

technical bulletin

Date: 06/10/2008

Re: Graphics – Matte Finish Care

Due to the non-gloss surface properties of Matte colors, additional maintenance and care is required. Matte vinyl surfaces may retain light scratches/abrasions through the life of the installed product. We do not recommend waxing/polishing over Matte products.

Be that as it may, while one may be careful when polishing adjacent finish surfaces, wax and wax residue may inadvertently settle on Matte products.

The best way to remove wax from matte vinyl surfaces is to use an all-purpose cleaner. Agitating the cleaner by gently scrubbing the surface with a soft bristle brush, like a toothbrush, may help break up the wax.

Once you've cleaned the vinyl surface, you can bring back the natural lustre and help protect it with an application of a rubber, vinyl and plastic conditioner and protectant like Mothers Protectant (offered in the Car Care section of our website).

Please note the following graphic care recommendations for Matte vinyl surfaces:

1. DO wash the graphics with plain soap (silicone free) and water. Be sure to rinse thoroughly.
2. DO keep high-pressure spray nozzles at least 1 1/2 feet from the edge of the graphics. High-pressure spray may cause the edge of the graphic to lift and peel.
3. DO test any cleaning solution on a small section of the graphic before using.
4. DO dry the graphics after washing to prevent spotting (i.e., calcium deposits).
5. DON'T use any aromatic solvents such as acetone, M.E.K., toluene, paint thinner or lacquer thinner on the graphics. Solvents may soften the vinyl and smear colors.
6. DON'T let gasoline or other fuels drip or stay on the graphics for any length of time. If a spill occurs, wipe off and rinse with water immediately.
7. DON'T apply paint or clearcoat over the graphics.
8. DON'T apply wax over the graphics, especially if the wax contains any petroleum distillates and/or silicones. Wax that has dried along the edge of a graphic can be removed with cotton swabs after softening it with isopropyl alcohol. Be sure to rinse the area thoroughly after cleaning.

For areas that may have road tar, our **Bug & Tar Remover** may be used, however, take care to wash these areas well with soap and water immediately after treatment. Petroleum distillates in the remover may soften and damage graphic products if left to set.

Lastly, automatic car wash facilities, at times, have their jets set at high pressures that can peel graphics and emblems off of finished vehicle surfaces. Thus, we suggest checking with the car wash attendant to see if their car wash is set for suggested vehicle graphic pressures. Furthermore, most traditional wash products are buffered acids or caustics that clean by etching vehicle surfaces. Not only do these prove toxic to the environment and to those who come in contact with them, but they can also affect the life of vinyl graphics. It has always been our position that hand washing is the best method to care for vehicle and graphic products.

For further information in regard to this Bulletin, please feel free to contact us.

Auto Trim DESIGN

920-832-0094