



**MONTEREY SIGNS**  
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## **Monterey Signs Designing Vehicle Wraps**

### **Designing For Vinyl**

When designing your vehicle wrap, remember that we are literally wrapping your vehicle with a vinyl film, not painting it. Due to the curves on the body of the vehicle, you should expect 1” to 3” of placement variance from your mockup. You will be designing on a flat surface (your computer screen) but it will be applied to a three dimensional vehicle. We are professionals and will do our very best to replicate your placement, however some variance will occur.

### **Mouldings And Bumpers**

Adhesive vinyl cannot be applied to certain materials such as rubber window mouldings, certain plastic bumpers and other low-surface-energy plastics. It is best to think of the metal and glass surfaces of the vehicle as “wrappable” areas. When designing your wrap, be certain to drop out any mouldings or bumpers that cannot be wrapped so you have an accurate visual of what the finished wrap will look like.

### **Window Coverage**

Most states, California included, do not allow graphics to be placed on the windshield of front side windows. When designing your vehicle wrap do not include these areas as part of your design.

### **Corners And Other Tricky Areas**

Blending images and colors from the sides to the back or front is NOT recommended. Each side should be treated as a separate canvas. If you are blending from one color to another, we recommend blending into a solid color that will wrap around the sharp corners.

Having lines of type fall in very critical areas (wheel wells, doors handles, etc..) is generally not successful. Vehicle fronts do not usually offer much area to design a message. Utilize the flat hood for the design. The rest of the front areas (bumpers, sides of hood) should be an extension of the design background.

### **Designing For Curvy Vehicles**

Curvy vehicle such as the VW Beetle or PT Cruisers look great wrapped but are a bit more challenging. For best results use a background that will be forgiving when installing. This means linear lines or hard breaks should be avoided, as we cannot guarantee the final result will perfectly match up. Any precise placement of type should be done as an overlay of cut vinyl, instead of designed into the wrap. For these vehicles especially, it is best to keep the design large and dynamic, rather than small and detailed.

### **File And Vehicle Care**

We make every attempt to archive past files. However, you may want to consider keeping your vehicle wrap file safely secured on CD, DVD, Flash drive, so in the event a small portion of your wrap needs to be replaced, it will not have to be recreated.

Do not power wash any vehicle with a vinyl wrap. The pressure of the water will get under seems and cause the vinyl to lift off the vehicle surface.

Keep your vehicle clean. Dirt will inevitably find seems and cause loss of adhesion. It is not recommended to wax your wrap but, if you insist, please use a Teflon polish instead of wax.