

## Stripe Care

Thanks to [www.baltimorestreetmods.com](http://www.baltimorestreetmods.com)



**Like anything else, stripes will need care to prolong their life and to keep them looking great.**

**1. FOR 1 WEEK AFTER THE INSTALL** - You will need to give your stripes curing time before you do anything to them. **DO NOT** wash the stripes for a week after installation..... this is necessary to allow the stripes to completely bond to the car. If you wash them too soon, and the temperature between the stripes and the water are different, you can "shock" the vinyl. Shocking will set the vinyl in place, which will stop the breathing process. If this happens and the solution used to apply the stripes has not completely evaporated, it will be locked under the stripes, and will keep the stripes from bonding properly, resulting in bubbling, peeling away, discoloring and pitting. Essentially, if water remains under the stripe, in hot conditions it can actually cook the vinyl from underneath. Lighter colors are more susceptible to this than darker colors because the lighter colors reflect light, and the metal gets hotter than the vinyl, heating any moisture remaining underneath.

**\*\*After one week, you can carefully hand wash the stripes..... be sure it's not too hot out, as you still do not want to "shock" the vinyl. You can also**

**spot-clean the stripes with orange cleaner and paper towels (we use Fantastik) Orange wipes do not seem to work, oddly enough....**

**2. ONE MONTH AFTER INSTALL** - Clean the stripes with orange cleaner and paper towels, then WAX the stripes, by hand, with a high quality liquid wax. NEVER USE A ROTARY BUFFER ON STRIPES (obvious, I know, but it has been done lol) Try not to wax across the seams or edges, but rather with them.

**3. Long term care** - Do not let debris, bird feces, road grime or other substances sit on the stripes. Any residue on the stripe material can cause discoloration or permanent marks on the stripes. Clean periodically with orange cleaner and wax with a good quality liquid wax.

**4. Tricks** - We have had several of our car show/road course peeps tell us they use painters tape to tape the front air dam to reduce road rash on long trips or aggressive road races. The front air dam is designed to split the air, reducing drag, so it is particularly prone to road rash.

**IF YOU GET TREE SAP ON YOUR STRIPES, CLEAN IT IMMEDIATELY.  
TREE SAP IS HIGHLY ACIDIC, AND WILL DAMAGE YOUR STRIPES.**



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