

## ON TEST

# Rustproofing

When it comes to rust, prevention is better than cure. So save yourself a packet in panel repairs by coating your Mini with a rust protection product.



## Carpet bomb approach

So long as you read the instructions and recommendations from the manufacturers there's no reason at all why combining several of these products together is not possible. For instance using the Rustbullet paint to form a touch protective barrier inside the sills is possible if you have access to a spray gun with a radial nozzle on a hose attached, and then once that has cured, go down the usual route of injecting Waxoyl. With a little care and thought there's a lot that can be done to layer the protective steps you make towards preventing your Mini from rusting again.

Words and photography Paul Smith

Repairing the metalwork on a Mini is all well and good, but if you do nothing about protecting it from rust forming again then all that work will simply be money down the drain. You are going to end up chasing rust around the car though, but it's better to never have to come back to the same spot twice by making sure it can't come back to something you've just repaired.

There are plenty of methods of protecting against rust, but we've picked some of the easiest to apply, all suitable for application at home. To

test this we got two main samples of metal. One was a cleaned up panel from a Mini, the other was a sheet of mild steel often used for patching up and general repairs on Minis. We applied all of the products you see here following the instructions, and then we set about a regular application of water, then salt water, then water and so on — leaving three days out in the air between applications of water and using one test section per sample for impact testing. What we ended up with was a clear real world representation of how the products work. →



## Hammerite Waxoyl 400ml

[www.hammerite-automotive.com](http://www.hammerite-automotive.com)

Hammerite Waxoyl has been a firm favourite for many private and commercial car restorers for a long time, and for one very good reason — it works. There are several good things about Waxoyl that seem simple but all add up to make it a great product. For starters it has a good capillary action, so it can find its way into nooks and crannies easily. It's also relatively easy to apply, and with a bit of flexible hose you can squirt it almost anywhere. Also, it does not dry hard; it remains in a more or less waxy form. This has the benefit of not puncturing and allowing moisture to sit behind it and cause rot if it is hit by some foreign object, like a stone. There's also the fact that it is very affordable... What more could you ask for?

**VERDICT** Cavities, inside sills and the rear valance for example, there's nothing as good as Waxoyl.

SCORE



PRICE  
£6.99



## Dinitrol Cavity Wax 500ml

[www.dinitrol.co.uk](http://www.dinitrol.co.uk)

Dinitrol comes very close to the performance of Waxoyl, mainly due to it being a product that essentially works the same way. The ability for it to flow through small gaps was not quite as good as Waxoyl, and the waxy coating it left behind felt thinner, although not by much at all. Its performance was very nearly just as good as Waxoyl, aside from the section we deliberately did not clean before application where it showed signs of shrinkage and very tiny rust spots. Waxoyl seems to cope better with being applied over metal you cannot reach to clean, but aside from that, this is very worthy of a near perfect score.

**VERDICT** Very close to the performance of the accepted market leader in wax style protection.

SCORE



PRICE  
£9.20



## Dinitrol Stone Chip 500ml

[www.dinitrol.co.uk](http://www.dinitrol.co.uk)

We've never been big fans of most stone chip style coatings. The problem with some of them is that they end up being too hard and brittle, which can lead to them being easily damaged and then allowing moisture to sit trapped behind them and happily eat away at the metal underneath. This stuff from Dinitrol is one of the better ones available though, and even when quite old it still has a soft and forgiving nature about it, being flexible enough to deflect with the metal it is applied to. Another handy aspect is that it can be painted over quite easily. Make sure the surface it is to be applied to is as clean as can be to ensure a good bond.

**VERDICT** One of the most elastic stone chip style coatings available makes this a good choice.

SCORE



PRICE  
£10.70



## Carprotech RX5 (500ml) and RX10 (1000ml)

[www.antirust.co.uk](http://www.antirust.co.uk)

For the best results we had to wait for our test metal to rust. Yep, that's right. You don't apply RX5, which is the first step, to new metal until that new metal has rusted slightly. Then, once the RX5 has done its job properly you can paint over the top using RX10 (standard colour is black, but available in all RAL colours to order). If you're thinking this is a bit of a faff, and that letting un-rusty metal go rusty sounds like a silly idea, you'd be right. But the results were very good, really very good. From the point of view of working on your car in the driveway goes, it is certainly not an easy product to use. But if you have a good working environment (like a nice garage) then it is well worth the effort.

**VERDICT** As a two-step process, do it properly for the best results. Very good results too.

SCORE



PRICE  
£14.49/£27.24



## POR15 473ml

[www.frost.co.uk](http://www.frost.co.uk)

If you're painting onto surface rust this stuff bonds to that surface like nothing else, but if you're painting onto new metal you must use a POR15 product called MetalReady. Without this etch-primer style application first on new metal POR15 paint will peel off all too easily. Used properly though, it is fantastic stuff. Two thin coats applied carefully to ensure full coverage is the way to go with this one, but be very careful and do not get it on your skin, nothing gets it off, you have to wait until the stain grows out. Another thing to note is the warning on the can about not getting it in the groove of the lid as the lid will be stuck down permanently... They're not wrong, the lid will seem as though it has been welded down.

**VERDICT** Nearly 20 quid for under half a litre makes this expensive, but worth every penny.



SCORE



PRICE  
£19.50

## Eastwood Rust Encapsulator 448g

[www.frost.co.uk](http://www.frost.co.uk)

We tried one and two coats of this, and both of them showed very slight signs of new rust forming underneath on our test samples once we had removed it to take a look at the metal below it at the end of the test. When we say very slight, we mean just that; tiny little spots of the stuff. Where it was applied to old metal with surface rust though there were no signs of rust forming again at all, making this ideal for application to already rusted metal, but showing that you have to provide a good keyed surface for it to adhere to on new metal otherwise it cannot do its job properly. Although it is easy to use, and with the addition of a flexible hose it is great for getting into all those nooks and crannies.

**VERDICT** Surface prep on new metal is important, and it is a little pricey.



SCORE



PRICE  
£19.50

## Plasti-kote 2in1 Metal Protakt 400ml

[www.plasti-kote.co.uk](http://www.plasti-kote.co.uk)

There isn't much information about surface preparation either on the can or on the website with this one. But we applied the three thin coats within four hours of each other, crossed our fingers, and left the samples with the others. The result was rust spots re-emerging through the paint on the previously rusted panel, but the new metal panel was still free of any rust. A quick clean off of the paint showed the new metal panel to be free of rust even under the paint too. Although relatively easy to apply, the nozzle is not the best quality around so don't go looking for a good quality finish out of the can with this one; buy yourself a better nozzle for the can if you want to try getting good results.

**VERDICT** Performed well on new metal, not so good on previous rust though.



SCORE



PRICE  
£7.99

## Rustbullet Automotive 473ml

[www.rustbulletuk.com](http://www.rustbulletuk.com)

Of all the paints on test this one performed better than anything, but it is by no means cheap. The minimum of two coats will see a 473ml tin cover just about 25 square foot, and three coats are recommended over just two, making it the most expensive in the test. The results though were fantastic, with three coats leaving a very tough and highly durable finish behind, and no signs of any rust returning or forming at all. One thing we do know though is that you should apply a coat of filler-primer after the final coat of Rustbullet as this stuff is so tough you'll have a hard job sanding it once dry to form a key for a top coat. Get a good primer on it after 24 hours, but before 48 hours and then you can apply the topcoat at your leisure.

**VERDICT** Expensive but very impressive. Tough and easy to apply on new or old metal.



SCORE



PRICE  
£25.99