

CARE & MAINTENANCE OF VINYL VEHICLE GRAPHICS

Vehicle graphics

To properly care for your vehicle graphics, take the following precautions:

- Do not allow fuels to stay in contact with the vinyl for extended periods of time.
- Clean all spills as soon as possible.
- Wash your vehicle weekly to keep road grime and debris from causing wear on the vehicle graphics. Follow the washing guidelines below.

Window graphics (vinyl or perforated film)

To properly care for your window graphics, take the following precautions:

- Do not use the heating or defrosting element.
- Do not use the window wipers.
- Do not open or roll down the windows.
- Do not use window scrapers.

Washing guidelines

Hand washing: This is the best way to wash your vehicle graphics.

- Use a soft, non-abrasive cloth and mild (solvent- and alcohol-free) cleaner. Always test any cleaning solution on a small section of the vinyl graphics before using. Always read the warning labels on car care products for proper safety instructions.
- Avoid unnecessary scrubbing that could damage your vehicle graphics.
- Do not wash with a mechanical brush. Brushes can cause vinyl graphics to chip or peel around the edges and scratch the surface. They can also cause the graphic to fade and dull the appearance of the clear coat of over-laminate.
- Remove stubborn contaminants with a non-abrasive citrus-based cleaner, mineral spirits, or isopropyl alcohol. Always test any product on a small, inconspicuous section of the vinyl before using.
- Rinse immediately and thoroughly with clean water.
- Let the vehicle air dry or dry with a clean, microfiber cloth.
- Hand wax the vehicle graphics every 2 to 3 months to keep your graphics protected from the elements. Do not use a buffer. Use a synthetic wax or polish designed for vinyl vehicle graphics, such as Turtle Wax® Ice® or CrystalTek™ Wrap Polish. Always test any product on a small, inconspicuous section of the vinyl before using, and follow manufacturer's directions and suggestions for frequency.

Automatic car wash: The next best method of washing your vehicle graphics is a commercial "touch free" car wash.

- Select a car wash that uses a soft cloth or a foam washing wheel.
- Avoid facilities that use excessive pressure in their sprays.
- Skip the heated drying process.
- Even if you visit an automatic car wash often, hand wash your vehicle periodically to keep your graphics residue-free.

Pressure washing: This method should only be used when all other cleaning methods have been exhausted. Pressure washing can cause the graphics to lift around the edges and peel away from the vehicle. To minimize this problem:

- Angle the nozzle at 45° to the graphics. Sharp spray angles can cause the vinyl graphics to lift.
- Make sure water is not directed at the seams or edges of your vehicle graphic.
- Use cool water (temperature 72°F ± 5°F).
- Use a wide spray pattern on the spray nozzle (40° wide).
- Hold the spray nozzle a minimum of 15" from the vehicle graphics.
- Use a water pressure of ≤800 psi.
- Limit the time in which one particular stubborn spot is sprayed to 30 seconds or less.

Minor vinyl repair

During the life of the graphics, you may experience some minor lifting of the vinyl in certain small areas. These areas can and should be fixed as soon as possible. Contact us for instructions.

Major vinyl repair

If your vehicle graphics become damaged in an accident or due to abuse or vandalism, they can be replaced. To get the best color match, the entire side or rear of the affected vehicle graphic may need to be replaced. Partial replacement is also an option. Contact us to arrange for purchase and installation of the replacement graphics.

