



**JOHNSON AUTO
BODY EXPLAINS
WHY PAINT COLOR
CAN LOOK
DIFFERENT UNDER
DIFFERENT LIGHTING
AFTER A REPAIR**

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Johnson Auto Body Explains Why Paint Color Can Look Different Under Different Lighting After a Repair

September 17, 2026

Knightdale, NC - September 17, 2026 -

Johnson Auto Body has published consumer guidance explaining why automotive paint can appear different as lighting and viewing conditions change after collision repair. The September resource focuses on three factors that influence perceived color: the characteristics of the vehicle's finish, the way light interacts with that finish, and the refinishing process used on the repaired area.

The guidance expands on Johnson Auto Body's auto body repair information by addressing a specific issue consumers may notice after refinishing. A repaired panel can appear consistent with surrounding areas under one light source while subtle differences become more noticeable under another. The resource explains why this observation should be considered in the context of the vehicle's paint system and viewing environment rather than a single comparison.

Automotive color evaluation begins with the vehicle's paint information. Manufacturer paint codes provide a reference for identifying the original finish, while the vehicle itself provides information about how that finish

currently appears.

Existing finishes can change in appearance over time because of environmental exposure and previous refinishing. If an adjoining panel was repaired earlier in the vehicle's life, it may also provide a different comparison point from an untouched factory-finished panel.

Lighting introduces another variable because different sources illuminate automotive coatings differently. Direct sunlight, overcast daylight, and artificial lighting can affect how tones and effects are perceived. Changes in viewing angle can further alter the appearance of certain finishes.

These differences are particularly noticeable with metallic and pearl coatings. Metallic finishes contain particles that interact with incoming light, while pearl and other effect finishes can produce changes in appearance as the relationship between the surface, light source, and viewer changes.

This means a change in appearance under different lighting does not, by itself, establish that an incorrect color was applied. Technicians can evaluate how the refinished area relates to adjoining panels from multiple positions and under appropriate viewing conditions.

The September guidance distinguishes this normal behavior of automotive finishes from the refinishing operations used to integrate a repaired component with the rest of the vehicle.

Surface preparation is one part of that process. Depending on the repair, a damaged or replacement component can require body work, surface preparation, primer, and other operations before the applicable color and clear-coat materials are applied.

Application technique can also influence the appearance of effect finishes. The way metallic or pearl materials are applied can affect how their visual characteristics appear after the coating has cured. Refinishing therefore involves both identifying an appropriate color and applying the coating system according to the repair requirements.

Additional information about how refinishing fits within accident repair is available through Johnson Auto Body's collision repair information.

Blending may be incorporated when appropriate to create a gradual visual transition between newly refinished and adjoining areas. Its use depends on factors such as the repair location, color, surrounding panels, and applicable refinishing procedure rather than being required for every repair.

Clear coat adds another consideration because gloss and surface characteristics influence reflected light. As

a result, evaluation of a completed repair can include both the underlying color appearance and the condition of the finished surface.

The new publication organizes these variables into a practical three-stage framework. The first stage identifies the original paint information and evaluates the existing vehicle finish. The second considers how lighting, viewing angle, and coating characteristics affect perceived color. The third evaluates the completed refinishing work in relation to surrounding panels.

This framework is intended to clarify the difference between a finish that naturally changes in appearance as viewing conditions change and a visible difference that warrants closer evaluation. Rather than judging a repaired area from one angle or light source, the completed finish can be considered in several representative conditions.

Photographs can introduce additional variables. Smartphone cameras automatically adjust characteristics such as exposure and white balance, so an image may not reproduce automotive color exactly as it appears when viewed directly. An in-person comparison can therefore provide additional context when evaluating a refinished area.

The guidance also explains why color matching is not based simply on selecting a paint with the same general color name. Vehicle paint information, the existing finish, coating characteristics, preparation, application, and final evaluation each contribute different information during refinishing.

The September resource narrows its focus specifically to lighting and color perception rather than providing a general overview of automotive painting. By separating the behavior of the coating from the conditions under which it is viewed, the guidance gives consumers a clearer framework for understanding why the appearance of metallic, pearl, and other automotive finishes can change throughout the day or between indoor and outdoor environments.

Additional information about the company's local facility is available through Johnson Auto Body's Knightdale location resource.

The central point of the September publication is that automotive color is perceived through an interaction between the coating and its viewing environment. Evaluating a refinished area therefore involves more than a single color comparison and can account for the existing finish, coating characteristics, lighting, viewing angle, and completed surface.

Johnson Auto Body is a locally owned collision repair business founded in 1996. The company provides collision repair and auto body repair services for Knightdale, Raleigh, Wendell, and surrounding Wake County communities. Its facility is located at 821 H & R Drive, Knightdale, NC 27545.

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Johnson Auto Body Inc

Johnson Auto Body has provided trusted collision repair in Knightdale, NC since 1996. Family-owned and customer-focused, we offer quality auto body repairs, insurance assistance, rental support, and a lifetime warranty.

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