

4 – Cutting Tape: When cutting directly on the body which is often the case for color change installs, it is recommended that the installer uses cutting tape like 3M Knifeless Tape or Wrap Cut. It is possible to learn how to cut directly on the film with a knife and not cut the surface of the vehicle. However, over the course of an entire wrap, even the best installers can cut too deep. Using cutting tape on solid cut avoids cutting the paint and helps make long symmetrical cuts.

Solid and Empty Cuts for Digital Full Print Wraps and Color Change:

Digital Full Print Wraps:

For this type of wrap, the cardinal rule is the installer will always cut on the empty side and seal the excess wrap film onto the solid side. The two reasons for this are:

- 1) There is no need to wrap deep inside the body of the vehicle since digital full print wraps are moving billboards. Only the outside portion of the vehicle body needs coverage.
- 2) One panel will usually bridge an entire section so the installer only has two sides to choose where to cut – solid or empty. Cutting on the empty side allows the excess film to wrap inside the solid section which looks better visually and, in most cases, avoids the edge facing towards the front of the vehicle.

This formula makes cutting on digital full print wraps very straightforward which is why they are easier to install than color change wraps.

Color Change Wraps:

For this type of vehicle wrap, where and how to cut will be determined by the color of the car, the type of film being used, and how far the film was stretched. For black vehicles, in most cases, installers can cut on the empty side and fold to the solid just like on digital full print wraps. Also, installers can wrap the entire section like the driver side in one sheet instead of breaking the panel up into specific sections.