

■ CHROME PLATING

new chrome, as it will micro-scratch the surface. Remember, this surface is pretty much a mirror finish and even a dirty polishing cloth will create fine lines of damage in the chrome finish. The polishing wheels are only loaded up with what they call a 'soap' or grease, and they hand-finish with a simple liquid window polish to remove any black soap residue. They always recommend a non-abrasive metal cleaner such as silver polish for heavier-duty, harder cleaning.

Also do remember this vital little fact: the last process in the plating system is washing off all the nasty chemicals with water. Yes that lovely stuff that makes metal corrode! Coventry Auto Components always paint the backs and hard-to-reach inside areas of newly-plated components such as overrides as soon as they arrive with thinners and then a rust-preventing paint such as Hammerite to neutralise this potential disaster area immediately. Unpainted, even in a temperature-controlled environment, they will begin to corrode on the shelf, so be warned, tucking them in a box in your garage unprotected for a couple of years is not a good move.

Nickel showing through chrome, on a low quality domestic toilet roll holder (CAC)

