



Choice Collision Center Highlights Paint Refinishing Standards

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Choice Collision Center is highlighting the role of automotive paint refinishing in modern collision repair as vehicle finishes, color formulations, and repair requirements continue to evolve.

The company's Providence location provides paint refinishing as part of applicable collision repairs. The process takes place after necessary body repairs or panel replacement and can include surface preparation, color identification, coating application, curing, and inspection of the completed finish.

Choice Collision Center is drawing attention to refinishing because modern vehicle finishes can involve multiple coating layers and increasingly varied color effects. Depending on the vehicle, a finish may incorporate primers, basecoat, clearcoat, metallic or pearl effects, or multi-stage color systems.

These differences mean the refinishing approach must be determined according to the vehicle, damaged area, existing finish, and coating system involved.

"Paint refinishing involves more than applying color to a repaired panel," said a representative of Choice Collision Center. "Technicians have to consider the existing finish, the repaired surface, the materials being applied, and the technical information associated with those materials."

Color identification is one of the key steps in the process.

A vehicle's paint code provides a starting point for identifying its original color, but additional evaluation may be necessary before refinishing begins. Existing finish condition, previous repairs, production color variants, and characteristics of metallic or pearl finishes can influence color selection.

Published refinishing guidance supports this approach. PPG Refinish's PD-0631: Identify Color Formula procedure directs technicians to identify the OEM color code, determine whether the repair or blend area was previously refinished, review available color variants, and verify a blendable color match. The procedure also calls for preparing a spray-out card when additional verification is necessary.

Choice Collision Center uses computerized color-matching resources during applicable refinishing work to assist with color identification and verification. The exact procedures used depend on the individual vehicle and repair.

Surface preparation is another important part of refinishing.

Automotive coating manufacturers provide technical documentation for the products used in their refinishing systems. These instructions can establish requirements for surface preparation, product mixing, application, flash times, and curing.

Technicians use the technical information applicable to the coating materials involved rather than applying one universal refinishing process to every repair.

This is particularly important when collision damage or repair work has disturbed the vehicle's existing coating system. Primers, basecoats, clearcoats, and other refinishing materials perform different functions and have product-specific application requirements.

Refinishing may also involve blending into an adjacent panel. This procedure can be used in appropriate situations to create a transition between a newly refinished area and the existing vehicle finish.

Blending is not required for every repair. Its use depends on factors such as the color, location of the repair, surrounding finish, and refinishing system.

The application environment also forms part of the refinishing process. Paint booths provide controlled airflow and filtration for coating application. Specific application and curing conditions are determined by the refinishing products, equipment, and associated technical instructions.

After the applicable coatings have been applied and cured, Choice Collision Center evaluates the refinished area before the vehicle proceeds through the remaining stages of repair. Depending on the work performed, the evaluation may include color appearance, gloss, surface condition, and consistency with surrounding finishes.

Paint refinishing also fits into a larger repair sequence.

Damaged panels must first be evaluated and repaired or replaced as necessary. Surfaces can then be prepared for refinishing before applicable components are reassembled and the vehicle moves through final repair procedures.

Keeping these operations coordinated allows refinishing requirements to be considered as part of the repair rather than as a separate cosmetic step performed at the end.

For vehicle owners, the process helps explain why two vehicles with apparently similar exterior damage may require different refinishing procedures. Differences in paint systems, panel materials, previous repairs, color variants, and the location of the damage can influence the work involved.

Choice Collision Center is highlighting these considerations to provide customers with additional information about the refinishing stage of collision repair and the procedures that can be involved in restoring damaged exterior finishes.

Additional information about automotive paint refinishing is available through Choice Collision Center. Company updates are also available through Choice Collision Center on Facebook.

About Choice Collision Center

Choice Collision Center operates collision repair facilities in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, including its Providence location. The company provides collision repair, auto body repair, paint refinishing, dent and scratch repair, aluminum and steel repair, vehicle scanning and calibration, glass replacement, wheel alignment, and related vehicle restoration services.

More information about the Providence facility is available at:
<https://choicecollisioncenters.com/locations/providence-ri/>

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Choice Collision Center

Choice Collision Centers provides trusted auto body repair in Providence, RI. Tesla-certified repairs, OEM procedures, ADAS calibration, and I-CAR Gold Class technicians ensure safe, factory-correct results with clear communication and insurance support.

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