VINYL WRAP AFTERCARE GUIDE

IMMEDIATE AFTERCARE

To ensure the best results and longevity of your vinyl wrap, please follow these steps. Immediately after installation, do not wash your vehicle for at least 5 days after the wrap has been applied. This allows the adhesive to fully cure and ensures proper bonding. Avoid heavy rain, pressure washing, or abrasive conditions during this curing period. If water spots, dust, or debris appear within the first few days, gently wipe the area with a soft microfiber cloth.

ONGOING MAINTENANCE & CLEANING TIPS

Proper care will extend the life and appearance of your vinyl wrap. How often should I clean my wrapped vehicle? It is recommended to hand wash your vehicle weekly to maintain its condition and finish. Regular cleaning prevents build-up of contaminants such as dust, dirt, and pollutants which can degrade the wrap over time. What is the safest way to wash my wrapped vehicle? Hand wash only or Brushless automated carwash – avoid drive-through car washes with bristles. Use a soft sponge or microfiber mitt, mild automotive detergent, and lukewarm water. Rinse thoroughly with clean water and dry using a soft microfiber towel to prevent water spots. Can I use a pressure washer? Pressure washers are not recommended, but if used, follow these precautions, keep the nozzle at least 1 metre (3 feet) away from the surface. Use a wide-angle spray pattern (40°) and avoid seams or edges. Never spray against the edges or lift points of the wrap.

FINISH-SPECIFIC CARE
Satin Finishes Do not use wax, polish, or any gloss-enhancing products on satin finishes. Use cleaning products specifically designed for matte wraps to avoid shine or uneven texture. Gloss finishes can be treated with wrap-safe detail sprays or synthetic sealants for added protection and shine. Avoid abrasive waxes or compounds on all finishes.

ADDITIONAL TIPS
Park in the shade or a garage whenever possible to protect the wrap from prolonged UV exposure. Clean bird droppings, tree sap, and fuel spills immediately to prevent staining or damage. Avoid scraping ice or snow from the wrap with hard tools.

THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR AFTER 2-3 YEARS OF HAVING A VINYL WRAP

Over time, vinyl wraps are naturally exposed to environmental elements, especially UV rays, which can impact the look and performance of the material. Being aware of early signs of wear can help prevent permanent vehicle damage and reduce the cost of wrap removal or replacement.

1. UV DAMAGE – EARLY WARNING SIGNS

-Fading: One of the first signs of UV damage. Colours may appear dull or less vibrant, especially on exposed panels like bonnets, roofs, and mirrors.
-Discolouration: Look for uneven colouring, yellowing, or dark spots — typically caused by long-term sun exposure or chemical buildup.
-Gloss Degradation: Gloss wraps may lose their shine and become patchy or hazy.
-Satin Deformation: Matte wraps can develop inconsistent sheen or spots that look polished or shiny.

TIP: Park undercover, use a car cover, or rotate the vehicle's parking position periodically to minimise UV concentration on any one area.

2. BURNING & CRACKING

Surface Burning Vinyl can harden and begin to look scorched or brittle If wraps are left exposed and uncared for beyond 2–3 years without proper maintenance. Cracking & Splitting. The material may begin to break apart, especially around edges and raised contours. Adhesive Failure: As vinyl deteriorates, the adhesive can bond too tightly to the vehicle's clear coat, making removal much more labour-intensive and increasing the risk of paint damage.

⚠ **WARNING**: Burned or cracked vinyl becomes significantly harder and more expensive to remove, often requiring heat, chemicals, or even sanding in extreme cases.

3. HOW TO PREVENT LONG-TERM DAMAGE

Inspect regularly: Every few months, look over the surface of your wrap for any signs of the issues above.
-Maintain a cleaning routine: Keeping your wrap clean helps prevent buildup that accelerates UV degradation.
-Re-wrap high-risk areas: If one or two panels are showing advanced wear, consider replacing them early to protect the paint underneath and avoid full-wrap costs later.
-Store properly: Where possible, store the vehicle in a garage or shaded location — especially during summer months.

3. PPF - PAINT PROTECTION FILM

PPF can also be applied over the top of the vinyl wrap for longer lasting protection - PPF film Blocks UV rays from penetrating the wrap, drastically reducing the chance of fading, yellowing, or colour shift. This helps extend the lifespan of vinyl wraps — especially on sun-exposed areas like roofs, bonnets.

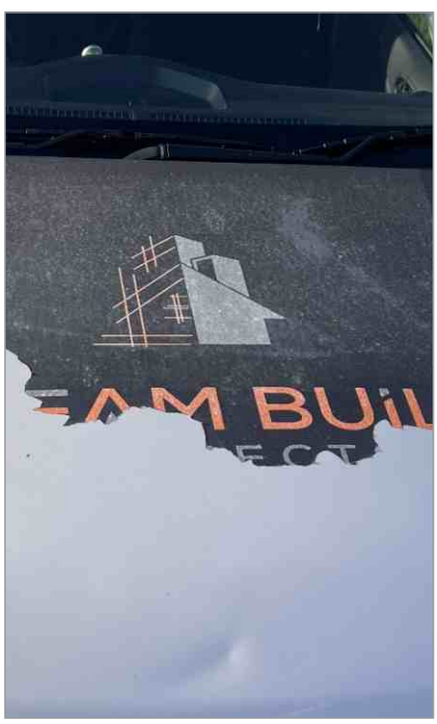
Many modern PPF films are made with a self-healing topcoat that uses heat (from the sun or warm water) to heal fine scratches and swirl marks automatically.
Dirt, bird droppings, bugs, and other contaminants are less likely to stick and are easier to wash off. Some PPFs are even hydrophobic, repelling water and grime more effectively.

Cost-effective long-term, although an added upfront investment, PPF saves money by reducing the frequency of re-wrapping and can be applied only on exposed panels (e.g., bonnet, roof etc)

IS IT WORTH IT OVER A WRAP?
Yes — especially if: The vehicle is frequently parked outdoors. You've invested in a premium wrap design or finish. You want to retain resale value by preserving the condition of both the wrap and paint. You're trying to avoid high removal costs caused by UV-burned vinyl.

UV FADING ON A BONNET & ROOF (2-3 YEARS DIRECT SUNLIGHT DAILY)

Removal of UV fading as pictured below is savable and is as about as far as you want to let your wrap get before it becomes a costly process to remove

CRACKED & BURNT VINYL (3+ YEARS DIRECT SUNLIGHT DAILY)

Cracked and burnt vinyl after the damage UV stage becomes a very lengthy expensive process, along with a hi risk of the adhesive damaging your paint work underneath the vinyl wrap surface.