

Tribos Automotive Coatings vs. 10H Ceramic Coatings: A Comparative Dealer Guide

Overview

This guide provides a detailed comparison between Tribos Automotive Coatings and conventional 10H ceramic automotive coatings commonly found in the detailing market. While both are advanced surface protection systems, they differ significantly in their chemical structure, application methods, durability behavior, and end-user benefits. This guide aims to empower dealers with the insights needed to effectively communicate these differences to customers.

1. Chemical Composition & Flexibility –

- **Tribos Coatings:** -

- Siloxane-polyether or soft ceramic composite formulations - Engineered for flexibility and non-brittleness - Maintains integrity on plastic, rubber, and flexible panels

- **10H Ceramic Coatings:**

- Typically based on hard glass-like silica (SiO₂ or SiC)
- High hardness and rigidity (Mohs 9–10)
- **Prone to micro-cracking** on flexible substrates or high-impact zones

Verdict: Advantage: Tribos – Especially for real-world automotive surfaces that experience vibration, flex, and exposure to varying temperatures.

2. Application & User-Friendliness –

- **Tribos Coatings:** -

- Designed as a wipe-on-buff-off for glass coating, while for paint coatings is applied similar to using car-care compounding. Compatible with hand or machine application - Less risk of high-spotting, curing failure, or unevenness

- **10H Ceramic Coatings:**

- Requires precise humidity/temperature control
- Risk of crystallization or improper curing
- Often needs professional application with IR lamps

Verdict: Advantage: Tribos – Reduced training and equipment overhead; suitable for mobile and in-shop detailers alike.

3. Surface Protection –

- **Tribos Coatings:** -

- Excellent UV resistance, hydrophobicity, and brake-dust shielding - Resists chemical etching and water spotting - Offers up to 6-months for glass and



headlights and more than 2 years of effective protection for paint coatings depending on surface and use

- **10H Ceramic Coatings:**

- Superior scratch resistance
- Excellent for static applications and paint show cars
- Long-lasting (up to 5 years), but dependent on correct application and maintenance

Verdict: *Balanced View:* 10H coatings may offer superior hardness, but Tribos offers real-world performance with easier reapplication cycles.

4. Aesthetic Finish –

- **Tribos Coatings: -**

- Deep gloss and wet-look finish - Enhances visual richness without brittleness or surface fogging

- **10H Ceramic Coatings:**

- High gloss but can appear overly glassy or cold
- May show micro-mar damage more clearly due to hardness

Verdict: *Advantage: Tribos* – A more natural gloss that complements both modern and classic car paint tones.

5. Maintenance and Upkeep –

- **Tribos Coatings: -**

- Compatible with low-alkaline shampoos and basic care routines - Easier to top-up or reapply in segments

- **10H Ceramic Coatings:**

- Requires specific pH-neutral or ceramic-safe shampoos
- Repairing damaged sections usually requires full recoating

Verdict: *Advantage: Tribos* – Lower cost of ownership and maintenance complexity.

Conclusion for Dealers

Tribos coatings are designed to perform in the real-world environment where cars experience temperature shifts, road debris, and frequent washes. While 10H coatings serve a niche in ultra-hard protection, they are less forgiving and more demanding. Tribos offers a compelling, profitable, and customer-friendly alternative that balances performance, ease of use, and appearance.

Recommendation: “Tribos gives your car a professional-grade finish with real-world flexibility. It’s easier to maintain, safer to apply, and looks fantastic—without the risk of cracks or high-maintenance costs.”