



NIGHT SHIFT WRAPS · FREE CHECKLIST

PRE-WRAP CHECKLIST

Ninety percent of a clean wrap happens before the film comes off the liner. Run this list every time. Always check your film maker's data sheet: it overrides any general number here.

01 WASH & DECON

- ☐ Two-bucket hand wash with a **wax-free, pH-neutral** soap. No wash-and-wax.
- ☐ Iron / fallout remover on paint and lower panels. Rinse well.
- ☐ Tar & adhesive remover on rockers, behind wheels and any old sticker residue.
- ☐ Dry fully. Blow out panel gaps, seams, mirrors and trim with compressed air.

03 STRIP & WIPE

- ☐ Wax, sealant or ceramic coating **must come off** first. Vinyl won't bond properly to a coating.
- ☐ **Isopropyl alcohol (IPA) wipe** on each panel right before it's wrapped. A 70% IPA solution is common.
- ☐ Lint-free microfiber only. Swap towels often.
- ☐ Hit edges, inside lips, door jambs and wheel arch returns where the film wraps around.

05 PULL THE HARDWARE

- ☐ Badges and emblems (heat, floss, then adhesive remover).
- ☐ Plate and frame, mirror caps, antenna, side markers.
- ☐ Door handles, lights and trim where it gives cleaner tucks.
- ☐ **Bag and label every clip and screw** by panel.

02 CLAY

- ☐ **Clay bar or clay mitt** every panel you're wrapping, with plenty of lube.
- ☐ Bag test: paint should feel glass-smooth through a sandwich bag.
- ☐ Anything left on the paint shows through the film as a bump.
- ☐ Re-rinse and dry after claying.

04 CHECK THE PAINT

- ☐ Look for **chips, peeling clear coat, rust or bubbling**. Vinyl can pull weak paint off when it's removed.
- ☐ Deep scratches, dents and filler spots show through. Fix or accept them now.
- ☐ **Fresh paint?** Let it fully cure first. Ask the paint shop how long.
- ☐ Photograph existing damage before you start.

06 SPACE & TEMP

- ☐ Indoors, clean floor, **no dust, no wind, no direct sun**.
- ☐ Bright, even light so you can spot bubbles and lines.
- ☐ Room and panel temperature: many cast films want roughly **60–90°F (16–32°C)**. Check your film's data sheet.
- ☐ Bring the car and film inside early so both are at room temperature.

07 TOOLS ON THE BENCH

- ☐ **Cast wrap film**, plus extra for mistakes
- ☐ Felt-edge squeegee (and a spare felt)
- ☐ Heat gun
- ☐ **Infrared thermometer** for post-heat temps
- ☐ Knifeless tape
- ☐ Snap-off blade with fresh 30° tips
- ☐ Wrap gloves
- ☐ Wrap magnets to hold the film
- ☐ IPA spray bottle and lint-free microfibers
- ☐ Tuck tools and a measuring tape

08 POST-HEAT & FIRST WEEK

- ☐ **Post-heat** every stretched area, recess and edge so the film doesn't lift. Use the temperature on your film's data sheet and check it with the IR thermometer.
- ☐ Don't overheat. Too much heat can scorch, shine or distort the finish.
- ☐ Re-check edges and recesses the next day. Re-heat and press anything lifting.
- ☐ Hold off on the first wash (many film makers say about a week). Then hand wash only, and keep pressure washers away from edges.

Heat guns get hot enough to burn skin and damage paint, trim and plastics. Keep the gun moving and never leave it pointed at one spot.