

Practical Information

Care and Maintenance of Vinyl Vehicle Graphics



2359 ROUTE 414 SUITE D WATERLOO, NY 13165 315-539-3484 FAX 315-539-3485

www.pilatdesign.com

The Do's and Don'ts of cleaning applied vinyl vehicle graphics

Vehicle graphics that are located in industrialized, heavily polluted or low lying areas should take care to protect their graphics from the "fallout" phenomenon. ORACAL® recommends frequently rinsing the graphics with a mild soap-and-water mixture. For information about "fallout," go to www.oracal.com —> Support —> Product Bulletins.

The Do's

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 car wash, Dawn®, Joy®, or Ivory® detergent.
- 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 the soapy water blend, rinse it with clean water.
- Either let the vehicle air dry or use a microfiber cloth.

The Don'ts

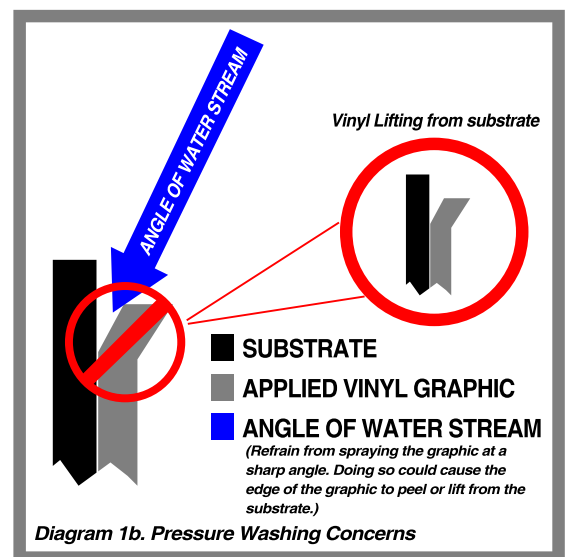
The following practices will result in deterioration of the vinyl film. Indications of vinyl failure can include loss of gloss level, fading, embrittling, cracking, chipping, or peeling around graphic edges:

- 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 finish vinyl.
- Do not use mechanical brush washing.

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 1b.)



- Over time, repeated 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 sec.



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