

Headlights Cleaning



I've helped cleaning out many headlights for local supras down here in SoCal. The discoloration you see is inside the headlights usually...in some cases outside only. The procedure requires popping your lights into the oven for about 5 minutes at low temperature (be careful or you will damage the light), then removing the plastic casing. From there, you need to polish the plastic with a good plastic polish and scratch remover. Using the right product is important, you don't want to be leaving scratches and nicks on the plastic surface. Use a product such as Novus, Plexus, or Meguiar's plastic cleaner/conditioner. You will certainly want to use Novus, as it will leave the final surface very clean and shiny. A high speed polisher will save you a lot of time and effort. Although, it can be done by hand and some elbow grease.

Websites that carry the Novus and Plexus are listed below. You can also find them at other websites by doing a search for 'novus plastic cleaner' or 'plexus plastic cleaner.'

Novus:

<http://www.noscratch.com/novus/form.shtml>

Plexus: <http://www.plexusplasticcleaner.com/>

Silicone/RTV sealant: can be bought at local car parts stores for about \$3 in a small tube.

Sand paper: use 2000Grit paper, and wetsand the outside of the headlights using a soapy water solution. Your headlights will be crystal clear and smooth. Also, follow up by buffing the sanded

surface with the plastic polish/cleaner.

Oven Temperature: about 175-200F for about 5-10 mins, depending on the actual temperature of the oven. Leave the headlights in there until they are somewhat warm to the touch. Start at one end of the headlight, and use a dull object such as a butter knife or dull screwdriver to separate the headlights.

Here are the headlights we started with,



Heat the headlights in the oven, pop 'em apart.





Take out the screw, remove the shiny plastic piece.



All three pieces need cleaning...



PorterCable 7424, Novus, Plexus, and a Microfiber cloth. Indispensible tools.



Spray Plexus to clean the surface. Wipe off with microfiber.



Apply Novus heavy scratch remover.



Buff out scratches at about 4000rpm.



Repeat for outside surface.
Also, wetsand using 2000 grit sandpaper to leave a smooth finish.



Spray plastic with Plexus, wipe off.



The finished result...clean headlights!



Put the screw back..



Once the cleaning is done, put the cleaned two pieces back into the oven to allow the existing rubber sealant to warm up.

Leave for about 2-3 minutes. Take them out, and apply the silicone sealant to the two pieces. Put them back together (requires a bit of force).

Optionally, you can add another bead of silicone sealant once the pieces have been put back together.



Here are the headlights after they were done,



Comments/suggestions? [Email me](#)

