

## Care and Maintenance of Vinyl Vehicle Graphics

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### Caring for your vehicle graphics

Here are a few tips to help your vehicle graphics survive:

- Never wash your vehicle in a car wash, the brushes scratch the top surface of the vinyl and will drastically reduce the life of your vehicle signage.
  - Never use "Touch Free" car washes, the high pressure jets can lift edges and corners of the print and reduce its life.
  - Always wash your vehicle with a mild cleaner (low chemical ingredients).
  - Never use a brush or broom instead always use a sponge or microfibre cloth.
  - Cleaning with a water blaster is not recommended.
  - Never try to "Bring Back" the colour by buffing or using cut and polish.... This will damage the vinyl beyond repair.
  - Extreme UV in NZ is one of the leading causes of damage to vinyl signage and wraps. Try to limit the amount of exposure the wrap receives, where possible, to reduce wear and degradation. For example, try alternating the direction you park each day to spread the wear evenly across the whole wrap, or keeping the vehicle in the shade whenever possible.
- Surface contaminants can also affect your wrap, be especially careful if you are in an area that has a high level of air pollutants, such as near a metal shop or building works, as these can severely damage your wrap if not cleaned regularly.
- Vinyl is very thin and can quite easily be damaged. Avoid rubbing or scuffing it at all costs. Leaning on your car can cause damage to the print, this won't necessarily effect the longevity of the wrap but will keep it looking 100% for longer.

### 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 microfibre sponge
- Diy microfibre cloths

#### Procedure:

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 the mild 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 and scrubbing to the bottom. This will allow the dirty, contaminated water to drip toward the ground.
5. Rinse the graphic with clean water using the hose with spray nozzle attachment.
6. Once the graphic is rinsed off, allow it to air dry. You may also use a microfibre 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 manufacturer's directions and suggestions for frequency.)

### Concerns about pressure washing

Pressure washing should only be used when all other cleaning methods have been exhausted. Keep the following in mind while performing this type of cleaning...

- Pressure washing can cause the vinyl graphics to lift around the edges and peel away from the vehicle.
- Over time, pressure washing can degrade the face film causing the graphic to lose its lustre, fade, crack and even chip away from the substrate.

Use extreme care when aiming the water spray toward the edge of the vinyl graphic. Sharp spray angles can cause vinyl graphic to lift from vehicle. Absolutely under NO circumstances should a turbo pressure nozzle be used when pressure washing applied vehicle graphics.

### Waxes and Polishes

Carnauba wax can have a detrimental effect on PVC vinyl in general. It can dry the plasticizers out from within the vinyl. This in essence accelerates the aging process in the end can leave the vinyl hazy, dry and cracked.

A2Z Print solutions does not recommend using any waxes or polishes on any of its vinyls or medias.