automobile arnuauftmrec
- a oortytepp of a self-cleaning paint
- The new nanotechnology paint lpsree water
- This coats the fsucaer
- the paint has "dsrpdonee well"
- its enrgsneie will continue testing
- it has no emtadieim plans
- aatsddnr on its cars
- nlcyntaso thinking of new ways
- imtodetmc to addressing everyday problems
- igtcutn-dege technology
- this erbindilce coating application

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. d	4. c	5. a
6. j	7. e	8. b	9. g	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Self-cleaning cars

You think self-cleaning cars would help motorists most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so helpful about their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the least probable of these (and why): self-driving cars, self-fuelling cars or self-repairing cars.

Role B – Self-driving cars

You think self-driving cars would help motorists most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so helpful about their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the least probable of these (and why): self-cleaning cars, self-fuelling cars or self-repairing cars.

Role C – Self-fuelling cars

You think self-fuelling cars would help motorists most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so helpful about their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the least probable of these (and why): self-cleaning cars, self-driving cars or self-repairing cars.

Role D – Self-repairing cars

You think self-repairing cars would help motorists most. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so helpful about their ideas. Also, tell the others which is the least probable of these (and why): self-cleaning cars, self-fuelling cars or self-driving cars.

Speaking: Self-

Rank these with your partner. Put the most desirable things at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| • self-ironing shirts | • self-cleaning cars |
| • self-making coffee | • self-driving cars |
| • self-doing homework | • self-answering e-mails |
| • self-finding keys | • self-making beds |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.