

We tested...

Spatopia Soft Polishing Cloth

Price: £1.75 Size: 40cm x 40cm
Rating: ★★★★★

1 **BEST BUY** Aqua blue microfibre from Spatopia performed well when polishing our CD, leaving no marks. And while the thin cloth didn't inspire much confidence, it worked impressively on our glass test, cleaning the window easily and without marring. It buffed well, too and a low price helped to secure the victory.

Autoglym Hi-Tech Finishing Cloth

Price: £9.99 Size: 42cm x 40cm
Rating: ★★★★★

2 UPMARKET Autoglym designed its Hi-Tech Finishing Cloth for polishing, so we weren't surprised that it had a minimal effect on our CD, and buffed impressively, too. But we found it worked well as a cleaner, too, and the useful size meant it didn't smear or windscreen. Price held it back, though.

Muc-Off Premium Polishing Cloth

Price: £4.99 Size: 40cm x 40cm
Rating: ★★★★★

3 SOFT blue cloth from Muc-Off really scored in our cleaning test, leaving no smears at all on our glass. It's so big and cumbersome, buffing is difficult, but it lifted a fair amount of polish from our car's bodywork. It performed strongly in our CD test, though the high price prevented it achieving a podium finish.

Autoglym Superfine Microfibre

Price: £1.69 Size: 40cm x 30cm
Rating: ★★★★★

4 The Kent got off to a great start, and passed our CD test with ease, though it's not the thickest of cloths, it gave us adequate performance when polishing. However, the Superfine really struggled when we sprayed on our glass cleaner, as it left smears on our screen or we'd not wiped it on. Nevertheless, this is a decent all-rounder for the money.

Armor All Clean & Polish Towels

Price: £5.99 Size: 40cm x 40cm
Rating: ★★★★★

5 **RECOMMENDED** This two-in-one cloth comes in a pack of three, so it's super-value. The orange weave provided great absorbency, which meant the cloth didn't smear our screen, and the smooth surface ensured it passed our buffing test easily. A well deserved second place.

WONDER WIPERS

Whether you're shifting dirt or polishing your car, you need a microfibre cloth. We test 10...

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Paula Freeman
It feels like a normal cleaning rag, but the microfibre cloth is so much more. These car care essentials employ cutting-edge technology to deliver stunning performance. Each cloth is made up of tiny strands, a fraction of the width of a human hair, and they not only clean, but dig out and hold on to grime without scratching. They're also great for buffing bodywork and glass. The technology is moving all the time, with makers now adapting the type of fibre and weave to various jobs. We put the 10 to the test to find the best.

The test

To win this test, a cloth has to be a jack of all trades – drivers want a product for cleaning, buffing and polishing. First up, we used an industry secret: the CD test. To see the effects our cloths might have on paint, we rubbed them on a blank disc and checked for marks.

Next up, we tested cleaning ability by spraying the cloths with glass cleaner and wiping a windscreen. Finally, we applied polish to a bonnet, divided into sections, then buffed it with each cloth in turn. Price was our final factor – all the figures we quote exclude any postage charges.

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The verdict
You can get designs that are better at buffing or cleaning, but Spatopia's Polishing Cloth is the top all-rounder. Second goes to the Armor All – with two materials it is practical, and you also get three in a pack. Dodo Juice and Swissvax fought it out for third place, with the former edging home.

1. Spatopia Soft Polishing Cloth
2. Armor All Clean & Polish Towels
3. Dodo Juice Fantastic Fur

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