

Overview

Recreational vehicle ("RV") graphics should be cared for in the same way as any fine paint finish. Following the cleaning and maintenance procedures in this document and using high quality 3M products designed specifically for the car care market will help keep 3M RV graphics looking their best.

How and when should RV graphics be cleaned?

Wash the graphics whenever the RV appears dirty. Contaminants that are allowed to remain on the graphic may become more difficult to remove during cleaning.

1. Rinse off as much dirt and grit as possible with a spray of water.
 - See the "Difficult Contaminants" section for instructions on spot cleaning for bird droppings, tar, etc.
2. Clean the RV with a wet, non-abrasive detergent such as 3M™ Car Wash Soap 39000, Meguiar's® NXT Generation® Car Wash, or Meguiar's® Deep Crystal® Car Wash, and a soft, clean cloth or sponge.
3. Rinse the RV thoroughly with clean water.
4. Immediately use a silicone squeegee to remove the water.
5. Finish drying the RV with a clean microfiber cloth to reduce water spotting.

Can RV graphics be cleaned in automated car washes?

RVs may be run through truck or trailer washes, but touchless washes are best for graphic care. Use of brush washes (depending upon the frequency and quality of brush) may dull or scratch graphics, or cause graphic edge lifting. See [3M Instruction Bulletin 6.5](#) for details on graphic maintenance.

Can I pressure wash RV graphics?

Hand washing is preferable, but pressure washing may be used under the following conditions:

- Keep the water pressure below 2000 psi (14 MPa).
- Keep the water temperature below 140°F (60°C).
- Use a spray nozzle with a 40° wide spray pattern.
- Keep the nozzle at least 1 ft (305 mm) away from and perpendicular (at 90 degrees) to the graphic.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Do NOT direct the water stream between 0° and 60° to the edge of the graphic, as doing so may lift the edges of the film.

How do I remove difficult contaminants?

Soften difficult contaminants such as bug splatter, bird droppings, tree sap, and similar contaminants by soaking them for several minutes with very hot, soapy water. Rinse thoroughly and dry. If further cleaning is needed, test Meguiar's® Gold Class™ Bug and Tar Remover or 3M™ Citrus Base Cleaner in an inconspicuous area to ensure they do not damage the graphics. Spot clean the contaminants with the appropriate cleaner. Do NOT use rough scrubbing or abrasive tools, as these will scratch the film. Wash and rinse off all residue immediately.

How do I treat fuel spills on my RV graphics?

- Wipe off the fuel immediately to avoid degrading the vinyl and adhesive.
- Wash, rinse, and dry the graphics as described in the "Wash Regularly" section as soon as possible.

How can I restore the quality of my RV graphics?

The following restoration recommendations help keep RV wraps looking their best.

- Do NOT use any abrasive polishes or cutting compounds.
- Do NOT use any polishing or wax products on matte or textured films.
- Remove any wax or wax residue from the film surface with an all-purpose cleaner.
- Table A lists some available products to help restore RV wraps. Always test and approve the product in an inconspicuous area of the graphic before use.

Table A. Restoration Alternatives

Film or Finish Type	Product or Solution
Smooth Gloss	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3M™ Perfect-It™ Show Car Paste Wax Ultra High Gloss Finish 39526• Meguiar's® Gold Class™ Carnuaba Plus Premium Liquid Wax• 3M™ Synthetic Wax Protectant
Matte or Satin	Based on the type and degree of contamination, use one or more of these solutions, working through the list in the order shown, to remove any build-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hot, soapy water• Simple Green® All-Purpose Cleaner

IMPORTANT NOTE

Do NOT allow any cleaning solution to soak. Rinse the RV immediately with clear water after applying the cleaning solution.

Do NOT clean the RV with isopropyl alcohol or other solvents, as they may damage the finish.

How should an RV be stored to best preserve its graphics?

Vinyl graphics (just like paint) are degraded by prolonged exposure to sun and atmospheric pollutants, particularly on horizontal surfaces such as roofs. Whenever possible, store the RV in a garage, or at least in a shaded area, during the day. At night protect the RV from dew and rain, which may contain acidic pollutants. (This is a common problem in many large metropolitan areas.)

How can I replace damaged film?

Customers who wish to replace only the damaged part of a wrap may be better served to have the entire graphic replaced by a wrap professional. There are many factors that can contribute to a replaced section appearing different from the rest of the wrap, which may not be satisfactory for the customer. These factors include color shifts due to using film from a different manufacturing lot, aging and conditions of the wrap on other portions of the RV, and the slight fading or change in gloss that may have occurred on the previously installed film.

Health and Safety

CAUTION

When handling any chemical products, read the manufacturers' container labels and the safety data sheets (SDS) for important health, safety, and environmental information. To obtain SDS for 3M products go to [3M.com/SDS](https://www.3m.com/SDS). To request SDS by mail, or in case of an urgent situation, call 1-800-364-3577 or 1-651-737-6501.

When using any equipment, always follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.

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3M Center, Building 223-3N-30
St. Paul, MN 55144

1-800-328-3908
3M.com/2080

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