

technical bulletin

Date: 08/02/2006

Re: Graphics – Washing, Waxing & Polishing Alert

Recommended cleaning procedures for graphic products offered on our site consist simply of washing as you would the rest of the vehicle.

However, car soaps such as our **Wash & Wax** product, may contain silicone agents that, when exposed to sunlight, acts as a catalyst which deteriorates vinyl products at a quicker rate. This is especially the case on horizontal graphic applications.

Thus, please note the following graphic care recommendations:

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.
9. DO apply a non-silicone based polish, such as our **Rod & Custom Show Gloss Crème** over the graphics for initial product protection. Moreover, DO apply such polish on a regular basis (at least 1-2 times per year) for continual protection.

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.

In regard to waxes/polishes, we do not recommend use of such products on graphic items we offer. Most waxes and/or polishes on the market contain petroleum distillates and/or silicone agents. As noted above, these active ingredients will soften, deteriorate and may even lift the product. In cases where Kerosene is used within the wax/polish, yellowing will occur after prolonged use. To find out what ingredients are in the product you've been using, simply request MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) documentation. Any reputable manufacturer/supplier will

have them available for inspection. If product ingredients are questionable, you may be better off not using it.

The only product we encourage customers to use on graphic items we provide, as well as the rest of the vehicle, is Rod & Custom Show Gloss Crème. While a portion of it's ingredients (less than 1%) consists of Naphtha & Paint Thinner, Rod & Custom Show Gloss Crème is a non-silicone water-based urethane product that is guaranteed never to yellow the surface it's applied to. Rod & Custom Show Gloss Crème also works well on Chrome, Glass, Gold & Brass. It will protect new graphics and has been successful in the restoration of faded graphics.

Thus, proper care of graphic items include regular application (at least 1-2 times per year) of Rod & Custom Show Gloss Crème, especially on horizontally applied graphics such as Hood, Roofs and Rear Lids.

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.

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