

The Dos And Don'ts of Cleaning Applied Vinyl Vehicle Graphics

The Dos

The following practices will help maintain the life and quality of the vinyl film:

- Wash applied vinyl graphics with a blend of clean water and a mild care wash or detergent (i.e. Dawn®, Joy® or Ivory®)
- Test any cleaning solution on a small section of the vinyl graphic before using
- Always read the warning labels on car care products for proper safety instructions
- Once you've washed the vehicle with a soapy water blend, rinse with clean water
- Either let the vehicle air dry or dry off with a microfiber cloth

The Don'ts

Indications of vinyl failure can include loss of gloss level, fading, embrittling, cracking, chipping or peeling around graphic edges. The following practices will result in deterioration of the vinyl film:

- Do not allow fuels to stay in contact with the vinyl for extended periods of time. Clean all spills as soon as possible
- Do not use automated car washes, truck washes using caustic cleaners or pressure washers to clean your vehicle
- Do not apply carnauba-based wax over vinyl graphics
- Do not apply any type of wax or polish to matte or carbon fiber-finished vinyls
- Do not use mechanical brush washing

Use of an automated car wash will void the warranty. See warranty information.

Proper Care of Perforated Window Graphics (vehicle)

It is relatively inexpensive to replace window graphics. Never compromise safety. Always ensure maximum visibility.

- Avoid using the rear windshield wiper and only use when absolutely necessary, as it will scratch the laminate over time and reduce visibility. It is best to clean any grime and sediment from your rear window with a wet squeegee to avoid scratching
- Avoid using your rear defroster, use only when absolutely necessary as it can potentially reduce the lifespan of the see through perforated window film
- Avoid frequent rolling of windows with graphics in order to avoid scratching
- Do not use an ice scraper on any window that is covered with vinyl specially perforated window film as it could scratch and damage the graphics

Keep in mind that these are simple guidelines for extending the life of your window graphics. In matters of safety, common sense should always prevail to ensure maximum visibility at all times.

Proper Care of Perforated Window Graphics (storefront)

- Wash graphics with a blend of clean water and a mild care wash or detergent (i.e. Dawn®, Joy® or Ivory®)
- Test any cleaning solution on a small section of the vinyl graphic before using
- Always read the warning labels on car care products for proper safety instructions
- Once you've washed the vehicle with a soapy water blend, rinse with clean water

Concerns About Pressure Washing Vinyl Vehicle Graphics

Pressure washing should only be used when no other cleaning methods are available. Keep the following in mind while performing this type of cleaning.

- Repeated pressure washing can cause the vinyl graphics to lift around the edges and peel away from the vehicle, especially if the spray is at a sharp angle to the vinyl edge (See Diagram 1A)
- Over time, pressure washing can degrade the face film, causing the graphic to lose its luster, fade, crack and even chip away from the substrate

To prolong the life of the applied vehicle graphic when choosing to pressure wash, consider the following (based on vertical application).

- Water temperature: 67°F-77°F
- Spray nozzle opening: 40° wide pattern.
- Spray angle: 45°
- Angle of graphic: 90° (vertical)
- Distance from graphic: 15"
- Water pressure: ≤ 800 PSI
- Length of time: 30 seconds

Aim the spray pattern at a slight angle to the edge of the vinyl graphic. (See Diagram 1B) ***Under no circumstances should a turbo pressure nozzle be used when pressure washing applied vehicle graphics.***

Use of an automated car wash will void the warranty.
See warranty information.

How to Remove Difficult Pollutants or Debris From Applied Vehicle Graphics

When normal cleaning procedures don't work to remove difficult debris from your applied vehicle graphics, try the following:

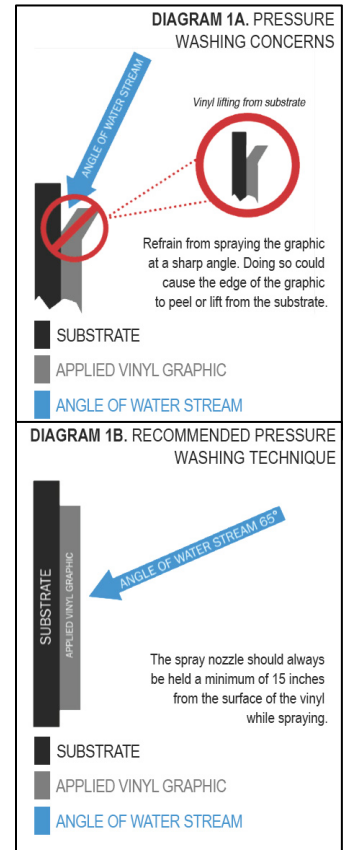
- Spot clean the area with Isopropyl Alcohol and a microfiber rag
- Moisten a rag with a citrus-based cleaner and naphtha. Wipe down the problem areas. Immediately after using the citrus cleaner and naphtha, rinse the area with water and soap.

If these cleaning methods do not work on problem areas, please contact us for more helpful tips and information.

How to Properly Hand-Wash Vinyl Vehicle Graphics

Supplies needed:

- Garden hose with standard spray nozzle attachment
- Clean bucket
- Mild car wash detergent
- Soft cotton or microfiber sponge
- Dry microfiber clothes





Steps:

1. Rinse the graphic with water to wash away any loose sediments, dust or dirt using your garden hose with spray nozzle attachment
2. Mix together water and mild car wash detergent into your bucket. *(Make sure the bucket is free of dirt and small rocks as these will scratch your car and or vinyl graphics)*
3. Soak your sponge with the water and soap mixture
4. Clean the graphic starting from the top working down to the bottom. This will allow the dirty, contaminated water to run downward
5. Rinse the graphic with clean water using the hose with spray nozzle attachment
6. Once the graphic is rinsed off with water, allow it to air dry. You may also use a microfiber cloth to dry the graphic
7. Once dry, for added protection, you may apply a silicone or Teflon-based polish designed for vinyl vehicle graphics. *(Read and follow product manufactures directions and suggestions for frequency)*

General Information

This information is based on our knowledge and experience. We have not explained all aspects of application. Specialized or occupational knowledge and competence of a professional sign maker are presupposed. Due to the diversity of potential influencing factors during application and use, we recommend customers test products when the films will be used for special applications. No legally binding warranty of certain qualities can be derived from our information.