



Authorised Vehicle Wrapper
Graphics Products

Vehicle Wrap Care Guide

Vehicle wraps aren't meant to be installed and forgotten. Like the rest of your vehicle, your vehicle wrap requires regular cleaning and maintenance. For longer-lasting, vibrant colour, wash your wrap on a regular basis and keep your vehicle away from possible pollutants. Here are answers to some common questions customers have about cleaning vehicle wraps.

How often should I wash my vehicle wrap?

Wash your wrap once a week or more often if your vehicle is exposed to a lot of dirt or pollutants. You should hand wash it using 3M™ Car Wash Soap 39000, or Meguiar's NXT Generation® Car Wash or Deep Crystal® Car Wash. You can use another gentle automotive detergent if necessary – any good brand will work. Always use a nice automotive sponge or clean, soft cloth to wash your wrap. Rinse vehicle with clear water after washing. Minimize water spotting by using a silicone squeegee or chamois to remove water. Dry with a clean microfiber cloth.

Can I take my wrapped vehicle into a drive-through car wash?

You can bring your wrapped vehicle to an automated brushless car wash, though hand washing is safer and more thorough. Brush car washes may be too rough on the film, degrading it and causing peeling and lifted edges. Avoid hot wax gloss settings where possible. If a car wash uses only water spray and no brushes, it should be safe for most wraps.

What should I use for spot cleaning?

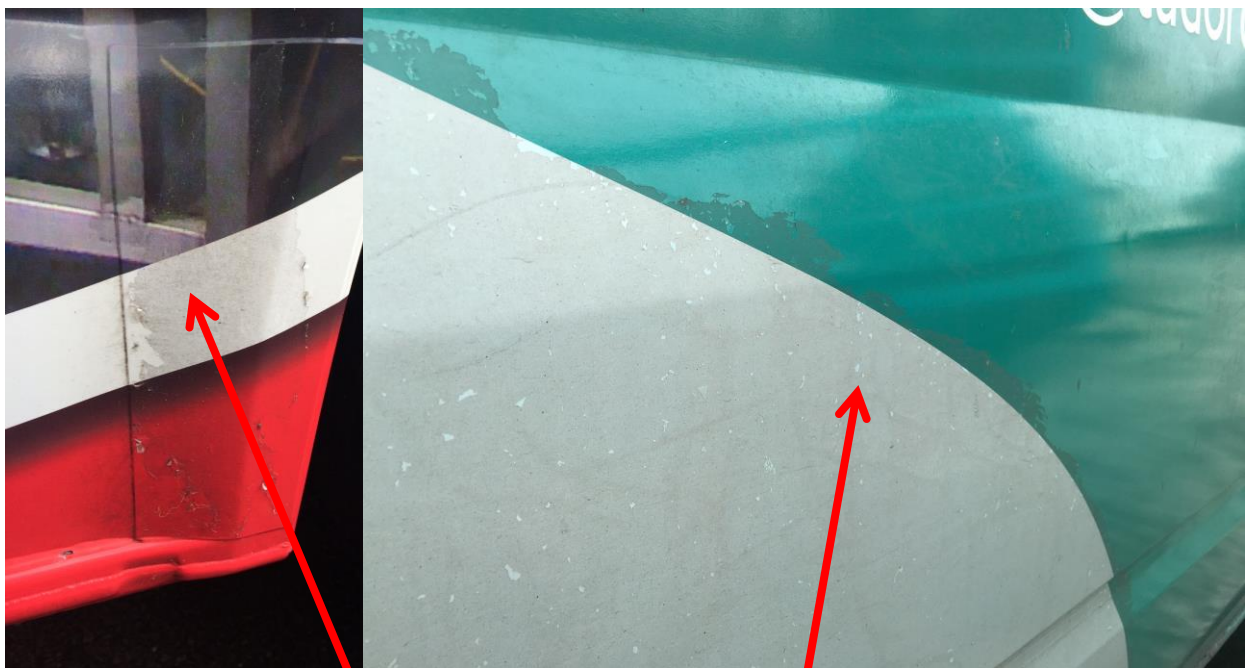
Use Simple Green® or isopropyl rubbing alcohol to spot clean isolated stains. Rinse area with cool water after cleaning. Don't use tyre dressing to spot clean as it may splash on the wrap and cause stains. Avoid wiping the wrap when it's hot; this can distort the material and cause wrinkling.

