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# Vehicle Wrap Aftercare Guide

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# KPMF Vehicle Wrap Aftercare

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## 1. KPMF Vehicle Wrap

Your KPMF wrap is a specialist PVC film which is made up of specialist automotive pigments, resins, plasticisers and various stabiliser packages to ensure the film has maximum durability.

The film will provide protection for the underlying paint surface but, is not indestructible and will benefit from good aftercare to ensure it looks its best for as long as possible.

## 2. Preparing to Clean your Vehicle

When preparing to clean the car, as with standard car paint, do not spray anything onto the wrap while it is hot.

## 3. Cleaning your Vehicle Wrap

Excessive or over vigorous cleaning can damage the integrity of the film by washing out key components of the matrix, so after application do not clean the vinyl with solvents, solvent based cleaners, oil based cleaners or any abrasive cleaners such as kitchen or bathroom cleaning products.

We discourage the use of power washes, steam cleaning and washing systems involving chemicals since all of these can accelerate damage to any vinyl product by leaching out essential components. If you must pressure wash your vehicle, keep the pressure below 140 bar (2,000 psi) and the water temperature below 60°C (140°F). Use a spray nozzle with a 40 degree wide angle spray pattern at 90° to the surface of the wrap and at least 12 inches away from the car edges.

For the best results you should wash your vehicle weekly, or more often if it is exposed to a lot of dirt or pollutants, using a gentle pH neutral automotive car shampoo. Wash with a good automotive sponge or clean, soft cloth, then after washing, rinse the vehicle with clear water. Water spotting can be minimized by using a chamois leather to remove residual water. Finally dry all surfaces with a clean microfiber cloth.

Wash and wax type products can lead to a build-up on the surface of the vinyl that will make it appear cloudy, blotchy or uneven. Always use a pH neutral car shampoo product for regular washes. For matt wraps shampoo should be wax and gloss enhancer free. The occasional use of an alkaline wash, like Surface Prep Wash can actually be beneficial to matt vinyl as it removes unwanted waxes and oils from the finish.

You can use an automated brushless car wash, but hand washing is safer and yields better results. Car washes that use brushes may be too aggressive, degrading the film and could cause failures such as peeling and lifted edges.

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As with the original paint on a vehicle, letting stains remain too long will make them harder to remove and may permanently damage the wrap. Clean bird droppings and difficult stains, which can be highly acidic, as soon as possible by soaking them with hot, soapy water to loosen the contaminants, then rinse completely and dry with a microfiber cloth. For stubborn contaminants, use two parts isopropyl alcohol to one part water.

Avoid cleaning with strong solvents or products containing solvents unless absolutely necessary as they can cause discoloration, bubbling, cracking and other issues.

Cleaners containing glycol or butyl acetate should be avoided completely.

Petroleum distillates, should also be avoided, specifically those found in bug and tar removers and similar cleaners as they have the potential to damage vinyl surfaces quickly with minimal exposure.

Always test any solutions on a small area that is not easily noticeable to ensure the cleaner will not harm the wrap.

Clean off fuel spills immediately, then hand wash the affected area. Letting the spill stay on the wrap for too long will degrade the vinyl.

#### 4. **Gloss Vehicle Wrap**

Once cleaned, the surface of a gloss wrap can be polished/protected with a conventional car wax product. If absolutely necessary, scuffmarks should be removed by a gentle rub with "T-Cut" cutting compound, the gloss brought back by re-heating the vinyl, followed by the application of a wax based polish. Never use heavy abrasives like cutting polishes, compounds or similar products as they can change the level of gloss on some vinyl or discolour others. This includes the use of polishing tools with abrasive pads.

#### 5. **Matt Vehicle Wrap**

For a matt wrap the objective is to clean it and keep the matt finish as original as possible. This removes any need to purchase waxes or polishes which are usually intended to create a gloss finish.

It is best practice to never try and wipe down any surface, particularly not a matt wrap surface, without some sort of cleaner or lubricant. Having a quick detail spray allows you to clean up soft contaminants like finger prints, fresh bird droppings and dust without risking damage to the surface.

For matt wraps shampoo should be wax and gloss enhancer free.



