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# HPWS NEWS



## TESTING OF NEW CAR WASH PRODUCTS AT ECO EXPRESS

You may have heard recently of a new class of water repellent surface treatments called Superhydrophobic coatings. These are treatments that can be applied to a variety of surfaces, and repel a wide variety of liquids from their surfaces. One video on YouTube is located at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPM8OR6W6WE> We decided to test this product at **Eco Express** to determine suitability for use in a car wash environment.

The results were promising.

There are several companies that make these products. We chose a product called **Ultra Ever Dry**. It is a two part system, with the first part being applied through a sprayer, then after it has dried a second part being applied. We purchased one quart of each part for about \$150 total. Yes it is pricey! We also found these products can be challenging to apply. They have multiple health warnings, so a full protective suit and respirator is called for. We used some special pump sprayers available from **Ultra Ever Dry** and had a satisfactory, though not great, application as far as evenness. We applied it to an area on the passenger side of our bay ceiling so that we could compare it to the non-treated drivers side. We also applied an area on the side wall.

The initial results are impressive. As soon as the two parts were applied and cured, they immediately became superhydrophobic. We found at the end of the day, if we sprayed the treated areas

with low pressure water, they remained completely clean. The manufacturer notes these coatings do not withstand abrasion very well, so we've avoided scrubbing or high pressure in those areas, however so far neither has been needed. One month after treatments, the areas are still remarkably clean. This photo shows the ceiling in the bay. The clean area has been treated, while the area with the green residue from our bug remover is untreated reline panel.



At this point we believe it is a technology worth watching, and possibly appropriate in special applications. However at this point the high product cost, difficulty in application, and toxicity may deter widespread use in our industry. There are other companies coming out with competing superhydrophobic coatings and we'll see if they tackle these challenges.

## SONNY'S FOAM FOR SALE



There are two sets of wraps and top brush foam available for purchase; One set red and one set blue. The foam is in good condition and was changed to a different style after seven months of operation. Hubs are included with the purchase. For more information contact John Agnew at 970.485.0287.

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