# Best Practices – Denib, Sand and Polish

Repairing and refinishing modern automotive vehicles are intended to replicate both the appearance and performance standards established by the original equipment manufacturer (OEM). AkzoNobel provides approved products and processes that, when properly implemented, help achieve this goal.

OEM finishing operations occur in highly controlled environments with engineering controls that surpass those found in collision repair facilities. Despite meticulous cleaning and preparation, dust, dirt, and other particulates cannot be entirely eliminated. As a result, additional work by the repairer may be required to meet OEM finish quality standards.

The following information provides general guidance on the steps and considerations for removing dust inclusions from the clearcoat.

## Safety Considerations

- Use suitable personal protection.
- When exposed to paint or solvents, AkzoNobel recommends the use of a fresh air supply respirator.

## Surface Cleaning

- Before beginning any particulate removal, clean the affected area with approved AkzoNobel surface cleaners. Refer to *TSB AN23.01 Surface Cleaning* Recommendations *and Best Practices* for detailed surface cleaning guidance.

## General Procedure

- There are many manufacturers of quality products and equipment designed for sanding, compounding, and polishing automotive finishes. The points below are standard general steps implemented when removing clearcoat defects. Always refer to the specific instructions provided by the manufacturer of the sanding and polishing system you have chosen.

    - Starting with a clean surface, use the sanding grit recommended by your preferred polishing system and carefully sand nibs and ensure they are fully removed.
    - Refine these sanding scratches with successively finer grits according to the system recommendations.
    - Compound and polish the entire sanded area according to the system recommendations.

## Other Points to Consider

- Ensure the clearcoat is fully cured before proceeding with any sanding, compounding, or polishing operation.
- Clean the area and inspect carefully between each sanding and compounding or polishing stage to confirm the sanding scratches are properly refined before proceeding to the next step.
- The number of inclusions and their relative locations may require additional sanding, compounding, and polishing in the areas adjacent to the defect(s) to facilitate matching the OEM clearcoat texture.
- Although nib sanding dirt/dust in clearcoat should not significantly affect film thickness, if heavy sanding and compounding is performed, ensure the film build meets the TDS specifications for the clearcoat being used.