

Japan's Nissan is developing 'cool paint' for cars to keep drivers cooler

August 6 2024, by Yuri Kageyama



Credit: Nissan

Nissan showed Tuesday what it called a "cool paint" to keep people inside vehicles cooler, although the coating is six times thicker, making commercialization still a challenge.

The company's [announcement](#) Tuesday was timely, coming as Japan was enduring record sweltering temperatures.

Nissan Motor Co. tested the paint on vehicles scuttling around Tokyo's Haneda airport, where there are plenty of unshaded areas that make it a good place to assess the technology.

The vehicles with the special paint looked like ordinary cars, but felt much cooler to the touch.

The cool paint lowered the cars' roof-panel temperature by 12 degrees Celsius (22 degrees Fahrenheit) and the interiors by 5 C (9 F), according to Nissan.

Cooling materials are already widely used in buildings and other items. [Cooler cars can reduce use of air-conditioning and relieve the toll from heat on engines and electric vehicle batteries.](#)

[Toyota Motor Corp.](#) has also been experimenting with paint that delivers lower cabin temperatures, mostly focusing on colors that refract the sun's rays.

Nissan's cool paint reflects sunlight better and also creates [electromagnetic waves](#) that block the rays, redirecting energy away from vehicles.

Nissan's paint was developed with Radi-Cool of China, which developed a film, fabric and coating that cut heat. Radi-Cool works with various other Japanese companies, offering cooler-feeling hats and sun parasols. Nissan is the only Japanese automaker partnering with Radi-Cool.

Susumu Miura, a Nissan Research Center manager, said there were no discernable negative effects to people's health from the electromagnetic

waves emitted by the [paint](#). Such waves are all around us, he said.

"My dream is to create cooler cars without consuming energy," he said.

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