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Under no circumstances should a wax of any kind be applied to matt vinyl as it will discolour the material. It is important to choose products that do not have any waxes, silicone or any other glossing agents in them. Traditional car wash shampoo or detail spray may contain slight amounts of waxes, silicones and optical brighteners to help give glossy cars a better shine when cleaned. It is essential to use only dedicated matt care products.

Use of a matt liquid paint sealant will effectively protect the surface from staining, fading and etching. This type of product has all the properties of a poly-sealant for gloss finishes, without the resultant gloss finish.

The occasional use of an alkaline wash, like Surface Prep Wash can actually be beneficial to matt vinyl as it removes unwanted waxes and oils from the finish.

We recommend always testing any solutions on a small area that is not easily noticeable to ensure the cleaner will not harm the wrap

### 6. **Absolute Matt Products**

Absolute Matt is a premium super matt finish with a soft feel and luxurious appearance.

Cleaning in a standard car wash is not recommended. It is recommended that the Absolute Matt products are washed and dried by hand to ensure all dirt is removed from the surface.

It is best practice to never try and wipe down a matt wrap surface, without some sort of cleaner or lubricant. Having a quick detail spray allows you to clean up soft contaminants like finger prints, fresh bird droppings and dust without risking damage to the surface.

Most matt products are slightly porous and so can hold contaminants or dirt. Difficult stains can be removed by cleaning carefully with isopropyl alcohol and a microfibre towel. We are aware that use of a “magic eraser” can also work well to remove any stubborn stains.

Remember to always test any solutions on a small area that is not easily noticeable to ensure the cleaner will not harm the wrap.

### 7. **Ceramic Coating**

Ceramic coatings create a rigid, outer defence that help shield your wrap from the elements. The installation of ceramic coating to your wrap helps reduce the potential of dirt, dust, pollen, tree sap, bird droppings, insect splatter, and general road grime from sticking to the surface of the wrap.



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KPMF products have been tested with Ceramic Coating and positive results were shown when using Ceramic Pro and Metro Restyling Mfinity. Installers have also used a number of alternative Ceramic Coating products with great success.

Many Ceramic Coating products will add some gloss to the product finish so it is essential to take extra care and test before use on any matt finish products.

Please remember it is extremely important to test a small area that is not easily noticeable to ensure suitability of your chosen product.

### **8. Protection from Outdoor Elements**

Excessive amounts of time under the sun or other outdoor elements (rain, smog and debris, as well as road pollutants from passing cars) can degrade the wrap on horizontal surfaces which are a magnet for pollutants, the effect of which is then intensified by exposure to UV from the sun.

In sunny places it is recommended to park your car in a garage or under a canopy or shelter if possible. If you must park it outside for prolonged periods look for shady parking areas.

Prolonged exposure to acid from pollutants in the air will eventually cause a wrap to discolour. This is typically a result of failure to follow the maintenance suggestions above.

### **9. Warning**

If you do notice brown, discoloured or rust coloured areas on your wrap, this means the area of vinyl affected has begun to degrade, a process which is irreversible. Please remove the film from the affected panel to prevent damage to the paint beneath and rewrap it.

### **10. Warranty**

Kay Premium Marking Films are produced under careful quality control and are warranted to be fit for the purpose and free from defect in material and workmanship. Any material shown to be defective to our satisfaction at the point of sale shall be replaced free of charge. Kay Premium Marking Films Limited liability to the purchaser shall in no circumstances exceed the cost of the amount of the defective material supplied.

This product has been warranted to provide clean removability, under controlled conditions, up to a period of three years from a range of substrates. Clean removability is deemed with less than 30% adhesive residue when using heat and chemical removal methods.

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Exceptions to the removal warranty are those applied to the following: pre-existing graphics, paint which is not properly bonded to the substrate and custom paint applications. There is no guarantee made for: ease or speed of graphic removal, removal from improperly cured paint, removal from oxidized or chalked substrates, or from horizontally exposed outdoor applications. Due to the large variety of available paint finishes, it is advisable to fully evaluate small areas particularly after printing prior to complete applications.

### 11. Material Supply

Supplies of material, training and application advice can be obtained through your local KPMF distributor.

Details of all KPMF Distributors and products can be found on our website at [www.kpmf.com](http://www.kpmf.com)

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