

Have you ever had a client come to you with a question about their vehicle that made you wish you could speak "auto body repair?" Well, you wish has now been granted by the translators at Hanks Auto Body. This is the 1st of 3 in a series that will help you understand some basic auto body repair terms.

Aftermarket Parts: Automotive replacement parts that were not made by the original equipment manufacturer.

Air-drying: The process of drying fully during exposure to air at normal temperatures. Alternate Term(s): Drying

Basecoat (BC): A paint system in which the color effect is given by a highly pigmented basecoat. Gloss and durability are given by a subsequent clear coat.

Bench: A heavy metal platform used to restore a vehicle's structural geometry to factory specifications. This is done by securing a portion of the vehicle to the platform, then pulling appropriate areas of the vehicle into place using special clamps, chains and hydraulic winches. Alternate Term(s): Frame Rack, Frame Machine

Betterment: Term used to describe an item replaced due to an accident that has some wear. The practice is often applied to tires and batteries that are several years old. If a battery has used up 3/4 of its life, the Insurance company will pro-rate the item's cost and in this case will pay 1/4 of the cost to replace the battery and will ask the insured or claimant to pay the remaining 3/4. The premise being that the Insurance Company is only obligated to return the vehicle to its pre-accident condition.

Chip Guard: A chip resistant, protective coating normally applied to lower panels to avoid sharp stones etc. chipping the paint finish.

Chipping: The removal of paint from a substrate by means of impact of sharp stones etc.

Clear or Clear Coat: The clear coat imparts gloss and protection to a basecoat clear coat system. It is essentially a pigment-free paint.

Coat: A single layer of paint on a surface.

Compounding: The action of using an abrasive polishing material either by hand or by machine. Alternate Term(s): Polishing

Corrosion: Degradation of the metal substrate by oxidation. That is the formation of an oxide layer on the metal surface. This process requires that the metal surface be exposed to oxygen, and is favored in the presence of water. In the case of iron and steel, corrosion is often referred to as rusting.

Degreasing: The removal from the substrate of contaminants which would otherwise give rise to surface defects and performance failures. E.g. poor adhesion.

Detailing: Final cleaning both inside and outside of vehicle, application of pinstripes, removal of overspray from underhood, trunk lids etc. as well as polishing.

Direct Gloss (DG): A topcoat paint which contains pigment and resin, and gives the required gloss level without the need of the application of a clearcoat. A DG Paint film has good weathering and durability characteristics.