Can I Pressure Wash my Vehicle Wrap?

We do not recommend power / pressure washing, due to the risk of damaging the graphics. Dirt, and general road grime, does not stick to the PVC-based over-laminates used to protect our graphic films. Therefore, power washing is simply not necessary.

We appreciate that due to time constraints, hand washing may not always be feasible. If you have to pressure wash your vehicle wrap, you must follow the following guidelines in order to maintain your warranty. Please see examples of over-laminates damaged by power-washing below. Any damage caused due to not following the below instructions will not be covered by PopIn Graphics' warranty.

Power-washing lance has been held too close to the wrap, which has blasted away the outer layer of laminate and left adhesive behind. Over time, dirt has stuck to the adhesive and left a dark mark on the wrap.



Around wheel arches is a common area where laminate damage can occur, as it is where the vehicle gets dirtiest. It is imperative not to use a jet wash or power wash too close to the vehicle, as damage will occur to the wrap. Laminate will be blasted off and adhesive left behind, where dirt can stick and cause a darker area.

In our experience, these bulletins rarely make it into the possession of the workers conducting the cleaning. We cannot stress enough the importance of this bulletin being passed to the fleet manager, and thus distributed to anyone who may be involved in the cleaning of your 3M Wraps. Excessive pressure during power washing can damage the graphic by allowing water to get underneath the graphic. Water lessens the adhesion of the graphic to the substrate allowing the graphic to lift or curl. These problems are magnified by wind.

To avoid edge lifting or other damage to the graphics, follow these important steps:

- Use a spray nozzle with a 40° wide spray pattern
- Be sure the spray nozzle includes a nozzle protector (tip guard)
- Use a pressure of 2000 psi or less
- If the system is heated, limit the water temperature to 180°F (82°C) or less
- Hold nozzle at least 12 inches (300 mm) away from and perpendicular (90° +/- 10) to the graphic
- Do not direct the water stream at a sharp angle to the edge of the graphic

Hand Washing Exterior Graphics

Hand washing is highly recommended, but certain steps must be followed in order to maintain the original finish of the vehicle graphics.

- Flush the graphic with clean water to remove loose dirt particles. A trigger-type hose nozzle is convenient for this purpose.
- Use a mild liquid detergent and water solution and wash the graphic with a soft brush, rag or sponge
- Wash thoroughly from the top down
- Avoid abrading the graphic by unnecessary scrubbing
- After applying the cleaning solution, keep a steady stream of water flowing on the graphic to wash away dirt particles
- Rinse the entire graphic thoroughly with clean water
- Allow to dry naturally

How Do I Clean Bird Droppings, Insects, Tree Sap or Other Difficult Stains?

Clean bird droppings and difficult stains immediately. Letting them sit for too long will make them harder to remove and may permanently damage the wrap. Soak the affected area for a few minutes with warm, soapy water to loosen the contaminants. Rinse completely and dry with a microfiber cloth. For stubborn contaminants, use denatured alcohol, 3M™ Citrus Base Cleaner, Meguiar's Gold Class™ Bug and Stain Remover or two parts isopropyl alcohol to one part water. Always test these solutions on a small area that's not easily noticeable to ensure the cleaner will not harm the wrap. Do not use solvents or oil based cleaning products!

What Should I Do about Gas or Fuel Spills?

Wipe off fuel spills immediately, then hand wash the affected area. Letting the spill stay the wrap too long will degrade the vinyl. A quick wipe with a wet paper towel at a gas station will clean the fuel affected area decently enough until you can get home to do a more thorough job.

Can I Park my Vehicle Outdoors for Long Periods?

Excessive amounts of time under the sun or other outdoor elements (rain, smog, debris and road pollutants from passing cars) can degrade the wrap on the roof, boot lid and bonnet.

These horizontal areas are a magnet for pollutants, which are intensified by UV ray exposure. Try your best to park your car in a garage or under a canopy or shelter. If you must park it outside for prolonged periods, look for shady parking areas.

What products should I avoid when cleaning my wrap?

Never, EVER use any of the following cleaning products on your wrap:

- Solvents and oil based cleaners
- Kitchen & Bathroom Cleaners
- Oven cleaner
- Orange Oil
- Engine Degreaser

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