THE ULTIMATE PAINT JOB
A Step by Step Guide

For this general guide, we assume the vehicle will be brought to bare metal for a complete refinish. This is not always necessary. Many times, if the existing finish is intact and in good sound condition, a simple “scuff and shoot” will suffice.

STEP 1— CLEAN IT UP
Thoroughly clean the surface of vehicle with a combination of soap and hot water, then rinse and dry.

Apply Wax & Grease Remover (SUM-UP404) to lift any remaining contaminants. Wipe dry with a towel.

STEP 2 — PREP IT
Abrade, strip or media blast the surface to remove all existing paint, leaving only bare metal.

Use compressed air to blow down the surface, especially in crevices and along trim pieces, to ensure all remaining debris is removed.

Reclean entire vehicle with Surface Wash (SUM-UP403) to lift any remaining sanding debris. Wipe dry with a lint-free towel or rag.

STEP 3 — SEAL THAT METAL
Apply 1-2 medium wet coats of Epoxy Primer (SUM-UP230/SUM-UP232) over entire surface, waiting at least 30 minutes between coats.

Epoxy is an ideal barrier coat/sealer type of material. Thanks to its non-porous film, water can’t penetrate the surface to cause corrosion on the metal beneath the primer. If the project will take any length of time to complete, Epoxy Primer will protect the vehicle for the duration.

STEP 4 — TAKE OUT THE DINGS
Apply body fillers, putties and/or metal glazes to bring any depressions even with the surface of the panels. According to manufacturer’s recommendations, sand/prep fillers. Though it is not always necessary, in some situations the sanded filler should be spot primed with more Epoxy.
STEP 5 — SMOOTH OUT THOSE PANELS
If less than four days has passed since application of epoxy, 2K Urethane Primer may be applied directly over un-prepped epoxy primer. If more than four days has elapsed, surface of epoxy should at least be abraded prior to 2K application. Apply High Build 2K Urethane Primer Surfacer (SUM-UP220) in medium wet coats.

After at least 3-4 hours drying, block sand 2K Urethane Primer surfacer to level out surface of panels. If necessary, re-apply 2K Urethane Primer Surfacer and, using a guide coat, block the surface smooth again. Continue this step until all surfaces are flat and as smooth as desired before moving to topcoat color application.

Be sure to use compressed air again to blow down the surface, especially in crevices and tight spots to remove all sanding debris. Reapply Surface Wash to help lift any remaining contaminants before proceeding.

STEP 6 — TIME FOR COLOR
Activate and apply Acrylic Urethane Topcoat Paint (SUM-UP300-319) in medium wet coats until sufficient coverage is achieved. For metallics, a final “drop coat” may be applied to even out a more uniform appearance.

If doing a two-tone job, keep in mind paint should dry at least for eight hours before applying tape/masking. Of course, after 18 hours has passed, Acrylic Urethane paint will be fully cured and cannot take a topcoat (additional color or clear) without first scuff sanding.

STEP 7 — MAKE IT LOOK DEEP
The Summit paint line is a single-stage system, which means clearcoat is not required. However, for the ultimate finish, we recommend applying urethane clear on top of color. Some colors (SUM-UP313, SUM-UP-314 and SUM-UP315) require a clearcoat, due to their extra-coarse metallic content.

For the most durable, longest-lasting, deepest-looking appearance, activate and apply two coats of High-Solids Urethane Clear (SUM-UP 200), waiting at least 10 minutes between coats.

Once clear has cured, wet sand out imperfections and polish to restore finish. Optional: For an even deeper “Show Quality” finish, wet sand cured clear with 600, then reapply one wet, over-reduced coat of clear. This is called a “Flow Coat.” Once cured, wet sand with 1000, 1200, 1500 and 2000 before compounding and polishing.