



GUIDE 1 • START HERE

New to Vehicle Wrapping

A plain-English introduction to what wrapping is, what you can realistically do yourself, and how to set yourself up to succeed.

What wrapping actually is

Vehicle wrapping means applying a thin, self-adhesive **cast vinyl film** over your existing paintwork to change its colour or finish. Unlike a respray, it is reversible, far cheaper, and protects the paint underneath while it is on. A quality cast film moulds to curves and, applied well, looks like factory paint from a few feet away.

It is worth understanding the difference between **cast** and **calendered** films. Cast films (everything we sell for wrapping) are thin, conformable and dimensionally stable, so they stretch over contours without shrinking back. They are the right choice for vehicles. Calendered films are cheaper and thicker, suited to flat signage rather than full wraps.

What you can realistically do yourself

Be honest about your starting point. The learning curve is real, but it is climbable with patience.

- **Beginner-friendly:** flat and gently curved panels — bonnets, roofs, doors, tailgates, and accent pieces like pillars or mirror caps.
- **Intermediate:** bumpers, larger curved panels, and areas with moderate recesses.
- **Advanced:** deep concave recesses, door handles, complex bumpers and full vehicles in one sitting.

Most people who go on to wrap a whole car start with a single panel or a set of mirror caps. It builds the muscle memory for handling film, managing heat, and trusting that cast vinyl is forgiving while you work.

OUR TAKE

Wrap rewards patience over speed. Warmth, cleanliness and steady squeegee work matter far more than how fast you go. You can lift and re-lay cast film repeatedly while positioning it.

Setting yourself up

- 1 Pick a **clean, dust-free space** that is comfortably warm — cold makes film stiff and stubborn, dust ruins adhesion.
- 2 Allow far more **time** than you think. A single panel is an afternoon for a beginner; a full car is a multi-day job.
- 3 Buy a **metre to practice** on a spare panel or a flat board before committing to the real thing.
- 4 Gather the right **tools** first (see our Tools guide) — improvising mid-job is where mistakes happen.

BUDGET TIP

Everything we sell is cut by the linear metre, so you can buy exactly what a panel needs and add a practice metre cheaply. Measure twice, order once, and always allow a little excess.