

## Your Carbon wheel care guide

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Your Carbon wheels will need to be cared for slightly differently to your aluminium wheels. We recommend that you keep brake pads and rims clean as much as possible. How frequently our wheel care steps are performed will be subject to your riding style, and where and when you do the majority of your cycling. For normal use, clean your rims and brake pads every 2-3 months or as needed. Debris can come from many sources. Residue is left on the wheels anytime you apply your brake pads to the rim, whether you are riding aluminium or carbon wheels. Brake pad and rim surfaces naturally wear against each other and deposit miniscule amounts of surface material at the point of contact. You will notice this on alloy rims in the form of a grey dust or dark discoloration on the braking surface, much like the dust that is left behind on your car's wheel rims over time from braking.

Carbon wheels, being darker in colour, usually do not show this as easily. Debris is picked up from the road and environment as you ride, so regular cleaning of your wheelset is important. Keeping your carbon wheels clean will also improve modulation and braking in all conditions. We recommend a few simple cleaning tips for your Bax Carbon wheels

1. Suspend your bike in a rack and take the wheels out of the frame.



2. **Cleaning Rims:** The rims can be cleaned with a clean soft rag and any mild degreaser. You can also use Acetone or Isopropyl Alcohol. It is recommended to wear safety glasses and rubber gloves if using fluids like acetone. Make sure your work space is well ventilated. It is usually easiest to clean your rims when the tires have been removed.



3. **Cleaning Brake Track:** If your main aim is to clean the brake track of your wheels, it may help to remove the tires to adequately access the entire braking surface. Run your fingers along the entire circumference of the wheel's brake surface feeling for width variations or changes in roughness. Changes in tackiness or 'smooth-to-rough' patches along the brake track may indicate areas with glazing. You will need a clean non-scratch dish washing pad (Like the Dishmatic non-scratch) and Acetone to best clean your wheels. First, clean the brake track along the top 13mm of rim circumference. Remove all discoloration, smears and 'tacky-feeling' areas. Focus on the rough feeling patches or those with obvious discoloration and very-very lightly scuff with the cleaning pad in the direction along the circumference of the rim. Please be careful not to use excessive pressure when cleaning your wheels as it is easy to remove more than surface contamination and damage the braking layer moulded into the rim. After you have cleaned the smaller more obvious areas of your rim, start at the valve hole and continue around the entire circumference of the rim lightly scuffing the surface. You will detect dark grey dust accumulating on your abrasive pad. Rotate the pad to a clean section and continue cleaning. Perform this circumference cleaning on both sides of each wheel. After you've completely cleaned the brake track, with the abrasive pad, wipe down the surface with a small amount of Acetone on a clean cotton rag.



You may need to wipe down the rim numerous times until you no longer see dark grey deposits on your cleaning rag. You may also wipe down the entire rim surface with Acetone; it will remove most all road grime and oil from your hands that has deposited on the wheel, but should not damage decals.

4. **Cleaning Brake Pads:** Inspect the brake pad surfaces, front and rear, for embedded debris. Remove any small embedded particles in the pads with a fine point tool. If the brake pad surface on your pads have dark smears/smudges or appear shiny they may be glazed and will need cleaning. To clean brake pads, use 120-grit sandpaper to scuff the brake pad surfaces. Preferably use wet/dry sand paper with a small spot of water where you are cleaning the pads. After sanding, use some hand soap and warm water to wash the pads off. Finish by drying them with a clean towel.

