

Maintenance of Vehicle Graphics

Cleaning of Printed Graphics with an Overlaminate



Detergent/Soap

Use a non-abrasive soap designed for cleaning painted vehicles. The cleaner needs to have a pH level between 3 and 11 and contain no strong solvents.



Automatic Brush Washing

Automatic car washes can be used, however, keep in mind that the brushes involved can catch any loose edges and cause more damage. The brushes will also scratch and dull the finish of the graphics.



Removal of Difficult Contaminants

There are some contaminants that cannot be removed by the previous washing methods such as oil, tar, pollen, fungus and others. There are cleaning solutions that may be used in these cases.

1. Oil, tar and other petroleum-based contaminants can be removed with a citrus-based cleanser. Some products available are Rapid Remover® and 3M Citrus Based Cleaner®. Rinse immediately with mild soapy water followed by clean water.
2. Pollen and fungus can be removed with common household strength bleach. Rinse immediately with mild soapy water followed by clean water.
3. Waxy substances such as crayon or lipstick can be removed with the appropriate solvent. Rinse immediately with mild soapy water followed by clean water.

Power Washing

Power washing can be used if done carefully. Do not use excessive pressure when washing the vehicle. Too much power will result in the lifting and curling of the graphic's edge. Edge curl is more common in perforated window films. There are several ways to avoid using excessive pressure.

Follow the steps listed below to prevent any such damage:

1. Hold the nozzle at a 90 degree angle to the graphic
2. Hold the tip of the nozzle at least 12" away from the vehicle surface
3. Use a spray nozzle with a 40 degree wide spray pattern
4. Do not use any more than 2000 psi

Hand Washing Exterior Graphics

Hand washing is the preferred method of cleaning the wrapped vehicle. Wash the vehicle graphics just like you should wash any painted vehicle.

Follow the steps listed below:

1. Rinse off any loose dirt from the vehicle with clean water
2. Only use a mild liquid detergent mixed with water
3. Use a soft brush or sponge
4. Excessive scrubbing with a brush or sponge will result in a dulling of the laminated surface
5. Rinse soapy residue and dirt particles from vehicle with clean running water
6. Let vehicle air dry