



PHOTOS: AHBAAR MILKY

5 easy ways to clean and maintain your CAR INTERIOR

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Whether you commute daily or go on trips on the weekend using your car, having a clean interior is an essential thing to look forward to, which is not only better for your car, but also beneficial to yourself. Besides, the interior is the place where you spend time driving your car. This week, here are five ways that you can maintain your interior and keep it clean.



DECLUTTER

As easy as it seems, removing unwanted things from your car renders your space clean and safe. Start by removing things from the floor and then look inside the glove box, mid compartment and other sleeves and pockets in general. Check for larger things like empty water bottles, juice boxes, old rags, shopping bags, toys and any other sort of assessment that might come in the way while you might be driving.

VACUUM

This is an important step to keep your car free from unwanted dust and grime. Start by taking out the floor mats and vacuum the floor. Make sure to vacuum under the

seats to ensure no dust or grime remains on the car floor. Shake the floor mats as much as possible to remove dust and grime and afterwards, vacuum the floor mats. Do not forget to vacuum the front seats, back seats and possibly the trunk as well in the process.

CLEANING SMALLER THINGS

Most times ignored, detailing smaller places like your centre console buttons, knobs and AC vents give your interior a better ambience. Start cleaning by using rubbing alcohol and an old toothbrush, scrub around your knobs and buttons, the sides of your AC vents, the steering wheel buttons all the other interacting means around the dash.

DASHBOARD AND WINDSCREEN

Cleaning the dashboard is quite easy. Take a microfiber cloth and some alcohol or dash cleaner and spray it on the cloth. Avoid spraying on the dashboard directly as that might leave dirt spot marks. To have a streak-free windscreen, it is very important to clean the glass from inside the car. Start by spraying some glass cleaner on a microfiber towel and just as before, not directly on the windshield. If you cannot reach the tighter spots on the windscreen, use the backhand method (face yourself towards the seat and wipe using the back of your hand.) to ensure more grip and control while cleaning.

SEATS

If your car has fabric seats, start by spraying some fabric cleaner on the seats and wipe with a microfiber towel. Fabric cleaner not only will clean the seats but, it will make sure that they smell good too. For leather seats, the usage of a good leather conditioner is essential to prevent unwanted wrinkles and cracks on the seats. Apply by taking a gunk of conditioner on a microfiber towel, wipe it around evenly and let it cure for a couple of minutes.

BONUS TIP

If your car smells damp after driving it in rain, the easiest way to fix that is to take the floor mats out and clean it with hot water and soap. Let it dry completely before getting the mats inside. If the smell is still present in the car, get the vehicle checked for any leak which might be directing water inside the car.

Travelling during the Covid-19 pandemic: What you should do

JINAT JAHAN KHAN

The Covid-19 is still looming large, but travel restrictions are gradually easing up all over the world. For business, academic, or even entertainment purposes, many people are already planning different trips at home or abroad. Here are some travel tips to follow if you don't want to bring any unwanted souvenirs to your home.

Assess the Covid-19 condition of your destination

Before travelling anywhere, check the infection rate of your destination. Even if you are vaccinated, it is risky to go somewhere that is red-hot with the Covid-19. It may increase the chance of being ill, especially for those who have weak immune systems. And do not forget to check the entry restrictions of your destination. Depending on the latest condition, these restrictions get updated. Remember to check whether the country that you want to visit has some specific rules for people from your country. For example, if your country has been red-listed by that country, you may need to take the mandatory Covid-19 test before going there, and have a strict quarantine.

Take a Covid-19 test before and after the trip

The CDC recommends that unvaccinated people should take a Covid-19 test 1 to 3 days before their trip. In case you are fully vaccinated, it is not a must to take this test. However, remember to read the local requirements and recommendations

about getting tested beforehand. The CDC also suggests unvaccinated people take a test 3 to 5 days after their trip and strictly follow quarantine restrictions for 7 days. Even if the result is negative, stay home and self-quarantine at least for a week. The fully vaccinated people do not require such a test after coming from their trip as per the CDC. But do not forget to see your region's rules regarding what you require to do after your arrival.

What to pack

When it is time to pack your bags for the trip, be careful to grab all the essential travel supplies. Wearing a mask is still an important requirement even if you are vaccinated. Carry an adequate quantity of masks whether you use surgical masks or reusable ones. Make sure that you have a sufficient amount of hand soap, hand sanitiser, and disinfectant wipes. Moreover, carry toilet paper and tissues with you. In case you need to use the bathroom at bus or train stations or random places, there is no guarantee that you'll get the necessary restroom supplies. Bring a disinfectant spray and also a toilet seat sanitiser on your trip if possible. For a long journey, carry a lightweight travel pillow of your own to prevent your face from falling on germ surfaces directly. In addition, you may consider buying a portable mask case and a mask chain to keep your mask safe when you are eating or drinking something.

Tips depending on

the mode of travel

Air travel

According to the CDC, it is very unlikely to spread different kinds of viruses easily on flights due to the way air circulates and is filtered in aeroplanes. And many airlines now take necessary precautions to make the journey safer for the passengers. For air travel, one needs to be more conscious of how to be protected before boarding as there are security lines and check-in terminals that can be crowded. Always keep your masks on. Carry a sufficient amount of hygiene supplies. If you touch any commonly used surfaces, immediately sanitise your hands. And carry wipes for washroom doors, armrests, and seats to be extra safe. Before booking your ticket, do a little research and try to choose an airline that is blocking middle seats for additional safety, and select a wide-body aircraft that lets you be in a larger space.

Car travel

Travelling in a car is a better option than using public transport. You can have a road trip for a shorter distance by your car, or renting one, or taking a ride-sharing service if possible. Have fewer people on your trip, and try not to sit beside the driver seat in a rented car or ride-sharing vehicle. Before your journey, disinfect the car thoroughly. At least wipe the high-touch areas such as door handles, seat belts, and other knobs and switches. To avoid unnecessary stops and minimise the possibility of being exposed

to the Covid-19, grab essential groceries, snacks, and hygiene products from home.

Travelling by bus or train

Unlike air travel, you don't need to rush for many security checks on a bus or train trip. Moreover, to avoid the trouble of standing in a queue to buy tickets, book yours online. But it is often not possible to maintain a six-feet distance in a bus or train. And the places where these public transports stop for washroom breaks are often too unhygienic to use. Wear face shields besides masks for better protection. Whenever you go to a public washroom, wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds instead of just sanitising, and use a toilet seat sanitiser to avoid contracting infections.

Where to stay

While reserving a hotel room or checking in, ask the hotel staff if you can get a room that has not been occupied within the last few days. Though hotel staff clean and disinfect rooms after the departure of the customers, keeping the room unoccupied for a few days reduces the possibility of the Covid-19 infection. Disinfect the switches and knobs after reaching there. If possible, select a room on the ground floor to minimise contact with high-touch surfaces such as elevators, handrails or to avoid coming across with more guests and staff. If the hotel or guest house is overcrowded and has poor disinfecting practices, look for an alternative place to stay.



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