

**Clearcoat Blending During A Collision Repair - REVISED**

Ford Motor Company does not approve the procedure of clearcoat blending or using clearcoat blending in any warranty or collision repair. Furthermore, Ford never allows for partial clearcoat blending on warranty paint repairs and does not approve clearcoat blending on customer-pay or insurance-pay repairs.

Paint companies and vehicle manufacturers agree that a repair using this material and procedure is not robust, and that over time, the edge will begin to lift and discolour, making the edge around the repair very noticeable. To resist ultraviolet light and other environmental factors, the clearcoat needs approximately 25 microns of thickness, however, the micron thickness of the clearcoat in a blended area tapers out at the edge.

Ford's position is continually reinforced in all approved paint system manuals. Furthermore, paint companies will not warrant any products if clearcoat blending has been done. The preferred process – and the one that Ford approves – is to blend the basecoat colour as necessary and then clearcoat the entire panel. Clear coat must be continued to the nearest edge including apertures. For example, on a quarter panel or roof, the channel area is usually the line to make a break point. Most Ford vehicles include a channel area, which makes it easier to perform the procedure the right way the first time.

More information on specific paint company recommendations will generally appear with their clearcoat application guidelines and mix information.