

## HOW TO BUY A MUSTANG: PAINT

by Warren Daniels

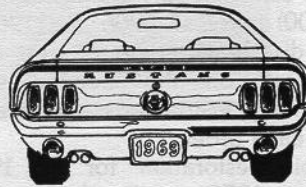
Lucky is the guy (or gal) who gets a Mustang with the original paint (from the factory). Believe it or not, that Enamel Paint is really tough! If the car was cared for and kept in a garage, then you will see a beautiful sight! Well, back to the real world! Unfortunately most cars had been painted at least once or twice; usually a non-original color.

Now is the time for you to purchase a book or two. I strongly suggest the following: 1. *Mustang Does it!* Ray Miller, Evergreen Press, Oceanside, CA. 2. *How To Restore Your Mustang* Mustang Pub., Lakeland, FL 33803. You need these books if you are serious about Mustangs. Both of these books contain a wealth of information for the Mustang enthusiast. You need either book in order to decode the Warranty plate to determine paint color and many other important items. The second book shows the actual colors of the paint. If the Mustang that you want to buy is the original color then it is much easier for you in the long run.

Now listen up: strip off the old paint before repainting! Let this go through your head everytime you look at a Mustang that is for sale. If the paint is in good shape, try to think about the possibility of compounding it out to the original sheen. I have seen very, very few cars that can be repainted over the old (up to 21 years old) paint. Remember "A Paint Job Does Not a Restoration Make". Many times you will be impressed by a new paint job. In a few months (if not done correctly), the original surface will show through. This does not look too great! You certainly won't win any prizes with that paint job! It all comes down to 1. Do you want a "Daily Driver" or 2. A Show Car.

Stripping the old paint is MURDER! Be prepared for a lot of work! Also paint stripper removes ALL OLD BODYFILLER! This body work must

be REDONE! I have dwelled on the paint condition and the stripper syndrome because you should remember this when you look at a Mustang. I hope this puts things into perspective. There are other techniques for stripping paint such as sandblasting and sanding. Either way you go it is still a lot of work!



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