

How to repair paint chips and scratches on your bike

Trek Touch-Up Paint was developed as a fast drying, easy to apply, all-in-one paint and clearcoat to help repair small scratches and chips in the bike paint and finish. It offers a quick dry time, and each color is custom formulated to provide the best possible match for your bike.

Models affected: All bikes – carbon and alloy

Tools:

• Scotch-Brite™ fine scouring pad, or 1000 grit or finer sandpaper • Isopropyl alcohol	If necessary: • Small artist paint brush or toothpick • Acetone
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What you should do

About the paint:

- Apply in a well-ventilated area and use protective gloves and eyewear.
- Apply only when air and surface temperatures are at or above 60°F (15.5°C).
- Store in a cool and dry location out of direct sunlight for the longest possible shelf life.

1. Inspect your bike

Always inspect for damage before covering up an area with touch-up paint. If the bike was in a crash, an authorized retailer should evaluate the frame and components.

2. Prepare the area

Carefully remove any loose paint then use the scouring pad or sandpaper to sand the inside of the touch-up area to promote adhesion.

NOTE: Be careful not to sand too much surface. Only sand the specific touch-up area.

3. Clean the area

Paint sticks best to a surface that is clean and dry. Make sure there is no dust, oil, grease, or any other residue. Isopropyl alcohol works great for cleaning.

4. Shake well

Paint separates when not in use. Shake the bottle well until you hear the balls rattling and the paint is completely mixed and a uniform color. The cap contains a small brush which can be used as an applicator. For very small or precise repairs, the small paint brush or toothpick may be used instead.

5. Practice

Apply the paint on a piece of scrap material to practice your technique. If you have multiple areas to touch up, start with the areas that are most hidden as your technique will improve with practice. It is best to try and get it right on the first attempt on the bike.

How to repair paint chips and scratches on your bike (continued)

6. Paint the area

The paint works best when applied in multiple thin coats. Multiple thin coats look better and last longer than one heavy coat. Allow for a layer to dry to the touch before adding another layer. Start with a very small amount of paint on the applicator, wipe off as much excess as possible on the lip of the bottle.

The paint dries very fast, so try to lay it down in one smooth action. You will not be able to rework the paint much once it starts to set up. If you need to redo it, you can clean off the paint within a half-hour with acetone.

NOTE: Be careful to only apply acetone to the affected area.

7. Dry time

The paint will dry to the touch in 10-20 minutes and will be fully cured in about 2 weeks. The paint sheen will dull as it dries and will reach the final sheen in about 24 hours. Thick layers of paint will take longer to dry.

NOTES: While Trek has created this paint with as much precision as possible, touch-ups will not be 100% perfect.

Original bicycle paint can vary slightly from batch to batch and can be affected by age and UV light exposure.

What Trek is doing

We have created these instructions to properly equip and help customers and dealers better understand and repair paint chips and scratches on bikes.