

Badge Removal

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Many people have inquired about removing the badges from their trucks. There are many different ways to accomplish this task with very little out of pocket expense. I have decided to perform this mod to my truck and document it. I utilized several different methods in order to give a comparison between them so you can make the best decision for your truck.

Before



After



Materials Utilized During This Article:

- Heat Gun
- Plastic Bondo Spreaders
- Fishing line, (25 lb or greater)
- Goo Gone
- Q-Tips
- Cordless Drill
- 3M Stripe Off Wheel (aka “Eraser Wheel”)
- Towel (cloth, not paper)

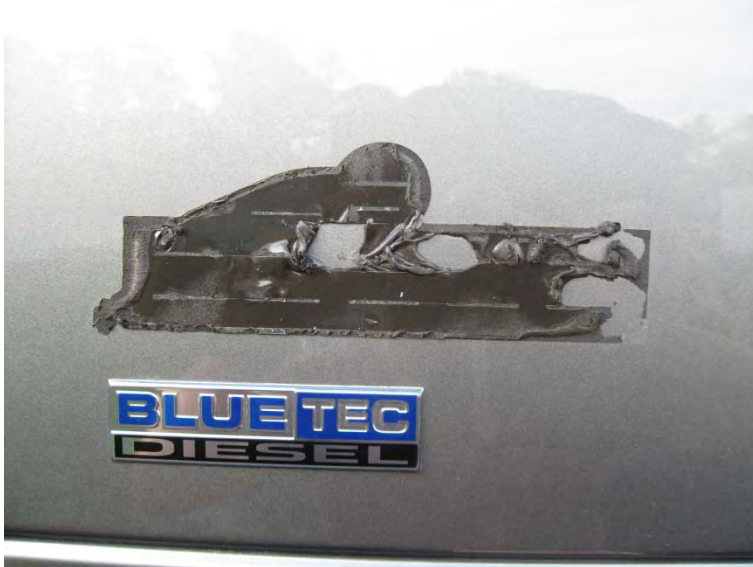


Step 1, Removal of Emblems

Option A: Plastic Bondo Spreader (Worst Method)

This is probably the most straight-forward of the three methods. Simply take the plastic spreader and force it behind the badges to separate them from the metal. This is my least favorite because it took the most physical force to move which translates into the greatest chance for personal injury. This method also left the worse scratches in the clear coat. None of these methods left any scratches in anything other than the clear coat; therefore they can all be buffed out fairly easily.

Note: My dealership sticker just peeled right off with my fingers.



Option B: Fishing Line (Mediocre Method)

Overall the fishing line method worked well. Take the fishing line, place it behind the emblem on a corner, and then saw back and forth while holding pressure on the line causing it to "saw" its way through the material used to hold the badge on the truck. I would highly suggest that you wear gloves or wrap the string around some sort of stick on either end while you saw the emblem off or it will cut into your hand. My only complaint is that I kept breaking the fishing line because the string gets stuck in the glue and it gets hard to pull. This method left some very minor hair scratches in the clear coat. You really have to look hard to see anything.



Option C: Fishing Line and Plastic Spreader (Best Method)

In my opinion, this is the best method for removing the emblems off of the truck. It's the same as the fishing line method except you follow the fishing line with the plastic spreader. This pulls the badge away from the metal and relieves most of the pressure from the fishing line. This is the way I broke the least amount of fishing line. This is also the method that left the least amount of hairline scratches in the clear coat. The only ones I was able to find almost completely disappeared with a wipe of the towel.

Helpful Hint: The "RAM" and "2500 HEAVY DUTY" badges are actually 2 separate badges as shown below.



Step 2, Glue Removal

Option A: Finger Nail (Worst Method)

This is the cheapest method to use. Simply take your fingernail and scrape off the glue residue that was holding the emblems to the metal. I used the heat gun to make the glue a little softer and easier to remove. This is my least preferred method because it takes the longest and involves the most physical labor. This method also left the most scratches in the clear coat. I would suggest not doing this.



Option B: Goo Gone (Mediocre Method)

Goo Gone only costs a few dollars and you can get it at just about any auto parts store. I bought my bottle at AutoZone. This works way better than the fingernail method, but you're still going to have to resort to manually removing the glue residue. Soak the glue residue with Goo Gone using the Q-Tips and then proceed to manually remove it with your finger nail or any other means you see fit. I applied a little heat to make the glue easier to remove. This method leaves a few scratches in the clear but not near as bad as the finger nail alone. Please note that the picture below shows it before I was completely finished with the fingernail/goo gone method. It eventually cleaned up completely.



Option C: 3M Stripe Off Wheel (Best Method)

This is by far the fastest, best, and most reliable method for removing the glue. It is also the most expensive method for removing the glue. I bought this at my local NAPA store for about \$40. Place the stripe off wheel in your cordless (or corded) drill and apply medium speed and light pressure. The glue will simply peel off of the truck. I did not use any heat at all. The wheel left no scratches of any sort in my truck's paint and removed the glue the quickest. I barely used up any of this wheel when I removed the badges from my truck. I see no reason you couldn't do 3 or 4 trucks with this.



Step 3, Finalizing

Wipe off the area with a towel after the glue is removed. I would suggest that you buff the entire truck to remove and micro scratches that you might have put in your paint. At the very minimum it should be washed and needs a good wax. That's it, enjoy.

