

**Kent 2in1 Wash Mitt**

Price: £3.99  
Wet weight gain: 857g  
Rating: ★★★★★

THERE'S only one downside to this product: it's not machine washable. In every other way, though, Kent's got this mitt spot-on. The microfibre noodles really clung to dirt, so dry polishing was a doddle. Wet performance was even better, and we rarely had to resort to using the scrubbing gauze on the rear. Very high absorbency was yet another bonus, securing a Best Buy award for the 2in1.



**Halfords Cotton Wash Mitt**

Price: £3.49  
Wet weight gain: 1,038g  
Rating: ★★★

THIS was more difficult to put on than most, due to its shape rather than a tightly fitting collar. And, in action, the loose cuff caused the mitt to slip off the hand. In its favour, the cotton, mop-style surface held more water than any other product here, but its cleaning ability wasn't so hot. Used dry, it barely made an impression. And when wet, shifting stubborn grime took some serious pressure.



**Halfords Genuine Sheepskin Mitt**

Price: £7.99  
Wet weight gain: 716g  
Rating: ★★

A PRICEY contender for Halfords, but at least it can be machine washed, keeping it usable for longer. On our dry panel, this ate dirt nearly as well as the microfibre mitts, yet it needed considerably more pressure and took more time. Used wet, it was much the same story. While a lacklustre performance against tough stains lost points, this product's great absorbency was some compensation.



**Kent Ladies' Wash Mitt**

Price: £1.49  
Wet weight gain: 412g  
Rating: ★★★★★

WHILE some potential users may not appreciate the colour, there's little else to complain about with this smart mitt. The hand compartment is divided in two, which made the product fit like the proverbial glove. An elasticated strap further helped keep it in place. The microfibre noodles worked superbly, dry or wet, rendering the gauze on the reverse virtually redundant.



**The test**



WE assessed our samples both dry and wet on a car that had been in storage for several years. Our test rated grime removal and the effort needed, and we took into consideration any damage to the paintwork. Stains such as tar, bird lime and brake dust were tackled. The mitts were also weighed wet and dry to rate water absorbency. Marks were added for comfort, grip, whether the mitt is machine washable, and value.

**The verdict**

THE Best Buy for Kent's 2in1 is well deserved. The mitt is highly absorbent, its microfibre simply love dirt and grime, and there's even a gauze scrub pad on the rear – a brilliant package for less than four quid.

A close second is Metro's microfibre offering, which is equally easy on the wallet. It's a better fit, but no scrub pad was included, and there wasn't as much absorbency. Love or hate the colour, Kent's Ladies' Mitt works as well as our winner, and is a snaller option.

- 1 Kent 2in1 Wash Mitt
- 2 Metro Microfibre Cleaning Mitt
- 3 Kent Ladies' Wash Mitt

**The contacts**

Halfords 0845 762 6625  
www.halfords.com  
Kent Car Care 01892 837070  
www.carcare.co.uk  
Meguiar's 0870 241 669  
www.meguiars.co.uk  
Metro 01488 689400  
www.saxonind.co.uk

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Which of these eight car wash aids deserves a big hand? We scrub up to put them to the test

# Mitt's a knock-out

**Meguiar's Super Thick Microfibre Wash Mitt**

Price: £9.95  
Wet weight gain: 624g  
Rating: ★★★

MICROFIBRE material varies tremendously, and this one feels completely different from Metro and Kent's versions. It didn't drag when it encountered dirt, but the Meguiar's grime and stain-removing abilities were equally good. Compared with the Metro (right), this is expensive, but it's also machine washable. Shame about the very loose fit around the hand, though.



**Metro Microfibre Cleaning Mitt**

Price: £3.99  
Wet weight gain: 472g  
Rating: ★★★★★

HERE'S a pretty unassuming product, but it gets everything right. Used dry, the tell-tale drag over dirt assured us that this is made from good-quality microfibre. When we added water, the grime simply melted away. Using a little pressure, even stubborn stains were fair game – so while there was no gauze, there was no great need for it, either. A long, narrow, elasticated collar kept the mitt secure, too, so it's a worthy Recommended choice.



**Kent Sponge Mitt**

Price: £1.49  
Wet weight gain: 560g  
Rating: ★★★

IN some ways, this no-frills product offers the best of both worlds. Being made from sponge, Kent's budget mitt is impressively absorbent. And we actually achieved better scrubbing power than with a conventionally shaped sponge, because it's so much easier to apply pressure with an open hand rather than a fist. The mitt tends to stay where it should, too. Although there's no elasticated collar, the fit within the sponge was pretty tight, and the material gripped well.



**Meguiar's Lambswool Wash Mitt**

Price: £9.95  
Wet weight gain: 607g  
Rating: ★★★

FOR sheer grime-shifting performance – wet or dry – this was the only traditional material mitt that got anywhere near the microfibre products. And there's a scrubbing gauze on the rear for tackling any stains the lambswool can't budge. Ultimately, though, the results weren't quite as good as those of the microfibre, and the price is significantly dearer than most of them. And again, we didn't like the loose fit.



James Stanbury

YOU'VE got to hand it to wash mitts – they are much better than they used to be. Due to the microfibre revolution they now suck up grime and shampoo like never before, and they're much easier to use than sponges when keeping your car clean through the winter.

Modern microscopic fibres penetrate deep into the bodywork, so removing those hard-to-shift marks is a breeze and requires little pressure. In addition, they absorb much more water than their natural fibre predecessors, which needed frequent dips into the wash bucket. Finally, makers have improved the designs, so the mitt is less likely than before to slip off the hand.

So which are the best for keeping the winter grime off your car? We pitched hi-tech microfibre mitts against the traditional sheepskin and cotton versions to separate the soap stars from the real washouts.

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